PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

SIXTH SERIES—VOLUME 461 (Part 2)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
4 June—21 June 2007

£105
(Two parts not sold separately)

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

(Formed by the Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP, May 2005)

Prime Minister, First Lord Of The Treasury And Minister For The Civil Service—The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP
Deputy Prime Minister And First Secretary Of State—The Rt. Hon. John Prescott, MP
Chancellor Of The Exchequer—The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP
Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—The Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett, MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department—The Rt. Hon. John Reid, MP
Secretary of State for Health—The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt, MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport—The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP
Minister for the Cabinet Office and Minister for Social Exclusion (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Armstrong, MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and Secretary of State for Wales—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP
Leader of the House of Lords and President of the Council—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Amos
Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC
Secretary of State for International Development—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP
Secretary of State for Education and Skills—The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, MP
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government—The Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, MP
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions—The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, MP
Secretary of State for Defence—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP
Secretary of State for Transport and Secretary of State for Scotland—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP
Minister without Portfolio—The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears, MP
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP
Chief Secretary to the Treasury—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, Esq, MP

DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND MINISTERS

Cabinet Office—

Minister for the Cabinet Office and Minister for Social Exclusion (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster)—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Armstrong, MP

Minister Without Portfolio—The Rt. Hon. Hazel Blears, MP

Parliamentary Secretaries—
Pat McFadden, Esq, MP
Edward Miliband, MP

Communities and Local Government—

Secretary of State and Minister for Women—The Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly, MP

Ministers Of State—
Minister for Local Government—Phil Woolas, Esq, MP
Minister for Housing and Planning—Yvette Cooper, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries Of State—
Angela E. Smith, MP
Meg Munn (Minister for Women and Equality)
The Baroness Andrews, OBE

Culture, Media and Sport—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Tessa Jowell, MP

Minister of State—
Minister for Sport—The Rt. Hon. Richard Caborn, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State—
Shaun Woodward, Esq, MP
David Lammy, Esq, MP

Defence—

Secretary of State—The Rt. Hon. Des Browne, MP

Ministers of State—

The Rt. Hon. Adam Ingram, MP
The Lord Drayson

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State—
Derek Twigg, MP

Education and Skills—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Schools—Jim Knight, MP
Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning—Bill Rammell, MP
Minister for Children and Families—The Rt. Hon. Beverley Hughes, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
The Lord Adonis
Phil Hope, MP
Parmjit Dhanda, Esq, MP

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. David Miliband, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Climate Change and the Environment—Ian Pearson, MP
Minister for Sustainable Farming and Food—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Rooker
Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare— Ben Bradshaw, Esq, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Barry Gardiner, MP

Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Margaret Beckett, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Europe—The Rt. Hon. Geoffrey Hoon, MP
Minister for Trade—The Rt. Hon. Ian McCartney, MP
Minister for the Middle East—Dr. Kim Howells, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
The Lord Triesman

Health—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
The Rt. Hon. Rosie Winterton, MP
Andy Burnham, MP
Caroline Flint, MP
The Lord Hunt of Kings Heath, OBE

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Ivan Lewis, Esq, MP

Home Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. John Reid, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police—Tony McNulty, Esq, MP
Minister for Crime Reduction—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Scotland of Asthal, QC
Minister for Immigration and Asylum—Liam Byrne, Esq, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Joan Ryan, MP
Vernon Coaker, Esq, MP

International Development—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Hilary Benn, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—Gareth Thomas, Esq, MP

Justice—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Falconer of Thoroton, QC

MINISTERS OF STATE—
The Rt. Hon. David Hanson, Esq, MP
The Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman, QC, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Ashton of Upholland
Vera Baird, QC, MP
Bridget Prentice, MP
Gerry Sutcliffe, Esq, MP

Law Officers' Department—

ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Goldsmith, QC

SOLICITOR-GENERAL—Mike O'Brien, QC, MP

ADVOCATE-GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND—The Lord Davidson of Glen Cova, QC

Leader of the House of Commons—

LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND LORD PRIVY SEAL—The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP

DEPUTY LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS—Paddy Tipping, MP

Northern Ireland—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Maria Eagle, MP
Paul Goggins, MP

Paymaster General's Office—

PAYMASTER GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP

Privy Council Office—

LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS—The Rt. Hon. The Baroness Amos

Scotland Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
David Cairns, MP

Trade and Industry—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Alistair Darling, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Trade—The Rt. Hon. Ian McCartney, MP
Minister for Industry and the Regions—The Rt. Hon. Margaret Hodge, MP, MBE
Minister for Science and Innovation—Malcolm Wicks, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Jim Fitzpatrick, MP (Minister for Consumer Affairs and Competition Policy)
The Lord Truscott (Minister for Energy)

Transport—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Douglas Alexander, MP

MINISTER OF STATE—
Dr. Stephen Ladyman, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Gillian Merron, MP
Tom Harris, Esq, MP

Treasury—

PRIME MINISTER, FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY AND MINISTER FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE—The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP

CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER—The Rt. Hon. Gordon Brown, MP

CHIEF SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Stephen Timms, Esq, MP

PAYMASTER GENERAL—The Rt. Hon. Dawn Primarolo, MP

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—John Healey, MP

ECONOMIC SECRETARY—Ed Balls, MP

PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY—The Rt. Hon. Jacqui Smith, MP

LORDS COMMISSIONERS—
Dave Watts, Esq, MP
Alan Campbell, Esq, MP
Kevin Brennan, MP
Frank Roy, Esq, MP
Claire Ward, MP

ASSISTANT WHIPS—
Ian Cawsey, Esq, MP
Steve McCabe, MP
Liz Blackman, MP
Tony Cunningham, MP
Huw Irranca-Davies, MP
Jonathan Shaw, MP
Michael Foster, Esq, MP

Wales Office—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. Peter Hain, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE—
Nick Ainger, Esq, MP

Work and Pensions—

SECRETARY OF STATE—The Rt. Hon. John Hutton, MP

MINISTERS OF STATE—
Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform—Jim Murphy, Esq.
Minister for Pensions Reform—James Purnell, MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARIES OF STATE—
Anne McGuire, MP
James Plaskitt, Esq, MP
The Lord McKenzie of Luton

Her Majesty's Household—

LORD CHAMBERLAIN—The Rt. Hon. The Earl Peel, GCVO, DL

LORD STEWARD—The Duke of Abercorn, KG

MASTER OF THE HORSE—The Lord Vestey

TREASURER—The Rt. Hon. Bob Ainsworth, MP

COMPTROLLER—The Rt. Hon. Thomas McAvoy, MP

VICE-CHAMBERLAIN—John Heppell, Esq, MP

CAPTAIN OF THE HONOURABLE CORPS OF GENTLEMAN-AT-ARMS—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Grocott

CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMAN OF THE GUARD—The Rt. Hon. The Lord Davies of Oldham

LORDS IN WAITING—The Lord Bassam of Brighton, The Lord Evans of Temple Guiting, CBE

BARONESSES IN WAITING—The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton, The Baroness Crawley, The Baroness Royall of Blaisdon, The Baroness Morgan of Drefelin

---

SECOND CHURCH ESTATES COMMISSIONER, REPRESENTING CHURCH COMMISSIONERS—Sir Stuart Bell, MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE SPEAKER—The Rt. Hon. Michael J. Martin, MP

CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS—The Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Haselhurst, MP

FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS—Mrs. Sylvia Heal, MP

SECOND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS—Sir Michael Lord, MP

CHAIRMEN'S PANEL

David Amess, Janet Anderson, Peter Atkinson, Hugh Bayley, Anne Begg, Joe Benton, John Bercow, Sir John Butterfill, Martin Caton, Christopher Chope, Derek Conway, Frank Cook, John Cummings, Janet Dean, Roger Gale, Mike Hancock, Jimmy Hood, Joan Humble, Eric Illsley, Martyn Jones, Dr. William McCrea, David Marshall, Eric Martlew, Edward O'Hara, Bill Olner, Greg Pope, David Taylor, Mike Weir, Hywel Williams, David Wilshire, Ann Winterton, Sir Nicholas Winterton

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

The Rt. Hon. The Speaker (Chairman), Sir Stuart Bell, MP, Nick Harvey, MP, The Rt. Hon. David Maclean, MP, The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, MP, The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP

SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION—Andrew Kennon

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—Jenny McCullough

ADMINISTRATION ESTIMATE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Theresa May, MP (Chairman), Nick Harvey, MP, Sir Thomas Legg, KCB, QC, David Taylor, FCA

SECRETARY OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE—Tracey Garratty

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Malcolm Jack, PhD (Chief Executive), Helen Irwin (Clerk of Committees, Department of the Clerk of the House), Peter Grant Peterkin, CB, OBE (Serjeant at Arms), John Pullinger (Librarian), Andrew Walker (Director of Finance and Administration), Lorraine Sutherland (Editor of the Official Report), Sue Harrison (Director of Catering Services), Joan Miller (Director of Parliamentary ICT)

SECRETARY OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT—Robert Twigger

SPEAKER'S SECRETARY—Angus Sinclair

SPEAKER'S COUNSEL—John Vaux

SPEAKER'S CHAPLAIN—Rev. Canon Robert Wright

MEDICAL ADVISER TO THE SPEAKER—Dr. Ron Zeegen, OBE, FRCP, MRCS, DObst, RCOG

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR STANDARDS—Sir Philip Mawer

PARLIAMENTARY SECURITY CO-ORDINATOR—Peter Mason

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 4 June 2007

TREASURY

ECOFIN - 8 May 2007

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held on 8 May in Brussels. The UK was represented by the Economic Secretary to the Treasury. The items discussed were as follows:

Preliminary Draft of the 2008 General Budget

Commissioner Grybauskaite, responsible for financial planning and the budget, gave a presentation on the Commission's preliminary draft 2008 EC budget. She emphasised that for the first time, spending on growth and employment policies will represent the highest share of the budget, ahead of agriculture and natural resources. Ministers noted the presentation of the preliminary draft budget.

Financial Markets

Hedge Funds

Ministers adopted conclusions on hedge funds, noting the role that hedge funds play in providing liquidity, helping markets price assets more accurately and driving financial innovation, but also that authorities should continue to remain vigilant with regard to any potential risks. The UK supported the conclusions, highlighting the need to ensure that any actions taken are proportionate, risk-based, and properly designed so that they achieve the intended outcomes. The financial services authority is responsible for regulating hedge fund managers in the UK and has put in place a rigorous regulatory framework to mitigate the risks associated with hedge fund activity.

White Paper on Asset Management

Ministers adopted conclusions on the Commission's White Paper on enhancing the single market framework for investment funds. Commissioner McCreevy, responsible for the internal market and services, welcomed the endorsement by the Council of the Commission's approach to this issue, as set out in its White Paper. The UK supported the conclusions and supports the Commission's proposals for reform of the UCITS framework.

Ageing and Financial Markets

Ministers adopted conclusions on a Financial Services Committee report on the implications of ageing populations for financial markets. Ministers agreed on the importance for Finance Ministers and for the financial services industry of Europe's ageing population, and commended the FSC report. The UK is focusing on pensions reform and is at the forefront of tackling a number of the issues the report raises, for instance through the provision of cost-efficient savings products as with stakeholder pensions, consideration of innovative ideas to encourage take up such as automatic enrolment and the need to strengthen the financial capability of consumers.

Inter-institutional Monitoring Group (IIMG): Second Interim Report Monitoring the Lamfalussy Process

Johnny Ackerholm, chair of the Inter-Institutional Monitoring Group on the Lamfalussy process, presented the group's interim report and said that the final report would be completed in October. Substantial progress had been made, and the UK looks forward to the final report.

ECOFIN - 5 June 2007

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Gordon Brown): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held on 5 June in Luxembourg. The items on the agenda are as follows:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact: Excessive Deficit Procedures

Ministers will be asked to agree conclusions abrogating the excessive deficit procedures on Malta, Germany and Greece. In January 2003, the Council decided Germany's deficit of 3.7 per cent. of GDP in 2002 was excessive, and gave them a deadline of 2004 to correct this. The deadline was subsequently extended to 2005 and then to 2007, as the deficit remained above 3 per cent. In 2006 the deficit fell to 1.7 per cent. of GDP.

The EDP was started on Greece in 2004 on the basis of a deficit of 3.2 per cent. of GDP in 2003. In January 2005 the Council concluded that no effective action had been taken to correct this and gave Greece notice to bring the excessive deficit to an end by 2006. In 2006 the deficit was 2.6 per cent. of GDP.

Malta was deemed to be in excessive deficit in July 2004, following a deficit of 9.7 per cent. of GDP in 2003. They were given a deadline of 2006, and last year the deficit declined to 2.6 per cent. of GDP.

Convergence Reports by the Commission and the European Central Bank

Ministers will discuss the Commission and the ECB's convergence reports for Cyprus and Malta, and Commission proposals for the abrogation of their derogations and for a regulation on the introduction of the euro. This would allow both countries to join the euro as planned on 1 January 2008. This will next be discussed by Heads of State and Government at the European Council on 21-22 June.

Quality of Public Finances

This follows up from the discussion at the informal ECOFIN. The Council will receive a report from the Economic Policy Committee on the efficiency and effectiveness of public finances, focusing in particular on the need to improve the measurement of public sector output. The Council is also expected to adopt conclusions on these matters.

Tax

a) Combating Tax Fraud

Ministers will be asked to agree Council conclusions on conventional measures and more radical solutions to combat VAT fraud, including German ideas on the wide reverse charge.

b) VAT Package

Ministers will discuss a package of measures to modernise the EU VAT regime for the cross-border supply of services.

c) Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base

There will be an orientation debate on the CCCTB. The UK does not believe that the competitiveness of the EU would be helped by a harmonised company tax base and remains sceptical about both the principles and the practicalities.

d) Code of Conduct on Business Taxation

The report of the code group chaired by the UK's Paymaster General, including a proposed future work programme, will be adopted through conclusions.

e) Joint Transfer Pricing Forum

The forum is a body of tax officials from the member states and business representatives. It has agreed guidelines on the handling of arrangements relating to the tax treatment of certain cross-border transactions between related businesses.

TREASURY

Davies Review

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): My written statement of 26 October 2006 announced the appointment of Professor Paul Davies QC, the Cassel Professor of Commercial Law at the London School of Economics, to conduct a formal review of the liability of issuers in respect of damage or loss suffered as a consequence of inaccurate, false or misleading information disclosed by issuers or their managements to financial markets (including to their own shareholders or bondholders) or of failure to disclose relevant information promptly or at all. My written statement of 26 January 2007 set out the review's terms of reference.

Professor Davies has today published his final report and copies are available in the House Library and the Vote Office.

The review recommends that the Government should maintain a statutory regime for liability in damages of issuers in respect of financial disclosures and that changes should be made to extend the regime currently set out in section 90A of the Financial Markets and Services Act 2000.

Accordingly, the Government will:

consult fully on the Government's response to the review's proposals; and

publish a full regulatory impact assessment of these proposals.

JUSTICE

Boundary Commission for Wales

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has received notice in writing from the boundary commission for Wales of commencement of an interim review. The review will be of the boundaries of the parliamentary constituencies of Neath county constituency and Brecon and Radnorshire county constituency and will be based upon the number of electors on the electoral register at 1 June 2007. The review will include consideration of proposals for the Assembly constituencies and electoral regions as required by the Government of Wales Act 1998.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Government Assets

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): On 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 51WS, I informed the House that the Government would actively consider a sale of part of its interest in British Energy (BE) via a capital markets transaction. This interest is held by the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF). On 30 May I announced that the Government intended to direct the NLF to sell part of its interest in BE through an equity capital markets transaction and that, further to this, the sale process completed at 4.30 pm on 31 May. A total of 450 million shares have been sold through an accelerated book built offering at a price of 520p per share, raising gross proceeds of approximately £2.34 billion. This includes the exercise of an over-allotment option that has resulted in the sale of 50 million shares.

The NLF is a segregated fund set up at the time of BE's privatisation in 1996 to meet the eventual decommissioning costs of the company's eight existing nuclear power stations. In 2002, when BE was facing an uncertain future and was seeking funding so that it could continue to meet its obligations, the Government stepped in to support a restructuring of the company in order to ensure the safety of nuclear power and the security of electricity supplies. As part of the restructuring, which came into effect in 2005, the NLF was given £275 million in company bonds and the contractual right to receive a proportion of the company's annual adjusted free cash flow. The NLF has the right to convert all or part of this 'cash sweep' into shares in BE which can then be sold on to a third party.

It has been the Government's objective, through this sale, to diversify the NLF's assets, of which 87 per cent. had been linked to BE, and therefore reduce the level of risk in its investment. All net proceeds from the sale will go to the NLF, helping to ensure that it is better placed to meet its obligations in relation to the eventual decommissioning costs of BE's nuclear power stations.

The NLF will convert its contractual entitlement to part of the cash sweep in proportion to the number of shares sold. The effect of the disposal will be to reduce the NLF's economic interest in BE by way of the cash sweep from approximately 64 per cent. to approximately 36 per cent. (including the over-allotment option). The Government will not direct the NLF to make any further sale of its interest in BE for a period of 90 days from the closing date of the offering. The Government do not intend to direct the NLF to reduce their economic interest in BE by way of the cash sweep to below a strategic interest of 29.9 per cent.

The Government and the NLF have appointed Lazard as independent financial advisers, and Citigroup Global Markets UK. Equity Ltd., Deutsche Bank AG and

Merrill Lynch International to act as joint book-runners in relation to the transaction.

Annual Report and Accounts

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): After consultation with the Trade and Industry Select Committee and the Science and Technology Select Committee the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has decided to publish the DTI's annual departmental report and its resource accounts for 2006-07 in a single, combined document this year.

This approach has been adopted as a trial project by the DTI and HM Treasury. It is intended to make departmental reporting more accessible to Parliament and the public by removing some of the confusion resulting from the differences and overlap between the two reports.

Previously, the DTI's stand-alone departmental report has been published in May, with the resource accounts following in July. The timing of publication of the combined report will be aligned with that of the resource accounts, and publication is expected to take place before the summer recess.

I note that this statement coincides with HM Treasury's publication of its combined report today.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 5 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

City Development Companies

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today publishing my Department's summary of responses to the consultation document "The Role of City Development Companies in English Cities and City-Regions". Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Informal EU Agriculture Council (20-22 May 2007)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I represented the United Kingdom at the informal EU Agriculture Council in Mainz, Germany. Ministers debated the future of EU rural development and agriculture policy.

The meeting started with a short presentation by representatives of young farmers organisations. Following the presentations, the Agriculture and Rural Development Commissioner, Mariann Fischer Boel began discussion on the "future of rural areas" by stressing the importance of agriculture in rural areas in the European Union, and highlighting difficulties and new opportunities that were faced by rural regions. She said that rural development policy would become increasingly important.

The following themes were mentioned by EU Ministers during the discussion session: multi-functionality of agriculture; climate change; renewable raw materials; increasing standards of food safety, animal welfare and environmental protection; diversification; tailoring rural development policy to local needs; simplification of the CAP; training; and the role of policies other than the CAP (for example, education, health, transport, telecommunications).

The chair of the Agriculture Council under the German presidency summarised the session by concluding that services, crafts, industry and trade played a particularly important role for rural regions, in addition to agriculture and forestry. He pointed out that one of the main requirements for rural regions was an adequate and attractive infrastructure, such as nurseries, schools and modern telecommunication technologies. He said that in order for the EU's Lisbon and Gothenburg strategies to be a success in delivering greater sustainable growth and employment, there was a need for both urban and rural areas to be vibrant. Finally, he added that the common agricultural policy has an effective instrument for supporting rural areas through the European agricultural fund for rural development.

Pesticides Safety Directorate (Performance Targets 2007-08)

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have set the Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) the following performance targets for 2007-08.

1. To evaluate pesticide approval applications and applications for detergent derogations according to published targets and fees and contribute effectively to the review programme for pesticides.

2. To ensure that UK objectives are reflected in EC legislation, to actively monitor the use of pesticides, to secure a high level of compliance with pesticide regulations and to contribute to the Government's better regulation agenda.

3. To promote the sustainable use of pesticides through appropriate regulatory and voluntary measures and provide information to all stakeholders on pesticide issues.

4. To manage all resources effectively, to recover the full cost of operations from industry and from DEFRA and to contribute to the Government's efficiency agenda.

Further details are given in the "Pesticides Safety Directorate Three-Year Business Plan 2007-10:Year 2007-08", copies of which will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Veterinary Products Committee Annual Report 2006

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): I have received the annual report of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees for 2006, which has been published today.

Bound volumes of the report have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I am glad to acknowledge the valuable work done by the distinguished members of the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees and thank them for the time and effort dedicated in the public interest to this important work.

HEALTH

NHS Foundation Trusts (Authorisations)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): The chairman of Monitor (the statutory name of which is the independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts) announced last week that, in accordance with section 35 of the National Health Service Act 2006, Monitor had decided to authorise the following NHS acute trusts as NHS foundation trusts from 1 June:

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust; and

West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust

Monitor's announcement brings the total number of NHS foundation trusts to 67. A copy of Monitor's press notice has been placed in the Library.

The Government remain committed to offering all NHS acute and mental health trusts the opportunity to apply for foundation status as soon as practicable. Monitor is now authorising trusts on a monthly basis, and further waves of NHS foundation trusts are set to follow.

HOME DEPARTMENT

"Safe, Sensible, Social - Next Steps for the National Alcohol Strategy"

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): The Government believe that while alcohol plays an important and positive role in our culture and economy excessive consumption among some sections of the population is cause for considerable concern. More needs to be done to promote sensible drinking and ensure those of us who do drink alcohol do so in a safe, sensible and social way.

In 2004 the Government published the "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England". This was a major milestone; the first cross-Government statement on the harms caused by alcohol, which included a shared analysis of the problem and programme of action to respond through better education and communication, improving health and treatment services, combating alcohol-related crime and disorder, and working with the alcohol industry.

The last three years have seen significant progress through the 'Know Your Limits' binge drinking campaign, 'THINK!' driving campaign, enforcement of Ofcom's new code on television advertising, the first national trailblazers project identifying the need for and availability of alcohol treatment, trailblazer projects to identify and advise people whose drinking is likely to lead to ill health in the future, new enforcement powers in the Licensing Act 2003 and the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, setting up of local partnerships such as 'Best Bar None', and the establishment of a new independent charity, the Drinkaware Trust, to educate and promote sensible drinking.

Recent announcements of the progress being made on the labelling of alcohol drinks and the Tackling Underage Sales of Alcohol Campaign (TUSAC) further demonstrates that progress is being made.

"Safe, Sensible, Social—Next Steps for the National Alcohol Strategy" builds on the foundations which have been laid and the lessons learnt since 2004.

The strategy aim is:

> To minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly

It will do this by:

> ensuring the laws and licensing powers we have introduced to tackle alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, protect young people and bear down on irresponsibly managed license premises, are being used widely and effectively;
>
> focusing on the minority of drinkers who cause or experience the most harm to themselves, their communities and their families. These are:

18-24 year old binge drinkers—A minority of which are responsible for the majority of alcohol-related crime and disorder in the night-time economy

Young people under 18 who drink alcohol—Many of whom we now know are drinking more than their counterparts did a decade ago.

Harmful drinkers—Many of whom do not realise their drinking patterns damage their physical and mental health and may be causing substantial harm to others.

Shaping an environment which actively promote sensible drinking, through investment in better information and communications, and by drawing on the skills and commitment of all those already working together to reduce the harm alcohol can cause, including the police, local authorities, prison and probation staff, the NHS, voluntary organisations, the alcohol industry, the wider business community, the media and of course with local communities themselves.

A substantial programme of work will be delivered in support of these aims. This will include:

Sharpened criminal justice for drunken behaviour—To bear down on those committing crime and anti-social behaviour while drunk and where appropriate, offering advice, support, and treatment to offenders to change their behaviour.

A review of NHS alcohol spending —To highlight the burden of alcohol-related harm to the NHS and inform smarter spending decisions.

More help for people who want to drink less —Through the development and promotion of sources of help such as telephone help lines, interactive websites and support groups.

Toughened enforcement of underage sales —Through the use of legislative powers to prosecute and even close premises that persistently sell alcohol to children.

Trusted guidance for parents and young people —In the form of authoritative, accessible guidance about what is and what is not safe and sensible in the light of the latest available evidence from the UK and abroad.

Public information campaigns to promote a new 'sensible drinking' culture —Through a new generation of publicity campaigns which promotes sensible drinking and highlight the physical and criminal harms related to alcohol misuse.

Public consultation on alcohol pricing and promotion —To find out if alcohol pricing and promotion cause people to drink more.

Compulsory local alcohol strategies —Through which all local strategic artnerships—comprising the police, local authorities and civil society organisations will be required by law to have established a strategy to tackle alcohol related disorder on their patch, by 2008.

The Government recognise that promoting a sensible drinking culture which reduces violence and improves health, is a job for the whole of society. Everyone has a personal responsibility to drink in a sensible way. Parents and guardians should look at the example they

set in their drinking habits. Educating young people and parents about harms associated with alcohol misuse, through both alcohol education in schools and through the provision of authoritative information and guidance is a key priority for the Government. The friends and family of antisocial and harmful drinkers can provide support and encouragement to those trying to curb excessive drinking habits, local communities and residents can raise concerns about licensed premises with the police or local authorities. Business and industry have made important contributions already but should look for ways to promote sensible drinking and the responsible management of licensed premises.

This Government believe that it is possible to make this country a healthier, safer place to live where more people drink in a safe, sensible and social way. But we will only achieve this if we all pull together, and 'call time' on the way some of us drink.

JUSTICE

Burial Law Reform

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Ms Harriet Harman): In 2001, the Government undertook to conduct a review of burial law, a survey of burial grounds, and certain other initiatives, in response to the recommendations of the Eighth Report on cemeteries by the Environment Sub-Committee of the Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs Select Committee.

Following preparatory groundwork, in 2004, the Home Office issued a public consultation paper on burial law reform and in 2006 we published a report on the responses. The survey of known burial grounds in England and Wales was also undertaken. Over 10,000 completed questionnaires were received.

Although most people now opt for cremation, about 150,000 people are still buried in cemeteries and churchyards every year. Millions of graves are extant throughout England and Wales. It is right to expect sustainable, high standard, burial facilities for our communities. Yet, in some areas there are difficulties in finding sufficient, local, space for new graves. Maintaining existing old burial grounds can also present particular problems.

One solution which the Government have been urged to consider is the reuse of burial grounds after a suitable lapse of time. It is a solution which can offer sustainable land use for the future, and the prospects of keeping burial facilities in good order and near to the communities they serve. It is an option which has received wide support.

The Government are now satisfied that it would be right to enable graves to be reused in this way, subject to appropriate safeguards. For example, no grave should normally be reused unless the last burial took place at least 100 years before. And families should have the opportunity to defer reuse of their relatives' graves for at least another generation.

We therefore intend to introduce measures which, using powers available under the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, will allow local authorities to reuse graves in their cemeteries, if they wish. At the same time, we will develop, in consultation with burial professionals and others, good practice guidance on the reuse of old burial grounds, the provision of burial space generally, and the maintenance of existing burial grounds.

The 2004 consultation paper raised a number of other issues, in particular regarding the case for modernising the law relating to the regulation of burial and burial grounds. Details of the Government's response to these issues have been published today. In general, we propose to introduce effective and affordable changes where legislative opportunities arise, and we will keep the need for further measures under review. In the meantime, there appears to be scope for making certain administrative and procedural improvements, and we propose to work with burial professionals to promote practical changes where they will improve the services available for bereaved people.

Work on the responses to the burial ground survey of England and Wales has now been completed and a report on the findings has also been published today. The survey results indicate that less than three-quarters of burial grounds now have room to accept new burials, with only about 20 per of all designated burial land as yet unused. Burial grounds with unused burial space predict that the median time remaining until their land will be fully occupied by graves is about 25 to 30 years.

There is considerable regional variation in these values, and, while the survey results do not reflect trends and issues at a very local level, they suggest that there is particular pressure on burial space in predominantly urban areas, and that there will generally be increasing pressure over the next 10 to 20 years.

Our survey has provided us, for the first time, with an essential factual basis on the number, size and usage of burial grounds. This will help inform future policy and operational development.

Finally, concerns have been expressed in recent years about the action taken by some local authorities to make safe unstable memorial stones in their cemeteries. It is essential that gravestones and cemeteries are maintained in a decent and respectful way. Last March, in conjunction with Government colleagues, and the chairmen of the Health and Safety Commission and of the Local Government Association, I issued advice to all authorities on how managers should strike a more sensitive and proportionate balance between their responsibilities for ensuring safety in their burial grounds and the needs of visitors and memorial owners.

I believe that our recent work and all the measures now proposed will go a long way to improve, modernise and secure local burial facilities for all those who seek a dignified resting place for their relatives and the preservation of our rich inheritance.

Copies of "Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century: The Way Forward" the Government response to the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/policyreports/buriallaw05067/htm

Copies of "Burial Grounds: The Results of a Survey of Burial Grounds in England and Wales" have also been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available on the internet at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/statistics.htm

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

EU Energy Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): Lord Truscott will represent the UK at the forthcoming Energy Council in Luxembourg during the afternoon of 6 June.

The only substantive item on the Council agenda is the Internal Gas and Electricity Market, on which there will be a policy debate. The debate will follow on from the discussions of proposals put forward in the Commission' strategic energy review that took place at the Energy Council in February and spring European Council in March. One of the key conclusions agreed by Ministers and Heads of Government was that further measures were required to achieve a fully effective internal energy market. This is something that the UK very much supports.

The debate will draw on three communications produced by the Commission and submitted to the Council as part of the Commission' strategic energy review (an energy policy for Europe) in January 2007. These discussion documents cover (a) Prospects for the Internal Gas and Electricity Market; (b) the Sector Inquiry by DG Competition on the Gas and Electricity Markets and (c) the EU' Priority Interconnection Plan.

Discussion will focus on the four main issues that the Commission intends to address in a further legislative package on the internal energy market, which is expected to be submitted in September 2007: further unbundling of networks, effective regulation, adequate infrastructure investment and co-operation among network operators.

The UK Government support the Commission position on all these proposals, and considers them as vital for the further development of the internal market.

The only other agenda item covers "International relations in the field of energy". This is an important issue for the UK, though will only be an information item at this Council. It was discussed more fully at the March spring Council when the UK and other European Heads of Government reaffirmed the need for the EU to speak with a common voice on shared energy objectives. The German presidency and the Commission will report on a number of developments on the EU's relations with the USA, Russia, OPEC and Africa; on proposed international co-operation in energy efficiency; on the Energy Community Treaty; and on other EU initiatives in the international field.

Telecoms Council

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I will be representing the UK at the Telecoms Council in Luxembourg on 7 June 2007. This will be the only formal Telecoms Council under the German presidency of the European Union (EU).

The first item on the agenda will be political agreement on the proposal for a regulation on roaming on public mobile networks within the European Community. Following the endorsement by the European Parliament, it is expected that this Council meeting will also give political agreement to a text that will lead to the introduction of price reductions for consumers by the end of the summer. I intend to express my warm approval of the outcome, which as Members are aware, has been influenced by the UK. I will also take the opportunity to stress that the use of such a regulation to control prices should be seen as an exceptional measure.

The presidency will then provide a progress report on the proposal for the full accomplishment of the internal market of community postal services by 2009. There are significant economic and consumer benefits to be achieved through liberalisation of the postal market, and for that reason I intend to intervene in support of the Commission to help move this proposal forward. Political discussions on this key proposal are likely to continue over a ministerial lunch, where I will reinforce the UK's position and seek to encourage others to move towards our objectives.

After lunch the Council will reconvene with the adoption of the Council conclusions for the i2010 annual Information Society Report for 2007. The i2010 strategy sets the context for the EU's work on information society and media issues. The strategy consists of three priorities: the regulatory environment; innovation and investment; and inclusion. In my intervention I will express my continued support for the Commission's i2010 strategy, stressing its importance as an economic driver in achieving the goals of the Lisbon strategy for Jobs and Growth.

This agenda item will be followed by an exchange of views on the Commission's communication on the way forward for the take up of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) in Europe. The UK welcomes the communication and generally supports its conclusions. During my intervention I will give my support to this communication but also emphasise the importance of avoiding excessive regulation as this will hinder the roll-out and take-up of RFID technology in the European and global economy.

Finally, under any other business, the Commission will provide information on their forthcoming Communication on the Evaluation of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA).

I will write to Members again after the Telecoms Council to provide an update on discussions.

TRANSPORT

Revised Highway Code

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): In February 2006 we issued a draft of proposed revisions to the Highway Code for

public consultation, which closed on 15 May 2006. Over 4,000 people offered a total of almost 27,000 comments.

Taking account of these comments, a new draft version of the Highway Code was laid before Parliament on 28 March 2007. A large number of responses to the consultation concerned the rules on cycling and more than 40 amendments were made to these and other rules to take account of comments from cyclists. However, since the code was laid before Parliament, further representations have been made by cyclists who remain concerned that the revised text of rules 61 and 63 on cycle facilities and cycle lanes is insufficiently clear.

Following informal discussions with the CTC, an organisation representing cyclists, we are proposing changes to draft rules 61 and 63 to make clearer the position regarding the advice in the code on the use of cycle facilities and cycle lanes. On 31 May the Department for Transport wrote to key road safety interests, including members of the Road Safety Advisory Panel, as well as cycling and walking representative bodies, concerning further changes to the Highway Code. A copy of the Department's letter has been placed in the Library of both Houses.

We have asked stakeholders to let us have their views by the end of Tuesday 12 June. The reason for this short timescale is so as not to unduly delay the publication of the new edition of the Highway Code. Any proposed changes have to be laid in Parliament for 40 days before they can come into effect, so will need to be laid by 15 June if the 40-day period is to be completed before summer recess. Views are requested by 12 June to allow time for them to be considered before laying the changes in Parliament. We would then expect to publish the revised edition of the Highway Code in September.

European Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I will attend the second Transport Council of the German presidency which takes place in Luxembourg on 7 and 8 June.

The Council will aim to reach political agreement on three maritime transport proposals. The first is a directive amending Directive 2002/59/EC, which established a Community *vessel traffic monitoring* and information system. The second proposal is a recast of the existing directive (as amended) on *port state control*, with the introduction a new inspection regime aimed at the better targeting of ships for inspection, and with the prospect of banning seriously substandard ships from calling at EU ports. This recast is a part of the European Commission's programme of simplification of legislation.

The third proposal is a directive on *investigation of maritime accidents*, amending Directives 1999/35/EC and 2002/59/EC. We support the rationale and much of the content of the proposal, which is influenced by UK practice, and hope a political agreement can be reached. We think it is essential that EU accident investigation bodies are independent of political and/or commercial pressures, and that accident investigation is undertaken to help improve safety and not to apportion blame

The UK is content with all three of the maritime texts being put to the Council for political agreement.

There will be a progress report on a draft regulation on the *liability of carriers* of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents. The UK is broadly able to accept this proposal. Some good progress has been made on it and most of the outstanding issues relate to the Commission's desire to go beyond the Athens convention of 2002. We strongly oppose use of this regulation to extend the Athens convention to inland waterways. We are also keen to ensure that the regulation is as consistent as possible with the Athens convention and incorporates the IMO guidelines relating to insurance for terrorism.

There will be a policy debate on the setting up of a European data centre for the *Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships* (LRIT). The UK along with the majority of EU member states supports, in principle, the concept of developing a cooperative data centre for the EU. However, more information on financing, technical and legal framework issues is required prior to offering definitive political support. The intention is to reach a political agreement, either to support or reject the concept, during the next meeting of the Council in October.

The Council will aim to reach a general approach on a regulation repealing Regulation 954/79 on ratification by member states of, or their accession to, the United Nations convention on a code of conduct for *Liner Conferences*. This will remove the block exemption currently held by this sector of the shipping industry. We agree with this repeal.

There will be a report on the current situation on the *Galileo satellite navigation programme*. The Council will be asked to accept that the current negotiations for a PPP concession stand little chance of being completed satisfactorily. There are related scrutiny reserves. An explanatory memorandum is being submitted on the recent Commission communication on the negotiations and alternative options.

The UK position is that there is not enough evidence on the cost and risk, or the affordability in terms of the Community financial perspectives, for the Council to make a decision on an alternative way forward. The UK will continue to argue that a decision on the way forward is premature without more information and that finance Ministers should be involved

The Council will be asked to agree conclusions on a European *energy strategy for transport*. The UK is broadly content with the latest draft. Our main concern is to ensure that the language on the planned framework for attaining the CO_2 emissions target from new cars is consistent with that in the conclusions of the 21 May 2007 Competitiveness Council.

The Council will aim to reach a general approach on a directive bringing up to date the rules on *transport of dangerous goods* by road, rail and inland waterway. There were a number of difficult issues which were solved in the negotiations. The UK was content with the outcome and supports the proposed directive.

There will be a progress report on a draft directive on *rail interoperability*. The UK supports the proposal and will be working with the German presidency to solve remaining issues before the end of its term

The Council will be asked to reach a political agreement on an amending regulation to extend the role of the *European Aviation Safety Agency* (EASA) to flight operations, personnel licensing and the safety of third-country aircraft. The UK supports the development of a comprehensive European regulatory system, centred on an effective European Aviation Safety Agency, as part of its commitment to establishing a high, uniform level of aviation safety across Europe.

The Council will be asked to reach a general approach on a regulation on rules for the operation of air services. This is a recast version of the third aviation package, the legislation which set up the aviation single market. We have engaged robustly with the Commission and other member states to secure significant improvements to the original proposals. The improvements are largely deregulatory and will ensure the better and more consistent operation of the common aviation area, closing certain loopholes that were being exploited to the detriment of UK carriers.

One issue remains unresolved, namely whether national social law should apply to airline staff employed outside that airline's home country. We believe that such a provision is inappropriate here and cuts across established EU legislation on labour issues. In order to secure final agreement to the regulation, we are proposing to the Council a neutral text which simply asserts that all relevant social provisions of Community law would apply to such workers.

The Council will aim to agree a resolution on the formal establishment of a joint undertaking to implement the *SESAR* programme, the new generation European air traffic management system. We welcome confirmation of the commitment by the European Commission and Eurocontrol, as founder members of the JU, to fund the development phase. However, we believe the financial commitment of industry is critical to the overall success of the project.

The Council will be asked to adopt broad conclusions on the EU position on *aviation emissions trading*, in preparation for the 36th Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), in September. The UK is keen to work within the ICAO framework to develop policies, instruments and standards to reduce the impact of aviation's emissions.

Thames Valley Regional Planning Assessment (Railways)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today published the Thames Valley Regional Planning Assessment for the railway (RPA), the latest in the series of eleven RPAs covering England and Wales. The Yorkshire and Humber RPA is also being published today.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be downloaded from the Department's website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk

The Thames Valley RPA covers west London, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, plus a small number of stations in Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire on lines from London Paddington and London Marylebone.

RPAs provide the link between regional spatial planning (including preparation of regional transport strategies) and planning for the railway by both Government and the rail industry, and are designed to inform the development of the Government's strategy for the railway. They look at the challenges and options for development of the railway over the next twenty years, in the wider context of forecast change in population, the economy and travel behaviour.

An RPA does not commit the Government to specific proposals. Instead it sets out the Government's current thinking on how the railway might best be developed to allow wider planning objectives for a region to be met, and identifies the priorities for further development work.

It is the Government's intention to publish the Wales RPA during the summer.

Yorkshire and Humber Regional Planning Assessment (Railways)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department for Transport has today published the Yorkshire and Humber Regional Planning Assessment for the railway (RPA), the latest in the series of eleven RPAs covering England and Wales. The Thames Valley RPA is also being published today.

Copies of the document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be downloaded from the Department's website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk

The Yorkshire and Humber RPA covers the Yorkshire and the Humber planning region, together with parts of Greater Manchester and North Derbyshire which are both included in the wider journey to work area of the Yorkshire and Humber region, and also the key trans-Pennine corridors, linking the region with Manchester and the wider North-West. The RPA excludes a small part of North Yorkshire where rail services on the Whitby Line are closely linked to the North-East network and were covered in the North-East RPA.

RPAs provide the link between regional spatial planning (including preparation of regional transport strategies) and planning for the railway by both Government and the rail industry, and are designed to inform the development of the Government's strategy for the railway. They look at the challenges and options for development of the railway over the next twenty years, in the wider context of forecast change in population, the economy and travel behaviour.

An RPA does not commit the Government to specific proposals. Instead it sets out the Government's current thinking on how the railway might best be developed to allow wider planning objectives for a region to be met, and identifies the priorities for further development work.

It is the Government's intention to publish the Wales RPA during the summer.

Movement of Abnormal Loads

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I have today published a consultation paper for the attention of stakeholders seeking views on proposed new guidelines to clarify and support the Government's "water preferred" policy of using water for the transport of abnormal indivisible loads.

Since the 1970s Government have had a stated policy of using coastal shipping for moving the largest and heaviest abnormal loads. This was extended in 2002 to include the use of inland waterways wherever practical, economic and environmentally desirable. The "water preferred" policy encourages taking slow-moving abnormal loads off the road network, offering real benefits in terms of reducing disruption and congestion. The consultation is aimed at clarifying how the policy is applied and to provide greater transparency of the decision-making process.

Further information on the consultation is available from the Highways Agency website: www.highways.gov.uk

Those wishing to comment on the proposals have until 28 August 2007 to do so. Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pensions Institutions (Review)

The Minister for Pensions Reform (James Purnell): On 16 January this year I announced that Paul Thornton had been appointed to undertake a review of the functions of pensions institutions as an independent external reviewer. I am pleased to advise the House that I am today laying a copy of his report in the Library of the House.

Paul Thornton has examined whether the functions of the Pensions Regulator, the Pension Protection Fund, the Pensions Ombudsman, the PPF Ombudsman and the Pensions Advisory Service, and the Financial Services Authority, the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and the Financial Ombudsman Service in as much as their responsibilities covered pensions, are arranged most effectively. He has done so in an open and consultative way, seeking views from key stakeholders through an initial call for evidence, a consultation on emerging issues, meetings with key players and extensive engagement with the institutions themselves.

His report confirms that the existing institutions are delivering their functions effectively. He recommends that the Pensions Regulator should build on its effective joint working arrangements with the Pension Protection Fund and the Financial Services Authority. He also recommends that there would be benefits in bringing the Pensions Ombudsman and the Financial Ombudsman Service closer together, and identified a number of issues that would need to be resolved in doing so.

The Government welcome his report, and intend to proceed to implement his recommendations, working with the institutions and other interested parties to develop practical proposals that ensure that current and future pensioners may continue to rely on an effective institutional framework for pensions.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 6 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ordnance Survey (Performance Targets 2007-08)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): The following performance targets have been set for Ordnance Survey in 2007-08:

Ordnance Survey will report externally against a set of Agency Performance Monitors (APMs) as required of all Executives Agencies in Government:

1. To achieve an operating profit before exceptional items, interest and dividends of £14.6 million for the financial year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.
2. Some 99.6 per cent. of significant real-world features are represented in the database within six months of completion.
3. To continuously improve the timeliness of the supply of our data to customers with a success rate not lower than 97 per cent.
4. To reduce carbon emissions from Ordnance Survey Headquarters by 29 per cent. against the base year of 2000-01 by March 2008.
5. To achieve an improvement of 5 per cent. in business on planned 2006-07 baseline transaction levels (for example, a rise from 90,301 to 94,816 transactions) through our OS MasterMap Service and Consumer e-commerce Platform.

These targets reflect Ordnance Survey's continuing commitment to customers, improved value for money for all of its stakeholders and commitment to Government policies.

DEFENCE

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce today that the Ministry of Defence has decided to proceed towards financial and contractual close of the Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) project PFI deal. The FSTA project is an innovative programme intended to provide future air-to-air refuelling and strategic air transport capability, through a service based contract funded under the private finance initiative. It will provide the Royal Air Force with a modern capability to replace our VC10 and TriStar aircraft.

In February 2005, the then Secretary of State for Defence announced that the Government intended to enter into preferred bidder negotiations with AirTanker Ltd. Extensive evaluation of the final bid has demonstrated that PFI offers a cost effective solution to this requirement and we are now proceeding towards financial and contractual close of the deal with AirTanker Ltd. We expect AirTanker Ltd. to now begin the fund raising process.

I should stress that FSTA remains a complex and challenging PFI programme. Contract signature is dependent upon the outcome of the PFI fund raising process. Nevertheless, I believe this announcement is good news for our armed forces, for the taxpayer, for AirTanker, and for UK industry.

HEALTH

NHS Financial Performance (Quarter 4 2006-07)

The Secretary of State for Health (Ms Patricia Hewitt): Today, my Department is publishing the National Health Service financial report for the fourth quarter of 2006-07. This report shows that, on the basis of unaudited figures, the NHS as a whole is reporting a net surplus for the year of £510 million, having made very strong progress against each of the financial objectives we set for the financial year.

This is a remarkable transformation from the £547 million audited net deficit in 2005-06, and bears witness to the hard work of NHS staff right across the country in taking the tough decisions needed to deliver savings, increase the efficiency of working practices and reduce deficits, while maintaining patient care and continuing to reduce waiting times.

The introduction of a stronger, fairer and more transparent system, coupled with a renewed emphasis on performance management, has exposed many underlying financial problems in the system, allowing the NHS to end the 2006-07 year with its strongest financial results for many years, and providing a firm and sustainable financial position for 2007-08 and beyond.

The report has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Law

The Minister for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Liam Byrne): Today I have launched a consultation paper on simplifying immigration and citizenship law. The aim of this initial consultation paper is to seek a range of views to inform a fundamental overhaul of the legal framework within which the Border and Immigration Agency operates.

Over recent months we have outlined our plans to reform our immigration system. The object of this paper is to begin the process of simplifying the body of different immigration laws built up over the last few decades.

The new legal framework will be important to the transformation of the Border and Immigration Agency, and to the achievement of its strategic objectives.

Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The document is also available on the Border and Immigration Agency's website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/currentconsultations

NORTHERN IRELAND

Oversight Commissioner's Report

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Paul Goggins): I have today laid before this House a copy of the Oversight Commissioner's first statutory report for the year 2007 which was published on 31 May 2007, in accordance with Section 68(4)(a) of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 2000.

This is the final report of the office of the Policing Oversight Commissioner and the 10th report compiled by Al Hutchinson as Oversight Commissioner and the 19th in the series of oversight reports published since 2001. This final report of the Oversight Commissioner is a comprehensive assessment of the implementation of the Patten recommendations and is a fitting record of the invaluable work of the Policing Oversight Commissioner and his team of evaluators.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 30 May in Brussels. The Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, my hon. Friend the Member for Stirling (Mrs. McGuire), the Minister with responsibility for disabled people, represented the UK. Health and Consumer Affairs issues were taken on 31 May.

For the first item, the Council endorsed a joint Social Protection Committee and Employment Committee opinion on active ageing. The Employment Committee Chair said the aim was to give member states practical guidance reflecting the successful initiatives that were being taken across the EU to boost the employment rates of older people.

The Council adopted a resolution on a new EU strategy on health and safety at work. The Commission said that the previous strategy had achieved an increase in productivity and a 17 per cent. reduction in accidents in the EU15, but that the current levels of accidents and illness were still too high. The UK said an important element of achieving a good health and safety record, was ensuring that employers and workers were focused on the sensible, practical management of health and safety risks, rather than getting tied up in pointless bureaucracy, and welcomed the clear link between good health and safety management and the achievement of the Lisbon employment agenda.

The Council agreed a partial general approach on two chapters of the Implementing Regulation for Regulation 883/04, providing for the co-ordination of social security systems, which included sickness and health care benefits and the provisions for reimbursing healthcare costs. It agreed an explanatory note, instigated by the UK, saying final agreement on the border health care aspects could not be given until the Commission proposals on health services had been considered. The Council also agreed a general approach on the 2006 package of miscellaneous amendments to the regulation.

On the Portability of Supplementary Pensions Directive, the Netherlands said the Dutch Parliament had called for the directive to be re-examined, as it felt that the text no longer met its aim of increasing worker mobility due to the narrowing of its scope and the numerous exemptions. The presidency suggested the Portuguese might take up the dossier, but the next step was the imminent First Reading Opinion of the European Parliament.

A lunchtime discussion was held on 'Migration and Access to the Labour Market'. After a presentation by Commissioner Frattini on the Commission's recent proposals, a number of Ministers spoke about their own different national situations and problems. All agreed these were major issues that the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council should return to.

The Council adopted conclusions on the importance of family-friendly policies, an Alliance for Families and on the Beijing indicators on education and training. The presidency's Alliance for Families initiative was broadly welcomed, though most, including the UK, said it should not duplicate existing processes.

The Social Protection Committee Chair presented the outcomes of the Social Services of General Interest consultation. The Social Partners wanted a legal framework, though there was broad recognition of the important role the Open Method of Coordination could also play, and the Commission said it would bring forward a Communication in November.

Portugal outlined its priorities on employment and social policy for the forthcoming Portuguese presidency starting in July, which would be evaluating the European Employment Strategy in its 10th anniversary year, renewing the European Social Model with particular attention to pensions, poverty and social exclusion. It also intended to take stock of the progress made in combating discrimination. For the December Council it stated that Flexicurity would be a key issue.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 7 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): On 27 March, I announced, following our assessment of responses to our Invitation to Councils, which unitary proposals would proceed to stakeholder consultation.

Sixteen proposals in 13 areas across England are currently out to consultation, after initial assessment against the Government's strict criteria which require that they are affordable and will provide stronger leadership, improve public services, empower local communities and have a broad cross-section of support.

No decisions have been made about which of these proposals may be implemented. However if more proposals are assessed as meeting the criteria than we consider are affordable under fiscal rules on the use of reserves to finance transitional costs, then as the Government propose to prioritise those proposals. I also announced on 27 March that we would consult during our main stakeholder consultation on the proposed means of prioritising restructuring proposals.

We are launching the consultation today, seeking the views of partners and stakeholders affected by the proposals. It is however, open to anyone to respond to the consultation document, copies of which are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The consultation will run until 18 July.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Education, Youth and Culture Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Mr. Shaun Woodward): A meeting of the Education, Youth and Culture Council was held on 24 and 25 May. I represented the UK for the Cultural and Audiovisual agenda items taken on 24 May.

The main agenda item discussed was the new Audiovisual Media Services Directive. The Council reached unanimous political agreement on this new directive, which revises and updates the current Television Without Frontiers Directive. The text that the Council agreed is the basis of a final deal with the European Parliament. The UK strongly supports the text, in which the country-of-origin principle has been preserved and the scope has been limited to television broadcasting and television-like on-demand services.

The German presidency also introduced the Council conclusions on the contribution of the cultural and creative sectors to the achievement of the Lisbon objectives. The Council agreed to adopt these conclusions. The outcome of this agreement is that the member states (including the UK) have committed themselves to promoting evidence-based policy making; to strengthening the link between education, training, and the cultural and creative sectors; to maximising the potential of small/medium enterprises (SMEs) in these sectors; and to making better use of existing structures, programmes and initiatives.

These conclusions were supported by the UK and their adoption, together with the backing of the Council for assisting cultural SMEs and improving data on the economic benefits of the cultural and creative sectors, can be considered a real success.

Under AOB, Ireland and Greece were selected, by way of a draw, to nominate members of the selection panel for the European Capital of Culture events from 2011-15.

The presidency forwarded the draft modus operandi on the Work Plan for Culture to the incoming Portuguese presidency, with a view to continuing work on this issue in the context of the drafting of the new Work Plan for Culture in the second half of 2007.

The Commission presented its proposed communication on the role of Culture in a Globalizing World which examines the role of culture in Europe and how the European Union can add value.

The incoming Portuguese presidency announced it would host a Ministerial Cultural Forum from 24 to 26 September 2007.

DEFENCE

Improved Support to Families

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): We are committed to supporting the families of UK service personnel who have died in service, including on operations overseas. A number of initiatives are being taken to improve the help we offer them.

When a service person dies, the service appoints a visiting officer to help the family cope with bereavement. The role of visiting officers is crucial in providing the liaison between families and the services; they are there for the family for as long as the family wishes. Each family has different needs and we strive to ensure that each family receives a personal service to meet their needs as far as possible. We continue to make improvements to the way that we select and train our visiting officers, and to the guidance that we give to help them in this demanding role, which is regularly updated. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) Casualty and Compassionate Policy and Procedures are kept under continual review to ensure current policy meets the expectations of bereaved families and guidance for visiting officers is regularly updated.

We have increased the number of family members (from five to seven) eligible to receive travel, accommodation and subsistence, at public expense, to attend the repatriation ceremony. We provide travel,

accommodation and subsistence payments for two members of the family to attend the inquest at public expense, and we have extended this entitlement to enable two family members to attend any pre-inquest hearings.

In addition to existing arrangements for all three services through the Joint Casualty Compassionate Cell, a dedicated team has been established within the MOD to improve our liaison with local coroners dealing with inquests into Army casualties, and to ensure that there are no unnecessary delays in responding to the coroner's requests that would delay the start of the inquest. The team oversees arrangements for the preparation of information for inquests, and ensures that appropriate MOD officials are made available to brief coroners on technical or specific military matters.

We have produced detailed guidance for the services on the disclosure of board of inquiry (BOI) reports. This includes instructions on how information from third parties should be presented to enable the family to more easily follow the narrative. This will in turn help families to identify any additional witnesses who they would like the coroner to invite to attend the inquest. Our guidance also makes it clear that the coroner is normally to be provided with a copy of the full BOI report for his own use.

Over the next few months we will make further improvements. We will provide better information for families on BOIs. Where a BOI is held, families will be briefed at the outset of the inquiry to ensure they understand the board's purpose; they will be offered an early meeting to discuss specific issues or any questions they may have. Families will be kept informed of the board's progress, in person where possible or by letter every four weeks or so, until a copy of the report is made available to the family, at which point they will be invited to receive another briefing if they wish.

We will publish a leaflet to help service families understand the nature and purpose of BOIs and coroners' inquests and their role in the inquest as interested persons for example, the right to ask questions. This will build on information already made available by the Ministry of Justice on coroners' work generally.

We will provide additional guidance to presidents of BOIs which will complement current single service guidance and provide advice to board presidents on matters which affect the families. This will include understanding the wider uses to which BOI findings will be put, particularly in supporting the inquest process.

The majority of BOIs are conducted by the Army, so we are planning the appointment of permanent presidents for Army BOIs to deliver a more consistent approach to the conduct of their inquiries and to prevent unnecessary delay.

In the longer term the Armed Forces Act 2006 will introduce a harmonised service inquiry system which will provide a single form of statutory inquiry to replace BOIs and some of the lower level inquiries. As now, the new provisions will give the services the power to investigate any matter internally to find out what happened and to reduce the risk of it happening again. Training will be given and detailed guidance will accompany the introduction of the new service inquiries by 2009. This will bring a more coherent approach to the way in which circumstances surrounding serious incidents are examined in the future.

It is MOD policy to arrange a funeral at public expense or to provide funding towards the cost of a private funeral dependent upon the family's wish. We are committed to helping families defray the costs of the funeral and we are increasing by £1,000 the funeral grant for private funerals. The new rates range from £2,190 to £2,760. For those who choose a service funeral, we are expanding the items covered to include expenses associated with such things as books of condolence, transport and notices in the press. In addition, for service funerals, we plan to give the next of kin of deceased service personnel a grant of £500 to contribute towards any personal costs they might incur as a result of their bereavement.

Under current legislation, an inquest may be transferred from one coroner to another within England and Wales with the agreement of the other coroner. The law requires that the body should still be lying in the first coroner's district when the request is made. Since late December 2006 the practice of the Oxfordshire coroner was to transfer single death inquests where possible to the coroner with jurisdiction closer to the next of kin. Local inquests should be more convenient for families and will enable them to have the support of family and friends who may wish to attend the inquest. With effect from 1 April 2007 the facilities at RAF Brize Norton in the Oxfordshire coroner's jurisdiction have not been available for repatriation ceremonies and bodies of service personnel are currently being repatriated via RAF Lyneham in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's jurisdiction. The Wiltshire and Swindon coroner is continuing the practice of transferring single deaths to other coroner's jurisdiction.

There is no provision for inquests in Scotland. A fatal accident inquiry will be heard in certain circumstances but as the law currently stands there is no provision for a fatal accident inquiry to be held on any death occurring outside Scotland. A coroner may only transfer an inquest to another coroner within England and Wales so there is no provision for the inquest to be transferred to Scotland. The coroner may, however, transfer jurisdiction to a coroner in the north of England if this suited the family. We have written to the Scottish Executive to explore whether inquiries into the deaths of service personnel can take place in Scotland.

We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Justice to improve our support to coroners, which in turn will help families during the inquest process. We have agreed arrangements to support the Oxfordshire coroner to deal with the backlog of inquests of servicemen and women who have died overseas which fall within his jurisdiction and ministerial statements have been made to the House on 5 June, 12 June and 18 December 2006 and on 29 March 2007 with information about the progress of these inquests.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all our service personnel who have died on operations and we will continue to provide our best possible support to their families through very difficult times.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Education and Youth Council

The Minister for Higher Education and Lifelong Learning (Bill Rammell): I attended the Education Council on behalf on the UK; Anne Lambert (Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU) attended the Youth Council.

Ministers discussed the following issues:

Education

Conclusions on a coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training

1. The Council adopted the conclusions without comment. The Commission presented its plans to develop a European Indicator of Language Competence. I intervened on this point to object to carrying out the new survey in 2009, as this will clash with other school surveys that are taking place that year. This view was supported by many member states and the Commission agreed to put back the languages survey to 2010. Ministers also agreed that all official EU languages would be tested in subsequent surveys.

Evidence-based policy-making in the field of education

2. Ministers had an exchange of views on this issue, looking at ways to further develop and use educational research, and how such action can be supported at EU level. It was agreed that educational strategies needed to be based on empirical evidence; that research had to be linked closely to practice on the ground; and that close contact was needed between researchers, practitioners and politicians. I emphasised the importance of making best use of existing research and focusing on topics that informed practice on the ground. I also said that peer learning and peer review should be strengthened at European level particularly in relation to skills development. This would help to disseminate effective policies and contribute to implementing the Lisbon process. Others drew attention to the role of the OECD in producing valuable data and informing policy making at national level.

Youth

Resolution on creating equal opportunities for all young people

3. The Council approved the Resolution without discussion.

Conclusions on future perspectives for European cooperation in the field of youth policy

4. Member states agreed to adopt the Conclusions. An exchange of views showed considerable consensus around the UK's position of a cross-sectoral approach to youth policy, with a role for this Council of looking at youth-specific aspects of policy and feeding it in to other Council formations such as Employment.

5. The UK said that it believed that youth policy was best formulated at local level but there was an important role for exchange of good practice. On peer learning and exchange of good practice we could look at making better use of existing tools but also at the experience of undertaking these activities in education and adapting it to the youth field.

AOB

6. The Presidency reported that the European Parliament's opinion on the European Qualifications Framework was expected between July and September. Austria informed the Council of its concerns about an ECJ ruling relating to an Austrian University regarding non-discriminatory access to higher education. They were supported by Luxembourg and Denmark. Portugal said it would address this issue during its Presidency. Finally, Portugal gave an encouraging presentation of its Presidency priorities. They aim to strengthen the education and skills aspects of the Lisbon agenda and to give priority to higher education.

HEALTH

Medicines Development

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The Government are sponsoring a leaflet on medicines development. The leaflet has been placed in the Library and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

The leaflet has been produced by the Coalition for Medical Progress (CMP) to raise general public awareness about how medicines are developed, and covers the use of animals in medicines research and testing, through to clinical trials and licensing. The CMP will make the leaflet available for six months in around 60 per cent. of GP practices in England.

PRIME MINISTER

House of Lords Appointments Commission

The Prime Minister (Mr. Tony Blair): I have today placed copies of the House of Lords Appointments Commission Annual Report 2006-07 in the Libraries of both Houses. I am grateful to the members of the Commission for the report and their valuable work.

TRANSPORT

Traffic Management Act 2004

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Gillian Merron): The Department for Transport has today published a revised timetable for delivery of the Traffic Management Act 2004 regulations. The Act gives local authorities additional tools to tackle congestion and reduce disruption on the road network for the benefit of the travelling public.

In recent months, the Department has made considerable progress on the delivery of these regulations. We have held public consultations on the draft guidance on intervention criteria, on regulations for street works, on regulations for permits and the civil enforcement of parking. These regulations are all nearing implementation, or have been implemented having considered the responses raised in the consultations.

It is important to take the time to get the regulations and associated codes of practices right, as rushing the project risks creating regulations that are unworkable or will not stand the test of time.

The timetable has been updated to reflect:

(1) An increased time period for industry and highway authorities to prepare for implementing the regulations.

(2) Revised understanding of how long it will take to ensure that the regulations are consistent and robust.

(3) The need to reassess external influences impacting on the development of the regulations.

Copies of the new timetable have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and can also be found on the Department's website at: http://www.dft.gov.uk

I will continue to update the House as key milestones occur during the implementation of the Traffic Management Act.

Graduated Fixed Penalty and Deposit Schemes

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I have today launched a consultation exercise explaining how we intend to introduce new measures to deal with hauliers who flout the rules of the road. In future they face being fined and having their vehicles immobilised irrespective of whether they are based here or abroad.

I have placed copies of the consultation document in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 11 June 2007

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Government Website (EU Documents)

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The Government have launched a website where Explanatory Memoranda (EMs) on EU documents submitted to Parliament under the long-established EU scrutiny arrangements can be consulted and downloaded.

Although Government EMs have previously been accessible in hard copy form through the British Library, the new website will help to promote a greater transparency of and access to the information submitted by the Government to Parliament on proposals for EU legislation and other EU documents.

The website can be found at http://europeanmemorandum.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/search.aspx>

The site will enable users to:

Access all Government EMs on EU documents submitted to Parliament from 1 January 2007.

Download EMs, contact details are provided for further information. The Cabinet Office stores earlier EMs electronically dating back to 2003 and can be contacted for copies of earlier EMs.

Find out information about the United Kingdom's procedures for Parliamentary scrutiny of EU documents.

Use links to the websites of the House of Lords European Union Committee and the House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee as well as to sites where EU Council of Ministers and Commission documents can be downloaded and the passing of EU legislation can be followed.

HEALTH

[redacted]S (Patient and Public Involvement)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton): The House of Commons Health Select Committee published its report on Patient and Public Involvement in the NHS on 20 April 2007. The principal areas covered by the report were patient forums, the Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health, the proposed Local Involvement Networks and Section 11 of the Health and Social Care Act 200—the duty on the NHS to involve and consult patients and the public.

We welcome the recommendations of the Health Select Committee, and have today laid before Parliament the Government's response to the report (Cm 7128). Copies of the response are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Refugees (Integration Loans Scheme)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): I am announcing that today "The Integration Loans for Refugees and Others Regulations" come into force. Integration loans, will be available to those granted refugee status or humanitarian protection and their respective dependants.

When status is granted, these individuals enter into a period of transition during which most will need to find accommodation, train or re-qualify and seek employment. As part of the integration process an interest free loan with moderate repayment terms will make a considerable impact on their ability to become established in the UK. Applications can be made for loans up to a maximum £1,000 and are designed to be spent on items that we believe will facilitate integration, particularly those related to housing, education and employment.

The scheme will be jointly administered by the Home Office and the Department for Work and Pensions. Only those granted leave to enter or remain after today will be eligible to apply for an integration loan.

With the introduction of integration loans we are now ending the ability of refugees to make a claim for a backdated payment of income related benefits. As well as being a more equitable replacement for the back payments system, we believe integration loans will be an important tool in assisting new refugees and those granted humanitarian protection to establish themselves in the UK.

Justice and Home Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): The Justice and Home Affairs Council will be held on 12-13 June 2007 in Luxembourg. Baroness Scotland, the Lord Chancellor and I will attend on behalf of the UK.

The Council will start with the mixed committee items attended by Norway, Iceland and Switzerland. Among these will be reports on the state of play regarding the implementation of SISOne4all and SIS II. We expect these updates to confirm that both the SISone4all project and the development of SIS II are running in line with their respective time schedules

The draft Regulation establishing the Visa Information System (VIS) and the accompanying draft Council Decision on law enforcement access to VIS will be going to the Council for political agreement. The UK is not participating in the Regulation and has been excluded from the Council Decision. However, we have successfully negotiated the inclusion of a Council declaration which underlines Council support for UK and Ireland access and makes clear that this issue will be explored further following the outcome of the FRONTEX and Passports cases before the European Court of Justice which deal with the right of the UK and Ireland to participate in measures which build on those elements of Schengen into which we have not opted. Furthermore, the UK and Ireland will also make a joint declaration setting out our view of the issue in more detail.

A state of play report is expected on the Data Protection Framework Decision as well as the adoption of Council conclusions on this item. Work on this is ongoing and an agreement is hoped for by the end of the year.

The Presidency has tabled a number of items upon which it is seeking a general approach. These will be on the exchange of criminal record information, procedural rights in criminal proceedings and uniform formats for residence permits.

The Government strongly support the Framework Decision on the exchange of criminal record information which we believe will help to improve the exchange of information on past convictions between EU Member States and lay the groundwork for the development of a common electronic format for the exchange of such information.

The Government are also supportive of the Regulation for a uniform format for residence permits which increases document security and reduces the risk of identity fraud. The Regulation updates the requirements for residence permits to reflect advances in technology. It provides for residence permits for third country nationals to be on a polycarbonate card with a facial image engraved on the card and biometrics along with the facial image and other identification information encrypted and stored in a chip embedded in the card.

The Presidency is likely to make a final attempt to get all Member States to agree in principle to a Framework Decision on procedural rights in criminal law matters covering all cross-border and domestic proceedings. The UK and some other Member States have made clear that they could support a Framework Decision covering strictly cross-border cases, coupled with a strong Resolution on practical measures to enhance ECHR compliance, but cannot accept a binding measure covering purely domestic proceedings.

The Presidency will seek a steer from the Council on the question of dual criminality in relation to the Framework Decision on the recognition and enforcement of suspended sentences, conditional sentences and alternative sanctions, and endorsement of the objectives and scope of the draft instrument in broad terms. The Government will caution against reaching a final decision on any elements at such an early stage and will emphasise the importance of agreeing an instrument that is workable and proportionate.

Indications are that the Presidency will seek political agreement on the draft Council Decision on the stepping up of cross-border co-operation which brings the key elements of the Prüm Treaty into the EU. The Government have secured a number of important amendments to the text during negotiations, such as the removal of articles which we were concerned might allow for cross-border hot pursuit. We are now content with the text as drafted. We consider the Prüm Decision to be a measure which would be of such benefit to the UK that it should come into operation as soon as possible. In Austria and Germany where data have already begun to be exchanged under the Prüm Convention, they have had a number of hits on serious crimes including rape and murder. More generally we know that effective information sharing is vital for the protection of public security.

The proposal to replace the Europol Convention with a more flexible legal instrument in the form of a Council Decision will be discussed. Negotiations thus far have centred on the first chapter of this proposal, articles 1-9. The Government are content with the revisions that have been made to this first section of the proposal. We have been successful in ensuring that the changes to Europol's mandate have been limited to cover situations where there is a very serious crime which would require a common approach owing to the scale, significance and consequences affecting several Member States.

The JHA Council is also expected to adopt Council Conclusions mapping the way forward for an agreement to replace the Europol Convention with a Council Decision. The Council Conclusions stress that satisfactory solutions must be found on a number of outstanding issues, such as clarification of the budgetary consequences and the lifting of immunity for Europol officials in Joint Investigation Teams (JITs), before a final decision can be made on whether Europol should be funded from the Community budget. Negotiations will continue on the remainder of the text with a view to agreeing the proposal as a whole by June 2008.

Other Council Conclusions on the agenda relate to the completion of negotiations on the Data Protection Framework Decision; the strengthening of integration policies through promoting unity in diversity; a procedure for future handling of legislative proposals with a first pillar Community, legal base which include provisions relating to criminal law, on which there will be a review of the effectiveness of procedural arrangements agreed at the February JHA Council—the Government welcome the Presidency paper; and E-Justice, where the work done by the Presidency is fully supported by the Government.

The UK is happy to support the draft Conclusions on the strengthening of integration policies through promoting unity in diversity. We see these Conclusions as representing a valuable additional dimension to the work of the National Integration Contact Points network by giving a sharper focus on participation of migrants in community life and on dialogue between cultures.

A report and Council conclusions will also be presented on violent video and computer games detailing Member States' responses to a questionnaire about how they each regulate the sale of computer games to children. In the UK, games featuring gross violence must be submitted to the British Board of Film Classification and are given an age-related classification. It is an offence to supply a game to someone who does not meet the age requirement.

There will be a state of play report on the protection of the environment through criminal law. The UK welcomes the Presidency paper as an accurate summary of points raised so far in the Substantive Criminal Law Working Group.

The Commission will make a number of presentations introducing their recent Communication on a strategy to tackle cyber-crime; a Green Paper on the future of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS); the Long Term Residents Directive, into which the UK is not opted in; the evaluation of the Dublin II and Eurodac Regulations and two Communications on the Global Approach to Migration on which we also expect Council Conclusions to be agreed.

The UK is in the final stages of implementing the first phase of the CEAS which is based on setting minimum standards and has a role to play in helping us manage domestic asylum pressures whilst reducing differences across the EU. The Green Paper launches a comprehensive consultation process on the form the second phase of CEAS should take. The Government are in the process of drawing up their strategy in response.

The Dublin II and Eurodac evaluation will report on the implementation of both Regulations. We see Dublin II and Eurodac as vital aspects of a common asylum system and strongly support the approach to determining responsibility for asylum applicants enshrined in this system. We will consider carefully any proposals from the Commission that seek to enhance implementation and increase the effect of the Regulations.

The first Communication on the Global Approach to Migration deals with its expansion to the Eastern and South-Eastern borders of the EU. The Government support the expansion, which demonstrates the value of the Global Approach to Migration agreed under the UK presidency. We are however concerned that the expansion of the Global Approach does not detract from the ongoing work with Africa and the Mediterranean, which needs to be intensified. The Government are also concerned that some elements are included in the Communication which have not yet been agreed by Member States and feels that expansion should be based on the elements in the existing Global Approach.

The second Communication deals with the legal migration element of the Global Approach, in particular circular migration and the new concept of 'mobility partnerships'. The Government are interested in exploring the concept of circular migration; however we are cautious about the value of mobility partnerships. In the first instance, Member States should have the opportunity to carefully consider the partnership concept, and how they might function. The Commission should not be in a position to approach potentially interested third countries before this has happened and Member States signal their willingness to proceed.

The Commission will also present an item on sanctions against employers of illegally staying third country nationals. The Government welcome the proposal for EU measures to combat illegal working and are carefully considering the Commission's proposal.

The Commission will present an item on the refugee situation in Iraq and the surrounding areas. This may lead to a reiteration of calls for Member States to step up resettlement of displaced Iraqis. The UK is in discussion with the UNHCR on this and is expected to decide its position shortly.

The Presidency has also scheduled lunch discussions on the appointment of a new EU Counter Terrorism Co-ordinator and the progress on negotiations to replace the existing Agreement between the EU and US on the provision of passenger name records.

TRANSPORT

Drivers' Hours (Derogation for Reservists)

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I am today announcing that I have written to the European Commission requesting an exemption from Regulation (EC) 561/2006 on drivers' hours for professional drivers when undertaking military training with the volunteer reserve forces or acting as instructors in the cadet corps at the weekend. This request, which has been agreed with the Ministry of Defence, has been made in accordance with the provisions in Article 14.1 of Regulation (EC) 561/2006 which provide for exceptions in exceptional circumstances.

I have specifically asked that the exemption apply to the weekly rest requirements in Article 8.6. This would enable a driver who finishes his normal driving duties on a Friday to complete a 36 hour period of training as a volunteer reservist or as an instructor in the cadet corps during the weekend and then resume his normal driving duties again on a Monday morning.

To ensure that these drivers are adequately rested before they return to their normal driving duties, I have stipulated that the drivers would still be required to take at least nine consecutive hours rest (the equivalent of a reduced daily rest period) between the end of their military training or duties as an instructor and start of work for their regular employer. I do not consider this to be unduly onerous given that this is already common practice within the volunteer reserve forces.

I am satisfied that such an exemption will not in any way jeopardise the objectives of Regulation (EC) 561/2006. But it may take some time for the European Commission to respond to my request. So in the interim, the Ministry of Defence has developed guidelines that outline how drivers can manage their volunteer reserve service in accordance with Regulation (EC) 561/2006.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Fund Guide

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. James Plaskitt): The Secretary of State will be making a minor change to the discretionary social fund, with effect from 11 June 2007. This is in response to the introduction of the Home Office Refugee Integration Loan.

The effect of the change will be to ensure that any capital held as a result of an award of an integration loan is disregarded for social fund purposes.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 12 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bellwin Scheme (Babergh District Council)

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am satisfied that financial assistance under the Bellwin scheme is justified to cover costs incurred by the council following exceptionally severe storms in the area on 18 January 2007.

A scheme will therefore be established under section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Grant will be paid to the authority to cover 85 per cent. of its eligible costs incurred above a threshold.

Discrimination Law Review

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly): The Government are today publishing their consultation following the Discrimination Law Review. Along with the Equalities Review and the establishment of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights, the Discrimination Law Review is an important part of the Government's agenda for moving forward equality issues.

The task of the Discrimination Law Review has been to undertake a fundamental review of discrimination legislation in Great Britain and bring forward proposals for a clearer and more streamlined equality legislation framework which produces better outcomes for those who experience disadvantage.

The Review's three main objectives are to simplify, make more effective and modernise our framework of discrimination law. The consultation puts forward a package of proposals to achieve these objectives. The law needs to work alongside effective social policy measures and strong institutions to promote a culture of fairness, participation for all and respect for each other's rights. It needs to provide a framework of rights and responsibilities which is clearer and more consistent, while recognising that approaches need to be appropriate to the particular experiences of those facing discrimination, and proportionate to the size of the problem.

The response to the consultation will contribute to preparations for a Single Equality Bill which the Government are committed to introducing during this Parliament.

Copies of the consultation and relevant documents will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Oil Depot Explosion (Hemel Hempstead)

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly): The House will recall the scale of the fire and explosions that took place at the Buncefield fuel depot on 11 December 2005. On the following day the Deputy Prime Minister made a statement to the House thanking the emergency services, the voluntary services, local authority staff, Government officials and local people for the magnificent way in which they had responded to the event. In response to a recent request (Business Questions 17 May 2007) from the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) the Leader of the House asked for a statement on progress.

Following on from earlier visits made by the Deputy Prime Minister and the then fire Minister, I visited the area in July last year and met with many of those who had been affected directly or had a role to play in facilitating the recovery process. I maintain a close interest in how matters are progressing and I am aware that more remains to be done.

The House will be aware that on 20 December 2005 the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) announced that it had asked the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the Environment Agency to investigate the incident at the Buncefield oil depot and to appoint an Investigation Board with an independent chair. This reflected the Commission's view that an independent investigation offered the best prospect of ensuring early identification and sharing of lessons learned and for these reasons would be in the best interests of health and safety.

The establishment of an independent Investigation Board, under the chairmanship of the right hon. Lord Newton of Braintree, to oversee detailed investigation into key aspects of the Buncefield incident is ensuring that information is swiftly made available to the public, subject only to legal considerations. The Board is conducting its business openly, in close consultation with key stakeholders including members of the affected community. So far, five reports have been issued within a 15 month period, all of which are available from the official investigation website located at http://www.buncefieldinvestigation.gov.uk/.

The Board has been working on the four areas of concern it identified last July, and has already begun to issue recommendations. The first set of recommendations, relating to the design and operation of fuel storage sites, were published in March, and a further set on emergency planning, response and recovery, is currently in preparation.

I have written direct to the hon Member.

DEFENCE

Veterans' Health

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Derek Twigg): The Government have been considering what more could be done to support veterans suffering from mental health problems which

are related to their active service. As a first step to help these veterans, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) has decided to extend the scope of the Medical Assessment Programme (MAP), based at St Thomas's Hospital, London, to any veteran suffering mental health problems who has served in operations since 1982. This will include veterans of the Falklands Conflict. The MAP will not provide treatment but will offer an assessment by an expert in the mental health problems that arise from military service, including, where appropriate, a recommendation to the individual and their GP for treatment. Veterans who have concerns about their mental health should seek a referral to the MAP by their doctor; the cost of the assessment will be borne by the MOD. For the longer term, the MOD is working in partnership with four UK Health Departments and a number of Mental Health Trusts to pilot a new community-based model of mental health service for veterans. The intention is to provide a service for veterans, offering expertise in veterans' mental health problems across the UK. This scheme will be piloted in five or six locations across the UK, with the first expected to be launched in the summer.

The MOD has also decided that personnel, both Service and civilian, who have served in this theatre on Operation HERRICK and have wider concerns about the effect of their Service on their health can be referred to the MAP for examination; this extends the arrangement already available for veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf Conflict and the current Iraq deployment (Operation TELIC). GPs will be informed of the outcome of the medical assessment with recommendations for further action where necessary.

Finally, reflecting the health concerns that have followed major operational deployments in the past, we have agreed a three-year extension to our original Operation TELIC health-monitoring research project being undertaken by the King's Centre for Military Health Research. It will also cover Service personnel deployed to Afghanistan.

Territorial Army (100th Anniversary)

The Minister of State, Ministry of Defence (Mr. Adam Ingram): I am pleased to announce that the Centenary anniversary of the Territorial Army (TA), and the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA) will be commemorated in the United Kingdom in 2008. The commemorations, which will be designated "TA100", will commence from the anniversary on 1 April 2008. The main national level event will take place on Horse Guards Parade on Saturday 21 June 2008, and between April 2008 and Remembrance Day 2008 there will be a number of regional and local activities, with a broad emphasis on TA veterans and members of the TA currently deployed on operations. The Army will be working with the RFCAs, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, the National Army Museum, Regimental and Corps museums and Service charities to plan events throughout the United Kingdom. Further details will be made available in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I will be representing the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg.

The Presidency will seek political agreements on a multi-annual plan for cod stocks in the Baltic Sea and the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EC and the Government of Denmark and the Home Rule Government of Greenland.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on a policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries.

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on the Commission's report on cross-compliance. The report forms the first stage of the Commission's review of cross compliance with planned implementation of at least some measures by the end of 2007. It deals with administrative issues such as inspection and enforcement arrangements.

The Presidency will seek political agreement on a number of agricultural items on the agenda: establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets which replaces the existing 21 sector-specific Common Market Organisations into a single Regulation; reform of the fruit and vegetable sector; and (possibly) organic production and labelling of organic products.

A number of issues, as follows, will be raised under any other business:

The Commissioner for Fisheries will make a presentation on fishing opportunities for 2008.

Denmark will request Council discussion on fixing tariffs and quotas for sandeel in 2007.

The United Kingdom will request discussion of a Proposal on drift nets.

The Presidency will make a presentation on the Potsdam Conference of Directors on EU Paying Agencies.

New member states will request Council discussion on the issue of phasing in cross compliance and direct payments.

The Agriculture Commissioner will give an update on the WTO agricultural negotiations.

The Presidency will make a presentation on the placing of plant protection products on the market and the sustainable use of pesticides.

EU Environment Ministers

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): On 1-3 June, I met Environment Ministers from EU Member States, candidate countries, the EFTA countries and the European Commission, at an informal Ministerial meeting in Essen, Germany on the theme of "Environment-Innovation-Employment". We discussed issues relating to the main challenges and opportunities in the field of eco-innovation. The discussions were productive and I attach the chair's conclusions for Members' information.

Ministers recognised that environmental technologies and eco-innovations are one of the strongest pillars of Europe's economy. If we are to maintain economic growth and European prosperity then simply continuing to operate in the way we have done is not an option. We must move to a more efficient, sustainable and low carbon economy. To achieve this, Ministers noted that we must create new solutions and technologies.

At Spring European Council, Member States called for the Commission to propose in 2008 an integrated strategy for the promotion of eco-innovation, and this discussion was a chance for Environment Ministers to offer guidance on what it should contain. In this regard, Ministers discussed the need for efficient and ambitious policies that support enterprise and eco-innovation. We discussed a potential review of the impact of key EU policies on eco-innovation, upcoming opportunities such as the review of the Lisbon strategy and the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, and the potential of economic instruments to promote eco-innovation. The Commission's work on lead (or priority) markets in innovation, green public procurement and the existing Environmental Technologies Action Plan, would all make a contribution to this. Such a comprehensive approach should lead to more sustainable patterns of consumption and production, while enabling the EU's businesses to take leadership in expanding global markets for green technologies.

Demand for low carbon and resource-efficient products and technologies is set to grow fast. Environmental performance will therefore play an increasingly important role when it comes to competitiveness. Ministers discussed a number of different policy instruments which could support the innovation process and which could contribute to the integrated strategy for the promotion of eco-innovation. Ministers therefore emphasised that the joint efforts of policy makers in all sectors, will be crucial to create the market conditions that will incentivise the increases in investment that will enable a transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient economy.

I highlighted that any approach to eco-innovation and the transition to a low-carbon economy must work with market forces, where governments seek to intervene to address instances of market failure. It would also be important to work closely with industry to better understand the economic opportunities and what governments could do to help. We should use better regulation to create the right conditions for new technologies to compete on the mass market, and ensure a consistent long-term policy framework gives the private sector the security they need to make investments, citing the Climate Change Bill and Energy White Paper as examples of the UK approach to achieving this.

Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): My hon. Friend the Minister of State with responsibility for Public Health and I would like to update the House on events since the recent case of low pathogenic avian influenza near Corwen in North Wales. On 17 May, a private veterinary surgeon contacted the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA) in Shrewsbury, as well as Animal Health (formerly the State Veterinary Service) in Caernarfon and Defra, following the deaths of 10 chickens over a number of days on a farm near Corwen. Late that day he sent three chickens to Shrewsbury for testing and samples were then sent to VLA headquarters in Weybridge, Surrey for further tests. This was treated as a routine investigation due to the lack of any suspicion of an avian notifiable disease.

On the morning of 23 May, VLA notified Defra that preliminary results indicated the presence of the H7 strain of avian influenza. Veterinary officers from Caernarfon immediately visited the farm in Corwen and placed restrictions on the premises. Animal Health also began tracing the birds back to Chelford market in Cheshire on 7 May and investigating premises that had also received birds from that day's market.

From the first preliminary notification of H7 avian influenza, it was agreed that a strict public health protocol be applied to limit the exposure of persons to possible infection. Pre-exposure prophylactic antiviral Oseltamivir (otherwise known as Tamiflu) was offered to those who would potentially be exposed during the outbreak investigation and control operations. Immediate treatment was provided to anyone who had been exposed to infected birds since the onset of symptoms of disease. The National Public Health Service for Wales (NPHS Wales) led the public health response in collaboration with the Health Protection Agency (HPA).

That afternoon, the Chief Veterinary Officers for the United Kingdom and for Wales decided that the remaining birds on the premises should be slaughtered on suspicion of avian influenza. Tracing of possible human contacts with birds at the infected premises and through the supplying Chelford market was immediately put in place. By 24 May, seven people were under investigation, having reported flu-like illness and associated with contact with two premises with sick birds. Four of these tested positive for either influenza A or H7 infection. All four were presumed confirmed cases of infection associated with this outbreak and three had been hospitalised and were recovering. Given the serious nature of illness seen in three of the four confirmed cases, and because the possibility of person to person transmission could not be ruled out, a precautionary approach was taken with respect to antiviral prophylaxis. Overall, over 360 people were identified as possible contacts or cases associated with this incident, though only four cases of infection were confirmed. The Food Standards Agency re-stated their advice that there is no risk in eating any sort of properly-cooked poultry or eggs.

On 24 May the VLA confirmed the results as low pathogenic H7N2 avian influenza. The CVO Wales then confirmed disease and the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) rapidly made an announcement and put their contingency plans into action. The WAG immediately imposed a 1km restricted zone around the infected premises which was judged proportionate for a case of low pathogenic disease.

The CVO UK notified the European Commission and the International Animal Health Organisation. The Department of Health briefed the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, alerted the World Health Organisation and disseminated an alert through the EU Early Warning and Response System.

Animal Health issued a text alert to all poultry keepers on the Great Britain poultry register and established a Local Disease Control Centre in Caernarfon and a National Disease Control Centre to co-ordinate the response. The WAG also established a Co-ordination Centre to co-ordinate the human and animal health issues in Wales. On 25 May the Cabinet Office convened an official-level meeting of the Civil Contingencies Committee (known as COBR) to ensure cross-Government co-ordination.

By the afternoon of 24 May, Animal Health had completed the humane culling of all remaining birds on the infected premises. Based on expert advice, all bird gatherings involving chickens and ducks were banned in England, Wales and Scotland due to the uncertainties around the movement of those species through Chelford market.

Animal Health has now investigated over 200 tracings and taken samples from birds on all the premises identified apart from one. The majority of those tracings have proved negative and the rest are still awaiting results and are under restrictions. One of those premises, in St Helens, Lancashire, proved positive from low pathogenic H7 on 7 June and almost all the birds involved have been culled and a further 1 km restriction zone placed around those premises.

HPA and NPHS Wales have not found any further confirmed human cases of disease. For these reasons, all bird gatherings were permitted again on 1 June. The HPA and NPHS Wales will continue to actively review any human case of influenza-like illness that might be linked to this incident but tests on suspect cases to date (apart from the original four cases) have all been negative.

The WAG intend to lift the restricted zone around the infected premises in Corwen on 15 June, which is the required period of 21 days following the completion of preliminary cleansing and disinfection.

Once we have completed our tracings and testing, we intend to publish an epidemiological report into the origins of this disease in the next month. We are also conducting a lessons learned exercise which we hope to publish in September. We are committed to learning any lessons.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners both in Wales and those working on human health, as well as Defra, VLA and Animal Health staff, who all worked tirelessly throughout the bank holiday weekend to contain the disease and for a well co-ordinated and successful response.

HEALTH

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Ms Rosie Winterton): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 30-31 May. The health part was held on the 31 May. Anne Lambert, Deputy Permanent Representative to Brussels represented the United Kingdom. The main item on the agenda was an exchange of views on the Commission, consultation on smoke-free environments. Also covered was political agreement on a regulation on advanced therapy medicinal products, and general approaches on three food improvement agents regulations. There was adoption of a council resolution on EU consumer policy strategy, a council recommendation on injury prevention and conclusions on health promotion, HIV/AIDS and health services.

The Health Council coincided with World No Tobaeco Day and the ongoing Commission consultation on smoke-free environments. In light of this, there was a lengthy exchange of views. Most member states intervened to give a description of their national measures to limit exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, which vary greatly in terms of scope. The UK stated the importance of a comprehensive ban on smoking in public places, given that there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. The UK continued that the best way to achieve this was through binding legislation at national level, although a council recommendation at EU level, not a directive, could be a useful way to set out best practice for member states.

On the regulation on advanced therapy medicinal products, political agreement was reached on the proposal as a part of a first reading deal with the European Parliament. The UK was supportive of the compromise text.

On the food improvements agents package, the Presidency led a general approach for the latest compromise regulations on food additives, enzymes for use in foods and the establishment of a common authorisation procedure for food improvement agents. The UK was supportive of this. The Presidency concluded that further technical discussions were needed on the remaining regulation in the package of measures—a regulation on food flavourings.

The council adopted the recommendation of the prevention of injuries and the promotion of safety without significant discussion.

Council conclusions on health promotion by means of nutrition and physical activity were also adopted.

On health services, the council adopted the conclusions on "Health Care across Europe - community framework on health services. There was a brief discussion and the UK and Finland intervened to draw Ministers' attention to the need for a coherent approach on the Social Security Regulation (883/2004) and European Court of Justice case law on patients seeking treatment abroad. Portugal committed to further discussions on health services during their Presidency of the EU.

The council conclusions on tackling HIV/AIDS within the EU and neighbouring countries were adopted. The UK did not intervene but submitted a written statement supporting the conclusions and welcoming the priority the Presidency have given to HIV/AIDS. Member states spoke about the need to involve civil society at large and to emphasise preventative work in this area. The Presidency mentioned their discussions with the pharmaceutical industry on ensuring that the cost of drugs does not become a barrier to effective treatment.

JUSTICE

Witness Intermediary Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): The Government are committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable in our society have access to justice and the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 provides for a number of measures to assist vulnerable or intimidated witnesses give their best evidence in court. Section 29 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 provides for the examination of a witness to be conducted through an intermediary approved by the court, to help the witness communicate with the police, legal representatives and the court.

The intermediary provision has been implemented in six pathfinder criminal justice areas—Merseyside, Thames Valley, West Midlands, South Wales, Norfolk and Devon & Cornwall with the aim of establishing a model for national implementation. Two further areas, Leicestershire and Derbyshire, formalised their use of the scheme in spring 2007.

The operation of the pathfinders has been independently evaluated and the findings show that almost everyone who has encountered the work of intermediaries has been impressed with the service that they provide. The research also highlights a number of emerging benefits, including the potential to assist in bringing offenders to justice, increased access to justice; and assistance in identifying the needs of vulnerable witnesses.

In view of the successful operation of the intermediary pathfinders, the Government have decided to begin a phased national roll-out of the provision from September 2007.

The Research Findings on the Intermediary pathfinder evaluation will be published today. Copies have been made available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office. Copies are also available from the Ministry of Justice website at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/research.htm

NORTHERN IRELAND

Youth Justice Agency

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Maria Eagle): I have placed copies of the Youth Justice Agency's Corporate Plan for 2007-2010 and Business Plan for 2007-08 in the Libraries of both Houses.

The Business Plan contains nine Key Performance Targets I have set for the Agency for 2007-08. These are:

1. Contribute towards the delivery of the NIO PSA target to reduce the rate of reconviction by 5 per cent. compared to the predicted rate by April 2008.

2. Achieve a 20 per cent. increase in the public awareness level of the Agency as measured by the Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey.

3. Maintain an offender participation rate of at least 80 per cent and a satisfaction rate of at least 70 per cent. in youth conferences.

4. Maintain a victim participation rate of at least 60 per cent.and a satisfaction rate of at least 75 per cent. in youth conferences.

5. Further develop and test a measurement system in order to establish baseline figures in relation to key outcomes, in line with the OFMDFM 10-year Strategy for Children and Young People in Northern Ireland.

6. All new admissions have a risk assessment conducted within 24 hours.

7. No high risk escapes from the Juvenile Justice Centre.

8. At least 90 per cent. of young people remanded by the Courts to have a bail assessment completed within seven days.

9. Maintain expenditure within approved budgetary limits.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

EU Structural Funds Programmes

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): In my written statement to Parliament of 23 October 2006 I announced the publication of the UK's National Strategic Reference Framework for Structural Funds Programmes during the 2007-2013 period. This document sets out the strategy for future Structural Funds spending across the UK, the allocations of funding for future Programmes, and the administrative arrangements for delivering the Programmes.

Prior to acceptance of the National Strategic Reference Framework, the European Commission has requested a further statement of the UK's commitment to the Lisbon and Gothenburg Agendas in relation to our future European Regional Development Fund spending. My officials have therefore written to the Commission reaffirming the HMG's commitment to these Agendas and reiterated our aim that UK Structural Funds spending on Lisbon and Gothenburg categories, for each programme, will exceed the targets set out in the Structural Funds General Regulation (EC) No 1083/2006. In addition, I have also stated that we expect 2007-2013 spending to exceed equivalent spending on Lisbon and Gothenburg categories achieved under the 2000-2006 programmes when compared against a commonly agreed baseline.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

EU Energy Council

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, Lord Truscott has made the following written statement.

"I represented the UK at the Energy Council in Luxembourg on 6 June.

The main purpose of the Council was a discussion on the internal energy market; this focused primarily on the question of unbundling. The Commission, recalling the mandate given by the Spring European Council, made the case for full ownership unbundling as the most cost effective and simplest way to enable a fully functioning internal market to be established. Proposals were expected to be adopted by the end of September. The Commission also outlined intentions to deal with cross-border regulatory issues, facilitation of investment and technical cooperation between operators.

Though some member states' positions were clearer than others, upwards of 16 spoke in favour of full ownership unbundling. Several of those opposed did so with little or no qualification. The smaller member states emphasised the importance of taking into account the special circumstances faced by small or isolated markets, or those with a single energy supplier which meant ownership unbundling would not be an appropriate way forward.

Views were equally divided on whether gas and electricity markets should be treated in the same way. A small minority of member states were in favour of unbundling distribution as well as transmission.

Otherwise there was general support for the Commission approach on the regulatory framework, investment and technical cooperation by transmission system operators. One member state noted that independence of national regulators would not be a crucial issue if a European regulatory system were established.

With very few Ministers in attendance, the presidency seized on differences of view to conclude there was no majority in support of ownership unbundling and the Commission should therefore seek an alternative solution. The Commission argued that although there was no consensus for full ownership unbundling, nor was there one for a different approach.

Earlier, the Council had begun with a report on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on regional market integration by the Pentalateral Energy Forum. The Commissioner had also signed the document. During the policy debate, one of the member states in this forum emphasised that pushing forward on regional cooperation was not incompatible with liberalisation measures at EU level.

The Council ended with a Commission round-up on international dossiers summarising the state of play on EU relations (with the US, Russia, OPEC, the Energy Community Treaty and Africa)".

Increasing Holiday Entitlement

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): On 11 January 2007, I announced the launch of a further consultation on draft regulations to increase the holiday entitlement from 20 days to 28 days (pro rata for part-time staff), implementing the Government's manifesto commitment to make paid leave for bank and public holidays additional to the existing statutory entitlement.

The Government propose to implement this change over a two-year period. Today I am publishing the Government's response to the further consultation and laying regulations for the approval of Parliament. Based on views expressed in the responses to the further consultation, we are proposing changes to the earlier draft regulations.

The Government's preferred approach in the January 2007 consultation had been to introduce half of the additional holiday entitlement from October 2007, and the remaining half from October 2008. On further consideration of the cost pressures, in particular for the health and social care sector, the Government intend to delay the second increase in the holiday entitlement from 1 October 2008 until 1 April 2009. The initial increase will come into effect on 1 October 2007, as originally proposed.

We propose to enable payment in lieu of the additional holiday entitlement to continue until 1 April 2009 in order to give those employers that use such measures to ensure staff cover, such as the residential care sector, sufficient time to recruit and train enough staff to cover for the additional holiday periods. We also propose to provide an incentive for early compliance, whereby employers that already comply with the full requirements of the regulations as at 1 October 2007 will be taken outside of the regulations, as long as they continue to meet those requirements. This approach is consistent with our policy of supporting good employers, whilst protecting vulnerable workers.

Copies of the Government response to the further consultation have been placed in the Library.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Telecoms Council

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I represented the UK at the Telecoms Council in Luxembourg on 7 June 2007, which was the only such Council under the current German Presidency.

The Council began by reaching agreement on the Commission proposal for a Regulation on roaming on public mobile networks within the Community, which will now be adopted later this month. The Commission thanked all involved for their constructive input, and called upon the Council not to delay implementation. During my intervention I congratulated the Presidency, Council, European Parliament and the Commission on reaching a swift agreement. I also welcomed an outcome which delivered real benefits to consumers, whilst at the same time ensuring innovation and competition.

The Presidency then discussed the Commission's Communication on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), a microchip-based technology that stores information about products or people, which can only be read by the appropriate scanners. The Council was in agreement on the economic benefits RFID can deliver, but recognised there were issues relating to privacy that need to be satisfactory resolved before these benefits were realised. The Commission informed the Council they would be creating a RFID Stakeholder Group to raise awareness of these technologies and to address these concerns. In response to Council's concerns regarding privacy and personal data, the Commission confirmed that they would amend the ePrivacy Directive as part of their forthcoming review of the Electronic Communications Framework.

The Council conclusions on the Commission's 2010 Strategy, which seek to direct the Commission's focus in the ICT policy field, were adopted without substantive comment. The Commission did, however, take the opportunity to remind Council of the need to address the broadband gap across Europe in order to improve overall competitiveness. A substantial debate on the i2010 strategy is expected during the Slovenian Presidency as part of the i2010 mid term review.

Under any other business (AOB), the Commission highlighted their Communication on the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). The current mandate of ENISA, designed to assist EU institutions and Member States in developing network security strategies, runs up until March 2009. The Commission are undertaking a review of this mandate, and used this agenda item to raise this issue with Council. During this agenda item Estonia also took the opportunity to thank NATO and Member States for the support they received during the recent cyber attacks on their Government websites.

Following the Council, the German Presidency hosted a Ministerial lunch to discuss Postal Services. During discussions it became clear there was broad agreement in principle on the full opening of the European postal market. Despite earlier agreement that the market should be fully opened by 2009, consensus was not reached on this date. Also, a number of countries expressed concerns on how a universal service would be funded in an open market. Portugal, who are assuming the Presidency in July, are keen to reach agreement on the liberalisation of postal services during their Presidency.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 13 June 2007

TRANSPORT

Exceptions for the Application of Alcohol Limits

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): Today, I am publishing on the Department for Transport website at: www.dft.gov.uk the summary of responses to the consultation paper on "Exceptions for the Application of Alcohol Limits for non-Professional Mariners". Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Following on from that consultation, I am also setting out my intentions for taking forward the work leading to the commencement of section 80 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003.

Part 4 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 introduced alcohol and drug legislation in respect of shipping. In particular, it established alcohol limits and a testing regime for alcohol and drugs that applies to both professional and non-professional mariners. The Act was commenced for professional mariners on 30 March 2004. Section 80 provides for offences by non-professional mariners and allows regulations to make exceptions from the offence of exceeding the prescribed alcohol limits in specified circumstances.

The consultation paper, the summary of responses to which I am publishing today, was launched on 31 March 2004. It invited comments on whether such exceptions should be in place for non-professional mariners when section 80 comes into force, and, if so, how any such exceptions should be framed. The consultation also invited comments on which, if any, additional classes of persons should be designated as 'marine officials' with the powers to detain a vessel pending the arrival of the police to carry out a test.

The document posed 22 questions to seek people's views and also welcomed general comments. The consultation period ended on 1 August 2004 but responses received during August were also included.

It is now the Government's intention to press ahead with the commencement of section 80 and with the preparation of draft regulations for an exception from alcohol limits to non-professional mariners. In framing the scope of the exception, I have taken account of the views expressed during the consultation period by mariners and their representative organisations, as well as the views of the enforcement agencies that would be expected to implement the regime. I have also taken account of the representations received from hon. Members, on behalf of constituents who have had personal experience of the tragic consequences of accidents involving vessels, where alcohol was thought to be a causal factor. What we are proposing will address the recommendations of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch investigations into these accidents. I also intend to consult on bringing jet skis and other similar craft, within the scope of the legislation under section 80, as soon as possible.

Having taken account of all these representations, I have decided to propose that the exception under section 80 should apply to those persons exercising a function in connection with the navigation of a vessel which is less than seven metres in length and is not capable of a maximum speed of over seven knots. These parameters mirror existing provisions in international shipping legislation and so should already be familiar to mariners and the enforcement agencies. I believe that this represents a pragmatic balance between the need to improve safety and unnecessary regulation. Of course, this exception does not affect the offence (under section 80(2) of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003) of having the ability to navigate impaired because of drink or drugs.

The Government now propose to prepare draft regulations and an import assessment, for public consultation before the summer recess. As before, we intend to hold meetings with stakeholders, as part of this further consultation exercise, and the views expressed will help inform the final shape of the regulations which I hope to lay before Parliament early next year.

EU Transport Council

The Minister of State, Department for Transport (Dr. Stephen Ladyman): I attended the transport session of the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy Council, held in Luxembourg on 7-8 June. The German Minister for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Mr. Wolfgang Tiefensee, was in the chair.

The Council adopted a Resolution on the Galileo satellite navigation programme, concluding that the current concession negotiations have failed and should be ended. The Resolution asks the Commission to prepare detailed alternative proposals for taking the project forward, to be put to the October Transport Council. Council underlined that these should be based on an additional thorough assessment of costs, risks, revenues and timetable. The Commission was also asked to submit financing options, a procurement strategy, concepts for the subsequent operation and exploitation phase, and proposals for a sound public sector governance structure. The Presidency made clear the possibility that, if suitable answers were not found, the project would be ended. It was also noted that the Council should not rule out the involvement of private finance.

In the ensuing debate, I accepted that Galileo had the potential to be a key project, as it is described in the Resolution, but that we should not proceed with it unless the costs were justifiable. While it was clear that the current concession negotiations had failed, the risks in terms of costs and timetable would not be reduced, and might be increased by moving to a public procurement. A public private partnership remained the UK's preferred approach. Open competition and open tendering was essential. It was also essential that funding for Galileo, if the October Council agreed to

proceed with it, had to be found within the limits of the current budget allocations, without reopening the EU financial perspective. I welcomed the Presidency's acceptance that the project could be ended if acceptable answers could not be found. I was able to accept the Council Resolution, but submitted (jointly with the Netherlands and supported by Slovakia and Cyprus) a minutes statement stressing our commitment to the PPP principle for major infrastructure projects, our concerns on the potential increased costs of public procurement, the need for a reassessment of the business case for Galileo, competitive procurement, sound risk management, and ensuring that any extra funds are kept within the current EU financial perspective.

The Council reached political agreement on three of the current legislative proposals in maritime transport: the Directive amending Directive 2002/59/EC, on vessel traffic monitoring; the recast of the existing Directive (as amended) on port State control; and the Directive on investigation of maritime accidents, amending Directives 1999/35/EC and 2002/59/EC. These were all acceptable to the UK.

There was a progress report on the draft Regulation on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea and inland waterways in the event of accidents. The UK is broadly content with this proposal but, like most Member States, is opposed to its extension to inland waterways.

There was a policy debate on the setting up of an EU Regional/Cooperative Data Centre (RDC) for the Long Range Identification and Tracking of ships (LRIT), to become available in late 2008 under an IMO initiative. Most Member States supported an RDC in principle. I welcomed the potential added value of an EU RDC and noted costs, systems configuration and data confidentiality as the key issues to resolve. The Commission gave a commitment to provide information ahead of a formal Decision at the next Transport Council in October.

The Council reached a General Approach on a Regulation repealing Regulation 954/79 on ratification of the United Nations Convention on a Code of Conduct for Liner Conferences. Regulation 954/79 had become redundant following repeal of the block exemption held by this sector of the shipping industry.

Conclusions were adopted on a European energy strategy for transport, as part of the Lisbon Process. The UK is content with the Conclusions.

The Council reached a General Approach on a Directive bringing up to date the rules on transport of dangerous goods by road, rail and inland waterway. The General Approach was acceptable to the UK.

There was a Progress Report on a Directive on rail interoperability. The UK supports this Directive, which is a key element in the establishment of a single market.

In air transport, the Council reached a Political Agreement on an amending regulation to extend the role of the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to flight operations, personnel licensing and the safety oversight of third-country aircraft. The Political Agreement was acceptable to the UK.

The Council also reached a General Approach on a Regulation on rules for the operation of air services, a recast version of the third aviation package of 1992, which set up the aviation single market. The General Approach was acceptable to the UK. Two joint statements were agreed: one on working conditions of employees of air carriers in Member States other than their own; and the other, in response to a UK suggestion, on access by third countries to the internal air transport market.

A Resolution was adopted on the establishment of a Joint Undertaking to implement the SESAR programme, the new generation European air traffic management system. The Resolution was acceptable to the UK.

The Council adopted Conclusions agreeing a Community position on aviation emissions trading, in preparation for the September session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Conclusions were acceptable to the UK.

Under AOB, the Presidency reported that there would be a further session of conciliation negotiations with the European Parliament on the Third Railway Package, and it was hoped that agreement would be reached.

Among items adopted without debate were:

A Decision authorising Member States to ratify the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, of the International Labour Organisation.

Conclusions following the Commission Communication on "Extension of the major trans-European transport axes to the neighbouring countries" and "Guidelines for transport in Europe and neighbouring regions".

A Decision authorising the Commission to negotiate with the Danube Commission the conditions and arrangements for the accession of the European Community to the Belgrade Convention.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 14 June 2007

HOME DEPARTMENT

Border and Immigration Agency

The Minister for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Liam Byrne): I am today placing in the Library copies of the report "A review of the failure of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate to consider some foreign national prisoners for deportation", conducted by Stuart Hyde, former Senior Director for Enforcement and Compliance, now Assistant Chief Constable in the West Midlands Police, together with the first annual business plan of the Border and Immigration Agency.

In addition, the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, Lin Homer, has today written to the Home Affairs Select Committee providing them with a breakdown of the most accurate and robust information currently available to the Department of progress in considering the 1,013 foreign national prisoners released without deportation consideration.

The annual business plan, together with the Action Plan on the Hyde Report sets out the progress the Border and Immigration Agency has made over the last 12 months and the further reforms required by Ministers for the year ahead. I am grateful to the staff of the Border and Immigration Agency for their work over the last year and their ambition for further progress.

I can also update the House today on progress made in response to the Home Secretary's eight priority areas set out on 23 May 2006.

First, the Home Secretary identified the issue that there was no unique personal identifier for individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice, immigration and asylum systems and asked officials to explain how this could change. Secondly, he identified that there was no legal obligation on people who are suspected, charged or convicted to declare their nationality. To address this, the Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency has, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Police, designed new ways of working which are now being tested. Nationality is verified at the point of charge and from that point, the Police National Computer number is used as a unique number identifying the individual as they pass through the criminal justice system. We continue to assess this as the pilot progresses.

Thirdly, the Home Secretary said that all future instructions should be given to all agencies of the criminal justice system and be consistent and fully implemented. I can confirm to the House that new instructions have been issued to all agencies. Guidance is continually reviewed and the Border and Immigration Agency now continues to work in partnership with criminal justice agencies to ensure consistency.

Action point four identified that the criteria under which individuals should be considered for deportation were not clear. Policy officials were ordered to audit trail all policy criteria and the process by which they ensure that guidance is both clear and consistently applied. I can confirm to the House that this has been undertaken.

Fifthly, the Home Secretary asked that deportation decisions be made according to the most robust interpretation of the requirements of our international obligations. The UK Borders Bill now proposes a new link between criminality and deportation in the way that we want and the public would expect. That legislation is currently being steered through Parliament.

Managers were instructed under action point six to work with colleagues in Scotland and Northern Ireland to audit the numbers of foreign national prisoners released in Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Home Secretary asked that clear procedures for dealing with prisoners held in Scotland and Northern Ireland were written and followed. I can confirm that this has been undertaken, and officials assure me it is operating well. They have further assured me that no foreign prisoner is released from prison in Scotland and Northern Ireland without their deportation case being considered. The Border and Immigration Agency continues to work closely with our Scottish and Northern Irish colleagues to ensure this is kept under review.

Seventhly, the Home Secretary explained that historically there have never been systematic arrangements in place for collecting information on mentally disordered offenders. He also explained in May last year that this is a hugely difficult group to deal with. Taking into consideration the very specific circumstances of these individuals, officials have assured me that no Mentally Disordered Offender is removed from restriction without being considered for deportation. There is now a dedicated case working team in place in the Border and Immigration Agency's Criminal Casework Directorate to assess this particular group.

Finally, the Home Secretary asked that arrangements were enhanced to facilitate the return of prisoners earlier in their sentence, including prisoner transfer agreements. The Border and Immigration Agency has launched a scheme, which I announced on 9 October 2006, the Facilitated Returns Scheme, to incentivise prisoners to go home sooner, whether time-served, under the Early Removal Scheme, or under a Prisoner Transfer Agreement. The scheme has been very successful in returning more foreign national prisoners home and continues to do so.

JUSTICE

Sentencing Guidelines Council

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Mr. David Hanson): My right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has made the following written ministerial statement.

"The Sentencing Guidelines Council has today published its Annual Report, jointly with the Sentencing Advisory Panel, giving details of the excellent work it has achieved during the past year and outlining its work plans for the next 12 months. Copies of the Annual Report are available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office."

Prisons (Training)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Gerry Sutcliffe): Pursuant to my reply to a written question, 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, I erroneously informed the hon. Member for Sheffield Hallam that the training providers detailed in the answer was current. This is not the case. A number of these contracts have now expired. I apologise for this error. Further work has now been undertaken and details of current suppliers as of 30 May 2007 follows.

You will be aware from the previous answer, it is only possible to provide data for the current financial year. Data on for the previous years could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Providers of Education Services to Prisoners as of 30 May 2007

A4E
City College Manchester
City and Islington College
CFTB
Derby College
Fern Training
Isle of Wight College
Kensington and Chelsea College
Lancaster and Morecambe College
Lewisham College
Lincoln College
London Advice Partnership
Mercia Partnership
Milton Keynes College
Newcastle College
Nescott
Norton Radstock College
Stockton Adult Education College
Strode College
Tribal Group Plc
West Nottinghamshire College
Lincolnshire Action Trust
Ormiston Trust
Citizens Advice Bureau
Shelter
Foundation Training Co. Ltd
YMCA
Apex Trust
St. Mungo's
NACRO
St. Giles Trust
SOVA
New Bridge Foundation
Inside Out Trust
CRI
Lifeline Project Ltd.
Inclusion
Phoenix House

ADAPT
Addaction
Shropshire SMS
Avon and Wiltshire Partnership
EDP
WGCADA
RAPT
In-Volve

Providers of Training to Prison Staff as of 30 May 2007

Woodland Grange
Office of Public Management
Harrop Associates
PL
University of Cambridge
Centre for High Performance Development
HB International
ITAC
Cannock Chase Technical College
Leadership Research and Development Ltd
Passe Partout
Highfield Co. Ltd
TSO Consulting Ltd
Bray Leino
ROSPA
TDP Development Group
St. John's Ambulance
Forum UK
JTL Training
Newcastle College

United Kingdom Supreme Court

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has today made the following written ministerial statement.

"I wish to update you on the development of the UK Supreme Court in the light of recent progress.

The Supreme Court Implementation Programme is on target to deliver the Supreme Court at Middlesex Guildhall in time for the start of the legal year in October 2009.

We achieved two major milestones in our programme in the course of the last week. Firstly we reached agreement with Westminster City Council to discharge all the necessary Planning Conditions to allow us to start renovation of the Middlesex Guildhall Secondly, we reached Financial Close with Kier Group plc, our preferred bidder, to carry out the renovation of the Middlesex Guildhall as the new UK Supreme Court. As a consequence we started work on 13 June 2007.

This signals a major step forward in the creation of the Supreme Court in a place that is separate from the Houses of Parliament. Establishing the Supreme Court at the Middlesex Guildhall will symbolise the separation of powers between the judiciary and legislature. It is an opportunity to breathe new life into a fine historic building and to keep the building, which otherwise could not have continued in the long term as a Crown Court, in use as a centre for Justice. It also means greater visibility for the highest Court in the United Kingdom and improved accessibility for all members of the public.

The renovation plans are heavily influenced by conservation. Conservation architects Feilden+Mawson developed the plans in conjunction with the Law Lords, Westminster City Council, English Heritage and many other interested groups.

Today, we have published images on our web site:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/whatwedo/supremecourt.htm that illustrate our plans in more detail. I invite you to view the pages to see the balance that has been struck between creating a home that reflects the importance of such an institution and capitalises on the building's historic features.

I said that I would update the House on costs as soon as we reached financial close with Kier Group and that is what I am now doing. On December 14 2004, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 117WS, volume 428, I announced that the cost of running the Supreme Court would be approximately £8.4 million per annum at 2004-05 prices. This would be the equivalent of £10.4 million at 2010-2011 prices, the first full year of the Supreme Court's operations. We have refined these estimates based on our developing understanding of the building design and business requirements. Our estimate of the running costs is £12.3 million per annum at 2010-11 prices and is set out in the table.

Running Costs	*WMS2004*	*WMS 2004 inflated**	*WMS 2007*	*Increase (Cost growth)*
	£m	£m	£m	£m
Judicial Salaries	2.1	2.6	2.6	Nil
Staff costs	1.1	1.4	1.9	0.5
Admin *(inc. security)*	1.0	1.2	2.3	1.1
Utilities and rates	0.4	0.5	0.5	Nil
Building Costs *(inc. Cost of Capital, Depreciation, lease charge and lifecycle costs)*	3.8	4.7	5.0	0.3
Total	8.4	10.4	12.3	1.9

* Assumes inflation rate of 3.5 per cent. per annum to first full year of operation - i.e. 2010-11

The Middlesex Guildhall project will be carried out using a lease and lease-back arrangement where the capital construction costs will be met over a 30-year period. Having reached financial close we can announce the real cost in terms of an annual rental figure. The annual rent to be paid by Ministry of Justice to Kier will be £2.1 million per annum, increasing at a rate of 2.5 per cent. per annum, for a period of 30 years from completion of the works and is included in the Building Costs above. This is less than the comparative figure included in the Building Cost (£3.8 million in table above) quoted in my statement of December 2004.

In December 2004, we estimated the capital construction costs to renovate the Guildhall as approximately £30 million (£36.9 million when inflated). This previous figure was established on the basis of a traditional procurement and included VAT. On a like-for-like basis the capital construction costs of the renovation are now expected to be £36.7 million This is within the costs announced in that statement. As I pointed out in my written ministerial statement of October 2006, this figure did not include Ministry of Justice professional adviser fees and the non-capital element of the fit out costs including loose furniture, IT services and library books. These set-up costs related to the Middlesex Guildhall are expected to be an additional £14.3 million. The Ministry of Justice programme team will cost a further £5.9 million over the five years of the programme.

Significant progress has also been made since my last statement to ensure that there is minimal impact on the London criminal justice system following the closure of the seven Crown courtrooms at Middlesex Guildhall on 30 March 2007. The number of Crown Court sitting days in London has not been affected by the closure and work undertaken by the courts is now allocated to nearby court centres. In December 2006, following a successful appeal, the Department obtained planning consent for the construction of additional courtrooms at the Isleworth Crown Court Centre. The additional courtrooms will replace the loss in overall capacity by the closure of the Middlesex Guildhall. We are currently in commercial negotiations with Geoffrey Osborne (Building) over the plans and costs for the development at Isleworth. Our current plans are to commence construction in summer 2007 and open the new courts in the spring of 2009."

CABINET OFFICE

Government Consultation (Review)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I am today launching a review of Government consultation policy. The centrepiece of the review is the paper, published today, entitled "Effective Consultation: Asking the Right Questions, Asking the Right People, Listening to the Answers".

Consultation helps public bodies make better-informed decisions on matters of policy and helps them improve public-service delivery. Consultation also helps improve the accountability of these bodies to the public, to business and to civil society. Government are most credible when they listen, and show that they are listening, to the customers of public services, the country's experts, businesses, charities and NGOs and those who are most directly affected by the Government's actions.

The code of practice on consultation has been in place since 2001 and has spread best practice across Government, facilitating effective stakeholder engagement in relation to formal, written consultations. The "Effective Consultation" paper looks to the future of Government consultation policy, asking how Departments can improve their approach to consultation.

The "Effective Consultation" paper will be placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members and copies will be made available in the Vote Office.

The paper can be viewed at: www.consultations.gov.uk

The consultation period will run until 28 September 2007, and will be carried out in accordance with current consultation policy as set out in the Cabinet Office code of practice on consultation.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

East Midlands Development Agency

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I have decided to reappoint Bryan Jackson as chair of the East Midlands Development Agency for a further three years. The reappointment will begin on 14 December 2007 and will expire on 13 December 2010. I have placed further details of this reappointment in the Library of both Houses. This reappointment was made in accordance with the code of practice of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Bryan Jackson OBE FRSA

Bryan was appointed chair of East Midlands Development Agency in December 2004.

He retired from the position of managing director of Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd. in 2004, after 14 years, having spent the previous 23 years with Ford Motor Company. During his career, he has worked in many disciplines holding senior positions and managing several different plants in the UK and Europe covering the full range of vehicle manufacturing.

He was chairman of the East Midlands Regional Council of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) in 2000-02 and he is active in the field of economic development and education, both locally and nationally.

As well as being chairman of EMDA, Bryan sits on the DTI Manufacturing Forum, Strategic Forum Olympic Task Group and is a board member of Industry Forum.

He is currently an adviser to Toyota Motor Europe, as well as chairman of Total Motivation, a company specialising in efficiency and personal development and Deputy Chairman of Unipart Manufacturing Group.

TRANSPORT

Airports (Policing)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): In my statement of 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 56-57WS I announced that the Government had accepted the broad thrust of the independent review of Airport Policing by Stephen Boys Smith and outlined some of the report's key recommendations. I also made a commitment to make a further statement in due course about progress.

The report's recommendations focused on how police and the aviation industry's security activities could be better harmonised to improve effectiveness and efficiency. In particular, how to achieve an appropriate balance between the various stakeholders for delivering all aspects of security at airports was considered. The Government fully accept that any policing element of airport security should be transparent and understood as part of a wider package of security measures at airports.

We have welcomed stakeholders' general support of the report's diagnosis and their endorsement of its conclusions about the need to define agency accountability; to enhance liaison between stakeholders at all levels; and to further develop the Multi-Agency Threat and Risk Assessment (MATRA) approach that is already in place at airports. All stakeholders recognise the fundamental need for clarity, transparency and agreement of their roles and responsibilities in the complete security package at airports. There has also been wide support for the conclusion that the system of designation be discontinued.

However, the Government do not underestimate concerns about the detail of possible solutions, in particular the identification and calculation of any policing costs to be borne by the industry; the ability of industry to recover agreed costs from passengers; and the affordability of those costs.

Since the report was concluded, constructive dialogue has been ongoing between national representatives of industry, the police and police authorities and Government. A shared security vision for UK airports has been agreed along with the principles to be used to develop the airport security plans to achieve that vision. We welcome the greater mutual awareness, trust and commitment demonstrated by all stakeholders.

Two key areas of work have been identified to be tackled nationally.

First, MATRA remains strongly recommended best practice for all airports. We maintain that such joint agency consideration of threat and risk should be the cornerstone for current and future security activity at airports. BAA and the Metropolitan Police Authority are working together at Heathrow Airport to enhance their MATRA and to develop a shared multi-agency airport security plan. More generally for all airports, work is already underway to deliver national threat assessments to airports so that all suitably security cleared MATRA members can evaluate the security situation from the same knowledge basis. It is acknowledged by all stakeholders that an enhanced MATRA process may identify improved options for tackling particular security issues. Some of these may need to be delivered by the police but it is recognised that a dedicated and permanent police presence may not be required at some airports.

Secondly, existing legislation is being reviewed to clarify the current responsibilities of stakeholders for security at airports to assist in resolving areas of disagreement. We are taking that work forward as quickly as possible with the agencies concerned.

Separately, complementary legislation has been introduced requiring aerodrome managers and police at designated airports to agree necessary dedicated policing resources and to clarify what the cost to the aerodrome manager should be. This is then set out in a Police Services Agreement (PSA). Some airports already have, or have had, service level agreements in place and it may be deemed by the parties to them that they remain fit for purpose and contain the requisite information to comply with the Civil Aviation Act 2006.

All this work is being drawn together to clarify the security responsibilities of all stakeholders at all airports and create the clear and transparent funding process recommended by the review. No legislative changes can be made until that work is complete but we are working to identify a suitable parliamentary opportunity for this.

Although the review did not focus on airport security, it was an examination of a key element in the protection of our airports against a range of threats. It is naturally not a report for public disclosure, however I will make another statement providing further updates in due course.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Personal Accounts

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mr. John Hutton): I have today published two papers on personal accounts.

In December the Government published their Command Paper "Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save". During the 15-week consultation period that followed, we received 82 responses from the pensions industry, stakeholders and the public. Our consultation response that we have published today shows that while there is a range of opinion on some of the details, there is also a clear consensus around the aims and core structure of personal accounts.

Personal Accounts will provide a huge boost to retirement saving in the UK; helping the 7 million people who are currently not saving enough for their retirement and generating £4 billion to £5 billion of new saving.

Members' interests will be at the heart of Personal Accounts. The scheme will be managed by a board of trustees and we announce today that there will be an influential members' panel which will be able to nominate one third of the trustees.

Personal Accounts will also be designed to meet the needs of a specific target group, people on moderate to low incomes without access to a workplace pension. They will complement rather than compete with existing provision. In setting the level of the contribution cap we have sought to find the right balance between giving the individual sufficient flexibility to save while protecting existing good pension provision. We announce today that the annual contribution limit will be £3,600 in 2005 earnings.

The Work and Pensions Select Committee published its report on Personal Accounts in March this year. I am today publishing the Government's response to the conclusions and recommendations of that report. I am grateful to the Committee for its work and analysis. We agree with the Committee's comment that achieving a low level of charges and maximising simplicity are particularly important aspects of Personal Accounts.

We have designed the objectives for the Personal Accounts delivery authority and scheme trustees to ensure that this can be achieved. The trustees of the scheme will be required to act in the best interests of members and the delivery authority will be tasked with delivering a scheme that will meet members' needs with low charges, appropriate investment choices and a panel for future members.

We believe that our proposals in response to the consultation and the Committee's recommendations strike the right balance between providing clarity for industry and employers while giving the delivery authority the flexibility it needs to implement the programme of reform.

Copies of both documents are available for hon. Members from the Vote Office.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 15 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government Pension Scheme

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): In previous statements to the House I have made clear the Government's commitment not only to provide decent final salary pensions for those employed by local authorities and other organisations associated with local government but also to ensure that Members' pensions are secure, affordable and viable, and fair to the taxpayers who guarantee their continued security.

In regulating the Scheme and ensuring its long term future, the Government remain committed to providing equality-proofed benefits which are flexible and attractive to employers and employees both now, and in the future.

The Government see it as critical to maintain stability of costs in the Scheme going forward, particularly when the new-look Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales takes full effect from 1 April 2008. Throughout the reform process of the past few years, the Government's intention has been to ensure that no additional costs are imposed on taxpayers or employers. This objective remains central to any considerations surrounding amendments to the Scheme's regulatory framework and it is reinforced by the Government's wish to only consider such changes within the agreed Scheme cost-envelope.

Against that background, and in the light of representations and discussions with employee representatives, I am announcing today a forthcoming statutory consultation on proposals to extend the current levels of protection in the Scheme for older employers originally introduced by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) and (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2006 and which took effect from 1 October 2006. The draft proposals would involve amending those regulations to provide a full, rather than a tapered, protection to 2020 with appropriate offsetting savings for the estimated cost of this (some £25 million a year) being made from elsewhere in the Scheme. The necessary national consultation with all Scheme stakeholders in England and Wales, required by the Superannuation Act 1972, will begin shortly and extend for a 12-week period.

I am grateful for the range of responses from Scheme stakeholders received to the recent informal consultation exercise which closed on 13 June. They build on the representations made previously and provide support for an assessment of the current levels of protection at 2016. The new consultation will provide a fresh and longer opportunity for Scheme stakeholders to consider the terms of the proposition, in the context both of equality considerations and of identification of means to offset additional costs within the existing cost envelope.

To ensure the continuing solvency of the Scheme and to meet the Government's longstanding policy towards ensuring no adverse effects on taxpayers, the costs of implementing any Scheme amendments to improve the level of protections would need to be provided from within the Scheme. This could be achieved either by increases in employee contributions, or from further amendments which will reduce a specific element of the new 2008 benefit structure. Alternatively, some other means could be sought from within the existing Scheme regulatory framework which will also expressly offset the specific estimated total additional costs imposed to pay for the improved protections, as determined by the Government Actuary's Department.

If no statutory and agreed means of providing the necessary resources to extend the proposed level of protection emerge from the consultation, then it will be necessary to retain the present level of protection.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children Act 2004 (Section 58 Review)

The Minister for Children and Families (Beverley Hughes): The Government are today commencing a review of section 58 of the Children Act 2004, which limits the availability of the "reasonable punishment" defence in cases involving alleged assaults by parents on their children. There will be two main elements to the review. First, the review will seek parents' views on physical punishment through a parental opinion survey which will be undertaken this summer. Secondly, the review is consulting those working with children and families and parents' organisations to gain views and evidence from professionals and practitioners on the practical effects and working of section 58. This consultation is being published today on the Department for Education and Skills website. The findings from the parental survey, as well as responses and evidence submitted during the consultation will inform the outcome of the review and a review report will be laid before Parliament in the autumn. There are no current plans to change the legislation.

The review is being undertaken in line with the commitment made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge) during the passage of the Children Bill to review the section's practical effects two years after it came into effect and also to seek parents' views about physical punishment.

Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Medicines Directorate

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consular Fees

The Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Kim Howells): The Government are today announcing new fees to be charged under this Order with effect from 4 October 2007.

The Order increases the level of the consular premium charged on passports issued in the UK by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS). This premium is the element in the cost of a passport which pays for the provision of consular assistance to British nationals overseas and which is collected in the UK by IPS on behalf of the FCO. The amount of the premium varies for different categories of passport. For the most commonly issued of passport—the 32 page adult passport issued by post—the consular premium will rise from £9.65 to £15.12. The consular premium charged by the FCO on its passports, issued overseas, was increased in April 2007 by the Consular Fees Order 2007. A separate Order was required to implement this change to passports issued in the UK by IPS.

This Order also increases the minimum fee for making or verifying (including certifying where necessary) a copy of a document by photographic process, if the copy is made in the consular premises. It further introduces a fee for making searches in the naturalisation or registration records kept by a consular officer in posts where, prior to 1983, naturalisations and registrations were done by Governors or High Commissioners.

It is right that those who benefit from consular assistance overseas should help meet the cost of this service, rather than the UK taxpayer in general. The new fees represent the full economic cost of what we do, and will ensure that British missions overseas continue to provide a high standard of consular service to British nationals.

A full list of the new fees, and the individual increases, is included in the tables below.

£

Fee No	*Description*	*Previous fee*	*New fee*	*Increase*
	For applications made in the United Kingdom, issuing a passport of 32 pages which includes replacing an expired passport, issuing a new passport of full validity when an original passport of restricted validity is unavailable and issuing a new passport with amended personal details			
For applications made by post				
12(a)(i)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over	66.00	72.00	6.00
12(a)(ii)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years)	45.00	46.00	1.00
For applications made in person				
12(b)(i)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the fast-track service	91.00	97.00	6.00
12(b)(ii)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the fast-track service	80.00	81.00	1.00
12(b)(iii)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the fast-track collect service	103.00	109.00	6.00
12(b)(iv)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the fast-track collect service	90.00	91.00	1.00
12(b)(v)	where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the premium service	108.00	114.00	6.00
12(b)(vi)	where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the premium service	93.00	94.00	1.00
	For applications made in the United Kingdom, issuing a passport of 48 pages which includes replacing an expired passport, issuing a new passport of full validity when an original passport of restricted validity is unavailable and issuing a new passport with amended personal details			
13(a)	for applications made by post in the United Kingdom	77.00	85.00	8.00
	for applications made in person in the United Kingdom			
13(b)(i)	using the fast-track service	97.00	105.00	8.00
13(b)(ii)	using the fast-track collect service	100.50	109.00	8.50
13(b)(iii)	using the premium service	114.50	123.00	8.50
Part 4 Fee 30(d)	search of naturalisation or registration records kept by a consular officer	n/a	72.00	New fee

Fee No.	Description	Previous minimum charge	New minimum charge	Increase
				£
	Making or verifying (including certifying where necessary, a copy of a document			
Part 1 6(b)	by photographic process, if the copy is made in the consular premises, for each page - £5.00	£17.50	£25.00	£7.50

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 17-18 June in Luxembourg. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

General Affairs

Treaty Reform Process

The Council is expected to discuss the Presidency's report on the state of discussions on EU institutional reform, including the issues raised during consultations with Member States. The Government believe that the way forward should be on the basis of an amending rather than a constitutional Treaty.

Preparation of the European Council

The Council is expected to look ahead to the European Council on 21 -22 June, at which we expect Treaty Reform to be the main item.

Global Approach to Migration

The Council is expected to adopt Conclusions on the basis of a Commission Communication on extending the global approach to migration to the east and south-east of the EU, and on circular migration and mobility packages.

External Relations

Doha Development Round

The Commission is expected to brief the Council on preparations for the meeting of the G4 (EU, US, Brazil and India) on 19-23 June in Potsdam. Discussion at the Council is likely to focus on the importance of a balanced deal, and the role of the G4 Members and the Commission in the process. The Government wants to see an ambitious, pro-development outcome to the World Trade Organisation Round.

European Neighbourhood Policy

The Council is expected to adopt Conclusions on the European Neighbourhood Policy acknowledging and building on the Presidency Progress Report. The Government support a strengthened ENP offering improved incentives to reform and a Neighbourhood Investment Fund that improves the effectiveness of financial assistance in the Neighbourhood.

Central Asia Strategy

The Presidency is expected to present its strategy for the development of EU relations with Central Asia, which the Government support.

Western Balkans

The Council is expected to discuss Serbia and Kosovo. The Council is also likely to adopt Conclusions on Serbia and Schengen visa facilitation. The Government support Enlargement Commissioner Rehn's decision to restart negotiations with Serbia on its Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) on the basis that full cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia will remain a requirement for SAA conclusion.

Middle East Peace Process

The Council is expected to discuss the forthcoming Quartet meetings at the end of June with the parties and the Arab League; the continuing insecurity in Gaza; and the political situation in Israel following the Labour Party Primaries on 12 June. The Council may also discuss economic development and capacity building. The Government believe the EU must continue to play a role in support of the political horizon talks between Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas, including through building Palestinian institutional capacity.

The Council is expected to adopt Conclusions on the situation in Nahr Al-Bared, which has seen a series of violent clashes between the Lebanese Army and the Sunni extremist group, Fatah Al-Islam. The Conclusions underline support for the Lebanese Government's efforts to bring the situation under control, condemn Fatah Al-Islam and stress the need to respect humanitarian needs.

Arab League Initiative

The Presidency has proposed an EU troika meeting at senior official level with representatives from the Arab League. The Government support this proposal in so far as it does not duplicate existing EU structures for dialogue with Middle East partners, for example the EuroMed Partnership.

Iran

The High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, is expected to brief the Council on his recent discussions with Ali Larijani, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator and secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. The Council is also expected to adopt Conclusions.

Sudan

The Council is expected to discuss the importance of securing Sudanese acceptance for the third phase of the UN support for the African Union peacekeeping force,

a hybrid African Union/UN force and to consider possible next steps. The Government believe the EU has an important role to play in maintaining pressure on the parties, supporting the UN and African Union, and in financing the African Union Mission in Sudan until a UN force arrives.

Death Penalty Initiative

The Presidency is expected to brief partners on its proposal for the Council to endorse a decision in principle for the EU to introduce an anti-death penalty resolution at a forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly. The Government support this approach on the basis that any proposal will be carefully planned to ensure the best chance of success.

Libya

External Relations Commissioner, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, is expected to update the Council on progress towards securing the release of the Bulgarian and Palestinian medical staff imprisoned in Libya, including her visit to Libya with Foreign Minister Steinmeier on 10 - 11 June.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Health and Safety Framework Directive

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Mrs. Anne McGuire): The European Court of Justice has today delivered its judgment in the long running infraction case (C-127/05) against the United Kingdom concerning the UK's alleged under-implementation of the EC's Health and Safety Framework Directive (89/39 I/EEC) by the use of the qualifier "so far as is reasonably practicable" (SFAIRP) on an employer's duty to safeguard his or her workers. The Court has dismissed the European Commission's case and awarded the UK costs.

I welcome this decision. It enables us to maintain our proportionate and risk-based approach to protecting employees and others effectively, whilst allowing common sense to be applied when deciding on what protective measures to adopt.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 18 June 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): The Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) has today published its final report, "Bovine TB: The Scientific Evidence". Copies of the report will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

This report is the culmination of nearly 10 years' work by the ISG and provides a wealth of valuable evidence. I am very grateful to Professor John Bourne, chairman of the ISG, and his colleagues on the group, for their long commitment to this study.

It is indisputable that bovine TB remains a serious problem for the farming industry with disease prevalence increasing sharply over the last decade. The cost to the taxpayer was around £80 million in 2006-07, and farmers whose herds are affected by disease also face significant financial and personal costs.

Cattle control measures are critical to tackling this disease. We have already tightened these with the introduction of a zero tolerance regime for overdue tests; changes to the compensation system; a new requirement for pre-movement tests from high risk herds; and the extension of the use of the gamma interferon test. The numbers of herds tested each year has increased significantly, increasing costs to both the taxpayer and farmers. We will consider carefully the ISG's conclusions, which suggest more could be done to tackle transmission between cattle and root out infection from herds. New cattle measures would of course increase the cost of the TB control regime. We will therefore need to work with the farming industry and the veterinary profession to assess the implications of these recommendations.

We know that the badger can play a role in maintaining disease in the areas where bovine TB is endemic. The Protection of Badgers Act 1992 allows the culling of badgers under licence for disease control purposes but, while the randomised badger culling trial (RBCT) has been in progress, there has been a moratorium on issuing licences for culling of badgers for bovine TB. The ISG's final report marks the end of the RBCT. We therefore need to decide next steps.

The ISG's report summarises the results of the RBCT. These show that small scale culling can increase levels of TB in cattle. The report also says that proactive culling as practised in the RBCT can bring benefits but only if culling is sustained over a number of years and co-ordinated. The ISO are not convinced that it would be practical or economical to deliver a cull in this way, leading them to conclude that badger culling could not contribute meaningfully to the control of bovine TB in Great Britain.

I have always made it clear that we will base our approach to tackling bovine TB on all the available evidence. The publication of this report makes an important contribution to the now extensive evidence base on this disease. We will be considering the issues it raises very carefully and will continue to work with the industry, Government advisers and scientific experts in reaching a final policy decision on this serious issue.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency Annual Report

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The 2006-07 annual report and accounts for the Veterinary Laboratories Agency will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

HEALTH

Hybrid and Chimera Embryos

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Caroline Flint): The House of Commons Science and Technology Committee published its report on Government proposals for the regulation of hybrid and chimera embryos on 5 April 2007. The principal area covered by the report was Government proposals for the regulation of inter-specific embryos.

We welcome the recommendations of the Health Select Committee, and have today laid before Parliament the Government's response to the report (Cm 7139). Copies of the response are available for hon. Members in the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

'Managing Global Migration' Strategy

The Minister for Immigration and Asylum (Mr. Liam Byrne): I am today publishing a new strategy entitled "Managing Global Migration: A Strategy to Build Stronger International Alliances to Manage Migration". This strategy has been drawn up jointly between the Home Office and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Copies of this document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Around the world Britain is laying the foundation of our offshore border controls. Our visa waiver test for all non-EEA countries is underway. Biometric visas are now issued in 75 countries. Over 20 million passenger movements have been screened before arrival in the UK.

But the impacts of migration are not issues Britain faces alone. This strategy seeks to outline how we will work with European and international partners to better manage global migration. We will now make migration a key part of the UK's relations with other countries. Other priority actions are to enhance the

sharing of data and expertise with other countries to make it easier for people to visit the UK for legitimate reasons and more difficult for those who seek to enter illegally or do us harm.

By working with EU partners we aim to further reduce 'asylum shopping'. We will also make clear to illegal migrants' countries of origin the benefits of co-operating and the disadvantages of not doing so. By building bridges with priority countries we will bring needed skills to the UK to boost our economy.

The main proposals include:

developing arrangements with other countries to share immigration data and to jointly collect biometric data;

exploring whether an international data exchange agreement would help us achieve our aim of sharing appropriate immigration data easily and securely between all EEA countries and those with a visa waiver;

setting up a team of immigration specialists that can be deployed abroad on a routine or emergency basis to offer advice, support and training where needed to help tackle illegal migration to the UK;

reviewing our networks of overseas airline liaison officers and returns liaison officers, using law enforcement liaison officers along key illegal migration routes to the UK and considering the establishment of sea carrier liaison officers at sea ports;

considering whether a new international organisation is needed to promote common international standards and technology in border control;

making readmission of countries' own nationals an integral part of international relationships;

further work with EU to reduce asylum shopping, particularly through practical co-operation;

building bridges with priority countries to bring needed skills to the UK; increasing the number and availability of visa application services to make it easier for legitimate travellers to come to the UK;

exploring the potential for further links between diaspora communities in the UK and their home countries for the benefit of the UK economy;

working with EU member states and the European Commission to co-ordinate and unlock international efforts to better manage migration with third countries.

I commend the strategy to the House.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Strategic Export Controls

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): The Government will today—Monday 18 June 2007—launch their review of UK strategic export controls, in the form of a full public consultation.

The UK's strategic export controls support the Government's counter-proliferation objectives. They are based on the Export Control Act 2002 and in particular its secondary legislation, which came into effect in 2004. This legislation overhauled the UK's export control system for the first time in over 60 years and provided the comprehensive legislative framework needed to control proliferation activity and police the arms trade effectively in today's increasingly complex world. The changes were radical and far-reaching. That is why the Government made a public commitment to undertake a post-implementation review three years after implementation.

This review will enable the Government to revisit the UK's strategic export controls in the light of experience, to establish whether they are having the intended effect without imposing unnecessary or disproportionate burdens on business. The Government will also need to look to the future, and so the consultation document sets out options for further change, many of which have been identified in discussions with both industry and non-Governmental organisations. Ultimately the Government's aim is to find an effective and proportionate way to guard against the risk of undesirable exports and related activities.

The consultation document considers a wide range of options for changes to the controls, including in relation to trading in military goods conducted by UK persons overseas; the provision of ancillary services such as transportation; the production of controlled goods overseas under licence from UK companies or by UK subsidiaries; the transfer of equipment for military use in embargoed destinations; and restrictions on the export of goods that could be used for torture.

The consultation will run until 30 September 2007. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House. At the end of this period, the Government will carefully analyse all responses received. The Government intend to publish the initial results of that analysis by 31 December 2007.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 19 June 2007

TREASURY

Cash Machines (Low-Income Areas)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): Following the March 2005 Treasury Committee report on Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) charging, the Treasury invited the Chairman of the Treasury Committee, my right hon. Friend the Member for West Dunbartonshire (John McFall), to chair a Working Group on ATMs including banks, independent ATM operators and consumer groups to take forward work on key issues. The Working Group published a report on 13 December 2006.

The Working Group announced an agreement to provide over 600 new free cash machines across 1,707 target low-income areas that it identified as lacking convenient access to these machines. To achieve this, a market-based financial incentive—known as a "financial inclusion premium"—would be introduced, to encourage ATM operators to place or retain free ATMs in deprived areas. The Working Group also agreed to implement improved transparency rules for charging cash machines.

The Government are pleased to report that, just six months since the publication of this report, industry has made excellent progress towards the goal of placing over 600 non-charging machines in low-income areas across the UK, with more than 1 million individuals on low incomes standing to benefit.

As of 15 June 2007, sites for 471 of the 600 new ATMs required have been successfully identified. Of these, 127 new free machines are already issuing cash to the public, with a further 344 confirmed ATM sites under contract to have a free ATM installed, most of them before the end of this year.

The "financial inclusion premium" was introduced on 1 March 2007. Operators of the 127 newly live cash machines are already receiving this premium from cardholders' banks and building societies. In addition, a further 100 ATMs that existed prior to the Working Group announcement are also benefiting from this premium, given their special status as the "last ATM in town".

Banks, building societies and independent ATM operators have all contributed new free-to-use cash machines, with independent ATM operators having provided or in the process of supplying 41 per cent. of the confirmed new non-charging ATMs. The UK ATM network, LINK, is continuing to work with its member banks and ATM operators to identify suitable sites in the remaining target areas, co-ordinating with Members of Parliament, local authorities, consumer councils and landlords.

This work is already having an important effect on financial inclusion, particularly on the ability of low-income customers to access and manage their accounts. According to data from LINK, the new free ATMs in operation are enabling over 260,000 residents in the target low-income areas to access cash more conveniently. A further 822,000 residents in deprived areas will stand to benefit from the confirmed additional ATMs that are being supplied all across the UK over the coming months.

For all cash machines that do charge users, operators are continuing work on signage to make it absolutely clear that a charge will be applied when withdrawing cash, so customers can see at a glance whether a machine is free or charging.

The Government are encouraged by the concrete progress achieved, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in extending free access to cash to those who need it the most. Today my right hon. Friend the Member for West Dunbartonshire and I have written to all MPs thanking them for their support and urging them to continue to identify sites for the remaining 129 free cash machines. The Government look forward to a further update from the industry on its work to deliver against the ATM Working Group recommendations before the end of this year.

Full details about the progress made are available on the LINK internet website at:

http://www.link.co.uk/atm/access_to_cash_progress/index.html

Gift Aid

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Today HM Treasury has published documents launching a consultation on "Gift Aid". The launch of the consultation starts a process of engagement with the charity sector that will include regional and national events and discussion with a wide range of charities. The consultation was announced at the Budget, and the Treasury expects to report on progress before the end of the year. Copies of the consultation documents are available in the Library of the House.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Home Loss Payments

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Meg Munn): Following the annual review, on 26 June the Secretary of State will lay regulations to update the home loss payment thresholds in section 30 of the Land Compensation Act 1973 (as amended). Home loss payments are paid at a rate of 10 per cent. of the market value to owner-occupiers who are displaced from their homes as a result of compulsory purchase or certain housing orders. These are subject to maximum and minimum payments. Tenants receive a flat rate equal to the minimum payment to owner-occupiers.

With effect from 1 September 2007 the maximum payment to owner-occupiers displaced from their home will be increased from £40,000 to £44,000 and the minimum payment will be increased from £4,000 to £4,400. The flat-rate will be increased from £4,000 to £4,400.

The period of two months between laying the regulations and commencement will give acquiring authorities reasonable notice to revise their budgets for compensation. This is similar to the notice period given in previous years for revisions to the home loss payments thresholds.

Housing

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly): I am today publishing two consultation documents.

The document "Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the Future of Social Housing Regulation" outlines proposals to create a new housing and regeneration agency, Communities England, and also responds to Professor Cave's review of social housing regulation.

At the end of last year I asked Professor Martin Cave, Director of the Centre for Management under Regulation at Warwick Business School to carry out a review of social housing regulation, the first for 30 years. Professor Cave's report, "Every Tenant Matters", is published today. The Government's initial response to Professor Cave's report is also published today, and forms part of "Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the Future of Social Housing".

The consultation document outlines:

the delivery functions that are proposed to transfer to Communities England from central Government, and also the proposed roles that central Government will retain.

the portfolio of investment tools that are proposed for Communities England;

the new agency's place making role; explaining how Communities England will tailor its interventions to the needs of communities and seeking views on how it should work with local partners, including the private sector, to create vibrant and economically sustainable places;

proposals for the future regulation of social housing in response to Professor Cave; ensuring that the system better protects and empowers tenants, works better with central and local government and reduces unnecessary burdens.

the proposed accountability of the new organisation to Ministers and local communities, and how it will report its outcomes;

work that is already being undertaken to prepare the way for the establishment of Communities England; and

next steps required to make Communities England a reality.

I am also today publishing a consultation paper, "Tenant Empowerment", outlining proposals to increase empowerment of social housing tenants.

It includes the following for delivering a strengthened role for tenant voice:

A draft Statutory Instrument to simplify the Housing (Right to Manage) Regulations 1994 for local authority tenants to make it easier for those who wish to trigger the process of developing tenant management with their local authority. This follows a commitment in the local government White Paper: "Strong and Prosperous Communities" to review these regulations.

a proposal to promote a voluntary tenant management process for all social housing tenants and landlords.

opportunity to comment on how tenant management organisations may extend their role to wider neighbourhood services.

a proposal to form a national tenant organisation.

Consultation on options for tenant led/tenant owned ALMOs.

Both documents are available in the Libraries of both Houses can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website:

"Delivering Housing and Regeneration: Communities England and the Future of Social Housing Regeneration" (consultation paper) at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1511392

"Tenant Empowerment"—A consultation paper at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1511393

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): The 2006-07 annual report and accounts for the Central Science Laboratory will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of the House.

Local Government (National Parks)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Barry Gardiner): On 27 March my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government announced that 16 proposals for unitary local government were proceeding to stakeholder consultation, 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 71WS. That consultation runs until 22 June.

Eight of those proposals relate to local authorities which lie within, or partly within, a national park, and may thus have implications for the appointments which local authorities make to national park authorities.

At present, local authority appointees make up a majority of the members on each national park authority but those appointments are shared between a number of different local authorities. In the event that all or most of those local authorities were replaced by a single unitary, there would be a significant concentration of appointments—under some permutations a single unitary authority would be able to appoint 12 out of the 22 members on a national park authority (at present no single local authority appoints more than six members).

The Government think that such a concentration of appointments is undesirable. National park authorities have been independent bodies since 1997 and I believe their independent status has helped them to deliver the national park purposes and to meet both local and national needs. That independence might be

threatened—or might seem to be threatened—if a single local authority appointed too high a proportion of their members.

Practically I am also conscious that a new unitary local authority, given its total number of members and the many responsibilities upon it, may have difficulty in finding sufficient members who were able to devote the necessary time to serving on a national park authority .

For those reasons I have decided that where unitary local government might lead to a single local authority appointing eight or more members on to a national park authority, I shall want to take action in advance to ensure the independence of that authority. If such circumstances arise, I intend to review the membership of each affected national park authority with a view to reducing the number of its local authority appointees.

Where I conclude that it is indeed appropriate to reduce the number of principal local authority seats on any national park authority, I shall also want to reflect on whether that should be allowed to feed through into a smaller overall size of authority or whether the number of 'other' seats—for example, those appointed by DEFRA—should be expanded so as to maintain the same overall size.

If I do conclude that it would be appropriate to add some extra seats within the 'other' category—for example, those appointed by DEFRA—I would envisage using those new seats to recruit particular qualities that are either under-represented at present or might become so following a reduction in local authority members.

By this mechanism one might aim to ensure, for example, that there was always a minimum number of members with strong local links, or with knowledge of youth issues, or with knowledge of the regional layer of government.

The potential changes I have described could all be achieved through secondary legislation, following the amendments to the 1995 Environment Act which were introduced by section 61 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

If, having reviewed the membership of individual national park authorities, I do in fact conclude that changes in membership are desirable, I shall of course undertake a full public consultation on my precise proposals before laying the necessary statutory instrument before Parliament : I am in any case required by the Environment Act 1995 (schedule 7 paragraph 2 (3)) to consult the local authority (ies) with land in a national park before making any changes to the local authority membership of that national park authority.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Right of Appeal

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): I have today placed in the library a copy of the report by Mrs. Linda Costelloe Baker, the Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal, covering the period 1 January to 30 September 2006. A copy is also available on the UKvisas website at: www.ukvisas.co.uk together with UKvisas' response to the monitor's recommendations.

I welcome Mrs. Costelloe Baker's constructive and positive report, which is based on her detailed review of 1,117 cases out of the 2.1 million handled by UKvisas during the period 1 January to 30 September 2006. Mrs. Costelloe Baker notes a significant improvement in the quality of UKvisas' work as it began to focus more firmly on balance and customer service.

Mrs. Costelloe Baker is satisfied that 90 per cent. of refusal decisions in her sample were reasonable. This is a rise of 3.7 per cent. over the 2005 sample. The report contains a number of practical recommendations to UKvisas in regard to the quality of its decision making, customer service and complaint handling. UKvisas intends to make use of these recommendations to make further improvements to its business performance and customer service delivery.

I wish to express my thanks to Mrs. Costelloe Baker for her hard work in completing this, her second report as Independent Monitor for Entry Clearance Refusals with Limited Rights of Appeal. Her next report will cover the period from October 2006 to March 2007 and will be published in autumn 2007.

HEALTH

NHS Choices Information Service

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Andy Burnham): The Government have today launched the NHS Choices information service.

The NHS Choices website will provide the public with information about conditions, treatments and services available from the NHS, comparative data on the quality of services and information on healthy lifestyle options. Patients will also have the opportunity to provide comment on their experiences of NHS services. Potential patients can view these comments as part of their own decision-making about health and health services. Over time, NHS Choices will build into a comprehensive information service that covers a wide range of health and health service issues.

The address for the NHS Choices website is: www.nhs.uk.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Authority Capital Grant

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am pleased to be able to announce today that a further £25 million of capital is now available for distribution to police authorities for 2007-08. A breakdown of the allocation of this additional money is shown in the table attached.

As a consequence of this additional money, the total amount of capital grant allocated to police authorities in 2007-08 will be £220 million, the same figure as in 2006-07.

Home Office officials are writing to police authorities and forces to inform them of this additional grant.

Police Capital Allocations 2007-08

Force	*Allocation as at May 2007 (inc SCE)* £m	*Extra Allocation* £m	*Total Revised Allocation* £m
Avon and Somerset Police Authority	4.266	0.554	4.820
Bedfordshire Police Authority	1.788	0.221	2.009
Cambridgeshire Police Authority	2.147	0.270	2.417
Cheshire Police Authority	2.735	0.374	3.109
City of London	1.552	0.190	1.742
Cleveland Police Authority	2.200	0.273	2.473
Cumbria Police Authority	1.556	0.192	1.748
Derbyshire Police Authority	2.649	0.344	2.993
Devon and Cornwall Police Authority	4.703	0.578	5.281
Dorset Police Authority	1.751	0.216	1.967
Durham Police Authority	2.118	0.265	2.383
Dyfed-Powys Police Authority	1.352	0.171	1.523
Essex Police Authority	3.951	0.549	4.500
Gloucestershire Police Authority	1.575	0.196	1.771
Greater Manchester Police Authority	9.912	1.267	11.179
Gwent Police Authority	1.920	0.236	2.156
Hampshire Police Authority	4.900	0.657	5.557
Hertfordshire Police Authority	2.452	0.385	2.837
Humberside Police Authority	2.981	0.369	3.350
Kent Police Authority	4.536	0.600	5.136
Lancashire Police Authority	4.675	0.594	5.269
Leicestershire Police Authority	2.904	0.358	3.262
Lincolnshire Police Authority	1.649	0.206	1.855
Merseyside Police Authority	5.823	0.720	6.543
Metropolitan Police Authority	51.525	6.552	58.077
Norfolk Police Authority	2.270	0.286	2.556
North Wales Police Authority	1.960	0.254	2.214
North Yorkshire Police Authority	1.819	0.249	2.068
Northamptonshire Police Authority	1.798	0.235	2.033
Northumbria Police Authority	5.379	0.703	6.082
Nottinghamshire Police Authority	3.161	0.407	3.568
South Wales Police Authority	4.167	0.513	4.680
South Yorkshire Police Authority	4.585	0.564	5.149
Staffordshire Police Authority	2.913	0.358	3.271
Suffolk Police Authority	1.867	0.231	2.098
Surrey Police Authority	2.547	0.384	2.931
Sussex Police Authority	3.824	0.530	4.354
Thames Valley Police Authority	6.268	0.789	7.057
Warwickshire Police Authority	1.751	0.260	2.011
West Mercia Police Authority	3.109	0.384	3.493
West Midlands Police Authority	10.517	1.344	11.861
West Yorkshire Police Authority	7.717	0.959	8.676
Wiltshire Police Authority	1.728	0.213	1.941
Total	195.000	25.000	220.000

NB In line with the revenue grant increase in 2006-07, the capital grant announced in early 2006 was calculated as a flat rate reduction for all (the 2005-06 total was 210 million). The £25 million uplifts has been applied similarly.
Allocations include Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue). The £25 million grant increases have been applied to police grant (as they would if full allocation had been possible early in 2006) not to Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue).

Proceeds of Crime Act

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Vernon Coaker): I am pleased to announce that the fifth annual report of the appointed person under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 has been laid before Parliament today. The appointed person is an independent person who scrutinises the use of the search power introduced to support the measures in the Act to seize and forfeit criminal cash.

The report gives the appointed person's opinion as to the circumstances and manner in which the search powers conferred by the Act are being exercised. I am pleased that the appointed person, Andrew Clarke, has expressed satisfaction with the operation of the search power and has found that there is nothing to suggest that the procedures are not being followed in accordance with the Act.

From 1 April 2006 to the end of March 2007 over £47 million in cash was seized by police and HM Revenue and Customs officers under powers in the Act. These sums are subject to forfeiture in the magistrates court. These powers are a valuable tool in the fight against crime and the report shows that the way they are used has been, and will continue to be, closely monitored.

TRANSPORT

Gatwick Express and Southern Franchises

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): On 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 6WS, I informed the House that the Gatwick Express franchise was to be ended and integrated into the existing Southern franchise, as part of the Department's plans to increase capacity. The Department for Transport has now concluded negotiations with Southern on the implementation of these changes and I would like to take this opportunity to inform the House of the progress that has been made.

The Department has now given 12 months' notice to National Express, operators of the existing Gatwick Express, and the franchise will end on 22 June 2008. From this date, the Gatwick Express will become part of the Southern franchise operated by Govia.

The House will be aware that the Gatwick Express is a premium-paying franchise, while the Southern franchise is subsidised by the Government. In amalgamating these two franchises, the Department has secured a financial agreement that is at least as favourable to the Government as the current arrangements. The new agreement also secures extra peak capacity into London and a new hourly direct service between Brighton and Southampton, which Southern will introduce in December 2007.

As announced in my previous statement to the House, these changes will include a new-style Gatwick Express service to begin operation in December 2008.

The service will retain the current frequency, branding and non-stop service between Gatwick airport and London Victoria. However, at the busiest times of day the service will extend to Brighton. This will double the number of express trains between Brighton and London Victoria in the high peak.

The combined Southern franchise will now end three months earlier, in September 2009. This will ensure the winner of the franchise competition is in place before implementing major changes to their south London timetable in December 2009. This change will minimise the risk of disruption to passengers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 20 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

"Supporting People" Strategy Document

The Minister for Local Government (Mr. Phil Woolas): I am today placing in the Libraries of both Houses copies of the strategy document "Independence and Opportunity: Our Strategy for Supporting People" and an associated impact assessment and equalities impact assessment.

The strategy document is the culmination of an extensive consultation with local authorities, service providers, service users and representative bodies on the future effective delivery of housing-related support.

The document focuses on four key delivery issues:

Keeping the needs of service users at the heart of the supporting people programme, by ensuring their involvement in the planning, design and delivery of services; and by encouraging choice and control over services, and by rationalising needs assessment for individuals.

Enhancing our relationship with the third sector, who deliver the majority of housing related support services, by ensuring they have the capacity and tools to compete fairly for contracts to deliver services.

Delivering housing-related support services effectively in the new local government performance landscape, that is through the local area agreement framework.

Maximising efficiency and minimising bureaucracy through a national value improvement programme, which will assist in rationalising processes such as procurement and contracting.

The strategy aims to provide additional clarity and focus to an already successful programme that helps a million people per year to attain or maintain independent living in their own homes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (David Miliband): I and my hon. Friend, the Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare represented the United Kingdom at this month's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. Richard Lochhead, the Scottish Environment and Rural Affairs Minister, also attended.

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on a presidency compromise proposal to reform the fruit and vegetable regime. The UK voted in favour as the reform met our negotiating objectives, including the flexibility we had sought with regards to allowing the four regions of the UK to take their own implementation decisions on inclusion of fruit and vegetables in the single payment scheme. The reform will also deliver full decoupling of the aids for products grown for processing.

The Council also reached unanimous political agreement on a presidency compromise text, on the conclusion of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the EU and Greenland. The agreement provides fishing opportunities in Greenlandic waters for EU vessels including those of the UK, in return for Community funded financial contributions.

The Council adopted a conclusion on the Commission's report on the application of system of cross-compliance.

The Council also adopted a set of general conclusions on the Commission's communication on reducing bycatches and eliminating discards. The UK intervened to welcome the Commission's initiative, but also drew attention to the potential difficulties in finding solutions that worked in the mixed fisheries which characterised the EU situation.

The Council formally adopted a proposal to simplify and update the current regulation on organic food and farming, following the general agreement reached on the proposal during the Finnish presidency last year.

The Council also adopted a range of Agriculture and Fisheries "A" points: labelling requirements for veal meat; a proposal amending the common organisation of the market in cereals by the abolition of maize intervention; multi-annual management plan for North sea sole and plaice; recovery measures for European eel; and a recovery plan for bluefin tuna in the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean. The UK could not offer its support to the compromise text on bluefin tuna. Despite voting against, the UK did manage to secure a joint Council-Commission declaration which should mean cases of overfishing are dealt with appropriately in the future.

The Council reached political agreement by qualified majority on a presidency compromise text establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets. The proposal consolidates the existing 21 sector-specific Common Market organisations into a single horizontal regulation. The UK voted in favour of the compromise text which satisfied the UK's principal concerns.

The Council also reached political agreement by qualified majority, with the UK voting in favour, on a set of measures to rebuild and manage the cod stocks in the Baltic sea.

A number of issues, as follows, were raised under any other business:

The Council took note, without discussion, of a report provided by the presidency on the outcome of the conference of directors of EU paying agency, which was held in Postsdam, Germany. The Council also took note of a written update provided by the Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner on the state of play of discussions on proposals covering the marketing of plant protection products and on the sustainable use of pesticides.

The ten new member states currently applying the single area payment scheme expressed concerns on the implementation of the system of cross-compliance.

The Agriculture Commissioner updated Council on progress in the WTO agricultural negotiations.

The Fisheries Commissioner set out the Commission's initial plans for handling the setting of the total allowable catches for 2008. He highlighted the importance of involving the full range of relevant stakeholders in the decision-making process.

Denmark expressed concerns about the operation of the existing management plan for the North sea sandeel fishery. The UK reminded the Commission about its interest, albeit limited, in the fishery and asked to be consulted when the management arrangements were reviewed.

Finally, the UK expressed concerns regarding the continued illegal use of drift nets by a number of member states, following the ban agreed in 1992. The Commission explained that it took such illegal activity seriously and that it would make full use of its treaty powers to pursue any infringements.

Local Authority Fees and Charges Scheme

The Minister for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): Charges to cover the costs of local enforcing authorities in regulating processes which are subject to Part I of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (Local Air Pollution Control (LAPC)) were introduced in April 1991. Interim charges for installations which are subject to the Pollution Prevention and Control Act 1999 (Local Air Pollution Prevention and Control (LAPPC) and Local Authority - Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (LA-IPPC)) were introduced in August 2000.

With the approval of the Treasury, and following consultation with local authority associations and industry, I have revised the scheme specifying the scale of fees and charges in respect of the Pollution Prevention and Control Act.

This amendment to the scheme specifies the scale of fees and charges for certain petrol vapour recovery applications, namely, the application and subsistence fees that operators must pay for Stage II petrol vapour recovery (PVR II) systems at existing petrol stations. With effect from 15 June 2007 the application fee for PVR II will be £91 and the subsistence fee for combined PVR I and PVR II will be £202.

The basis of these fees is set out in the consultation paper on "The Implementation of the Petrol Vapour Recovery Stage II Controls" which is available on the DEFRA website.

The amendment has been laid before Parliament and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Diplomatic Missions/International Organisations (Unpaid Parking/Minor Traffic Violation Fines)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): There were 5,484 outstanding parking and other minor traffic violation fines incurred by diplomatic missions and international organisations in the United Kingdom recorded during the year 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006. These totalled £506,475. In April this year the Foreign and Commonwealth Office wrote to all diplomatic missions and international organisations concerned giving them the opportunity either to pay their outstanding fines or appeal against them if they considered that the fines had been issued incorrectly. As a result of subsequent payments totalling £22,713 and formal appeals lodged, there remains a total of 4,859 (£448,965) unpaid fines for 2006[1]. The table below details those diplomatic missions and International Organisations that have outstanding fines totalling £1,000 or more.

Unpaid Parking and Minor Traffic Violation Fines -2006 -Diplomatic Vehicles-Owing £1,000 or More

Diplomatic Mission/International Organisation	*No of Fines Outstanding*	*Amount in £*
Saudi Arabia	319	29,620.00
China	272	25,630.00
Sudan	244	23,550.00
Egypt	210	20,065.00
Turkey	194	18,420.00
France	186	17,910.00
Russia	167	15,650.00
Afghanistan	133	12,840.00
Guinea	117	11,280.00
Kuwait	100	9,600.00
Germany	101	9,600.00
Zambia	92	8,860.00
Hungary	91	8,650.00
Pakistan	92	8,480.00
North Korea	90	8,370.00
Brunei	85	7,500.00
Libya	79	7,440.00
Qatar	74	7,205.00
Ghana	74	7,030.00
Kazakhstan	70	6,850.00
Greece	68	6,600.00
Bangladesh	64	6,465.00
Iran	69	6,380.00
Georgia	64	5,850.00
Sierra Leone	103	5,650.00
Cyprus	61	5,650.00
Jordan	59	5,550.00
USA	60	5,210.00
Angola	61	5,150.00
Mozambique	55	4,970.00
Malaysia	50	4,920.00
Ivory Coast	52	4,720.00
Oman	51	4,650.00
Lithuania	45	4,430.00
Tunisia	46	4,340.00
Uzbekistan	44	4,150.00
Algeria	45	4,000.00
Honduras	41	3,900.00
United Arab Emirates	46	3,425.00
Senegal	33	3,200.00
Jamaica	32	3,060.00
Mongolia	30	2,950.00
Kyrgystan	28	2,780.00
Thailand	28	2,680.00

Unpaid Parking and Minor Traffic Violation Fines -2006 -Diplomatic Vehicles-Owing £1,000 or More

Diplomatic Mission/International Organisation	*No of Fines Outstanding*	*Amount in £*
Yemen	28	2,500.00
Kenya	29	2,480.00
Poland	32	2,480.00
Italy	28	2,250.00
Romania	26	2,440.00
Iraq	25	2,400.00
Tanzania	25	2,140.00
Ukraine	22	2,000.00
Ethiopia	24	1,950.00
Belgium	20	1,950.00
Bulgaria	20	1,900.00
Nigeria	24	1,800.00
Syria	18	1,800.00
Latvia	17	1,585.00
South Africa	17	1,550.00
Mexico	13	1,405.00
Vietnam	16	1,400.00
El Salvador	14	1,380.00
Morocco	17	1,360.00
Malta	13	1,300.00
Azerbaijan	14	1,200.00
Malawi	14	1,200.00
Botswana	13	1,060.00
Swaziland	13	1,050.00
Gabon	10	1,000.00
Total	*4,517*	*418,810.00*

[1]This figure includes 46 fines (£4,530) that are in dispute by missions who claim not to have received the original penalty notices. These could not be resolved before issue of the statement.

The number of outstanding fines incurred by diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom for non-payment of the London congestion charge since its introduction in February 2003 until 3 April 2007 was 74,198. The table below shows the 10 diplomatic missions with the highest value of outstanding fines.

Mission	*Number of Outstanding Fines*	*Value £*
1. USA	15150	1,484,765
2. Nigeria	6949	682,370
3. Sudan	5633	545,990
4. Japan	4119	386,150
5. Tanzania	3119	298,940
6. Kenya	3099	292,630
7. South Africa	2773	267,290
8. Sierra Leone	2619	252,310
9. Germany	2515	223,950
10. Zimbabwe	1641	157,430

Diplomatic Missions (Non-Domestic Rates Bills)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): The majority of diplomatic missions in the United Kingdom pay the national non-domestic rates requested from them. They are obliged to pay only 6 per cent. of the total national non-domestic rates value, which represents payment for specific services such as street cleaning, lighting, maintenance and fire services. The total amount outstanding from all diplomatic missions is approximately £821,000.00. However, as at 31 March 2007, the missions listed below owed over £10,000 in national non-domestic rates. Twelve additional diplomatic missions, who owe £10,000 or more in respect of national non-domestic rates, have made arrangements with the Valuation Office Agency to clear their outstanding debts and have not been included in this list.

Country	*Amount*
Algeria	£63,228.12
Zimbabwe	£54,605.88
Cameroon	£41,087.73
Bangladesh	£34,559.36
Malawi	£27,773.58
Senegal	£26,042.21
Uganda	£15,518.27
Ukraine	£15,057.32
Libya	£11,629.32
Total	*£289,501.79*

Diplomatic Immunity (Alleged Serious Offences)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Margaret Beckett): In 2006, 15 serious offences allegedly committed by people entitled to diplomatic immunity were drawn to the attention of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. "Serious Offences" are defined as offences that would, in certain circumstances, carry a penalty of 12 months or more imprisonment. Some 24,000 people are entitled to diplomatic immunity in the United Kingdom.

The table below lists those foreign missions whose diplomats allegedly committed serious offences and the type of offence from 2002-2006.

2002

Assault Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm

Nigeria 2

Child Abuse

Morocco 1

Child Neglect

Kazakhstan 1

Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol

Kazakhstan 2

Russia 2

Ukraine 2

Azerbaijan 1

Commonwealth Secretariat 1

Germany 1

Ghana 1

Nigeria 1

Panama 1

Rwanda 1

Facilitating Illegal Immigration
Germany 1
Murder
Colombia 1
Rape
Morocco 1
Public Order & Making False Declarations
Greece 1

2003

Activities Inconsistent with Diplomatic Status (Bribery)
Saudi Arabia 1
Driving under the Influence of Alcohol
Algeria 1
Bolivia 1
Bulgaria 1
Commonwealth Secretariat 1
Italy 1
Kuwait 1
Mexico 1
* Other 1
Russia 1
Rwanda 1
Sierra Leone 1
Ukraine 1
Indecent Assault
South Africa 1
Morocco 1
Possession of an Offensive Weapon
Libya 1

2004

Arranging Sham Marriages
Nigeria 1
Driving under the Influence of Alcohol
Angola 1
Austria 1
Luxembourg 1
Mozambique 1
Serbia and Montenegro 1
Spain 1
Indecent Assault
Congo 1
Saudi Arabia 1
Indecent Assault on Child
Saudi Arabia 1
Robbery and Assault
Angola 1

2005

Actual Bodily Harm
Jordan 1
Assault (Domestic Violence)
Saudi Arabia 1
Dangerous Driving
Turkey 1
Driving under the Influence of Alcohol
Angola 1
Egypt 1
Ghana 1
Lebanon 1
Peru 1
Russia 1
Saudi Arabia 1
Harassment
Turkey 1
Theft (Shoplifting)
Egypt 1
Equatorial Guinea 1
Zambia 1
Theft and Robbery (of Motor Vehicle, Driving without Insurance)
South Africa 1

2006

Attempted Robbery
South Africa 1
Deception (Going Equipped to Commit)
Nigeria 1
Driving under the Influence of Alcohol
Kazakhstan 2
Belarus 1
Côte d'Ivoire 1
Kuwait 1
Malawi 1
Oman 1
Saudi Arabia 1
South Africa 1
Driving without Insurance
Pakistan 1
Failure to Stop for Police/Driving without Insurance and Licence
Kazakhstan 1
Robbery
South Africa 1
Theft (Obtaining Property by Deception)
Ghana 1

* This name has been withheld because the number of diplomatic personnel in the mission concerned is so small that disclosure would lead to the identification of the individual concerned. This in turn would breach the data protection rights of that individual, in particular, the first data protection principle, namely, that personal data should be processed fairly. This is because the offences are only alleged to have been committed and have not been proven in a court of law. In these circumstances, Section 40 (2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act confer an absolute exemption on disclosure of this information.

JUSTICE

Freedom of Information Act 2000

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice has made the following written ministerial statement.

"Today I have deposited copies of "The Freedom of Information Act 2000 - Second Annual Report on the operation of the Freedom of Information Act in Central Government – 2006" in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

This is the Annual Report analysing the performance of central Government in the second full year of Freedom of Information."

"Confidence and confidentiality: Openness in family courts - a new approach"

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Ms Harriet Harman): My noble Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Lord Falconer of Thoroton, has made the following written ministerial statement.

"I am pleased to inform noble Lords that I have today laid before Parliament a further consultation paper on "Confidence and confidentiality: Openness in Family Courts - a new approach" (Cm 7131). It is available on the Department's website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations.htm

Since publishing our initial proposals in 2006, we have reflected on the best ways of making the culture of family courts more open, while maintaining the privacy of those involved—especially children. We have listened to what people said in response to our original proposals. We have decided a new approach is needed, which focuses not on who may go into family courts, but on the information which comes out.

The consultation paper sets out our intention to take forward proposals that were widely welcomed by responses to the previous consultation paper, and consults on further proposals."

Inquests Into the Deaths of Servicemen

The Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (Ms Harriet Harman): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence and I wish to make the following statement to the House about the inquests of servicemen and women who have died overseas where jurisdiction has been assumed by the Oxfordshire coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, and the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner, David Masters.

All casualties suffered by the UK armed forces are a source of profound regret. UK service personnel have put their lives on the line to help build strong, stable and democratic nations and protect the interests of the United Kingdom and we cannot pay high enough tribute to the job they are doing, or the sacrifice some of them have made. We are committed to assisting the families of UK service personnel who have died on operations overseas when their loved ones are returned to the UK.

We made statements to the House on 5 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 4WS; 12 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 26WS; 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 112WS and 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 121WS, with information about the conduct of inquests by the Oxfordshire coroner and today we are announcing progress which has been made since the written ministerial statement in March.

Background

Coroners are independent judicial officers appointed and paid for by the relevant local authority. Their officers and staff are employed by the local authority and/or the police.

Each death of a serviceman or woman killed in an operation overseas whose body is repatriated to England and Wales is subject to an inquest. The inquest, both the investigation into the death and the holding of the public hearing into the death, is conducted by the coroner with jurisdiction which derives from where the body lies.

In the case of deaths of servicemen and women whose bodies were flown into Brize Norton military airbase until it could no longer be used for repatriations on 31 March 2007, the Oxfordshire coroner has initial jurisdiction. In the case of deaths of servicemen and women whose bodies have been flown into Lyneham military airbase since 1 April 2007, the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has initial jurisdiction.

The coroner has powers under the Coroners Act 1988 to transfer jurisdiction to another coroner while the body is still lying within his district and with the consent of the other coroner. Since late December 2006 the Oxfordshire coroner's practice was to transfer jurisdiction to coroners closer to the next of kin wherever possible; this practice has been continued by the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner since 1 April 2007.

Progress with the Remaining Inquests

At the time of the March written ministerial statement, 56 inquests had been held, 46 into the deaths of servicemen and 10 into the deaths of civilians in Iraq whose bodies were repatriated via RAF Brize Norton.

A further 16 inquests have been held into the deaths of servicemen, making a total of 72 inquests which have been held since June 2006.

Of these 72 inquests the Oxfordshire coroner, Nicholas Gardiner, has conducted five, Assistant Deputy Oxfordshire coroner Sir Richard Curtis six, Assistant Deputy Oxfordshire coroner Selena Lynch 28, Assistant Deputy Oxfordshire coroner Andrew Walker 32 and the Greater Manchester West Coroner Jennifer Leeming one.

Oxfordshire Coroner's Jurisdiction

There remain 11 inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel in military conflicts and exercises overseas and four inquests into the deaths of civilians who lost their lives in Iraq and whose bodies were repatriated to Brize Norton before 16 May 2006. This includes the death of a serviceman on an exercise in California in December 2005, details of which we have recently been advised by the coroner.

The oldest outstanding military inquest in the Oxfordshire coroner's jurisdiction is the inquest into

the death of Corporal Allbutt on 25 March 2003 which will be heard on 29 June 2007. The oldest outstanding civilian death inquest in the Oxfordshire coroner's jurisdiction is the inquest into the death of Antonio Jose Monteiro Abelha on 22 June 2006. This inquest will be heard on 13 July 2007.

The four outstanding civilian inquests all have a hearing date. All but one of the outstanding inquests into servicemen's deaths before 16 May 2006 have a hearing date and these inquests are due to be heard by the end of October 2007. The MOD recently determined that there should be a board of inquiry in the case of Lieutenant Palmer who died on 28 February 2006. His inquest will not be heard until 2008.

Of the 66 more recent cases since 16 May 2006, and which have been repatriated via Brize Norton, the Oxfordshire coroner has retained jurisdiction in 50 cases and has transferred 16 inquests to other coroners with jurisdiction closer to the next of kin of which one inquest has been held. Of those retained by the Oxfordshire coroner, pre-inquest hearing dates have been set in 17 cases, hearing dates set in nine cases and progress made in the remainder. Of the 15 inquests which have been transferred to other coroners, progress has been made and dates set for three inquests.

Wiltshire and Swindon Coroner's Jurisdiction

There remain 10 inquests into fatalities which were repatriated via RAF Lyneham prior to 16 May 2006. These relate to the deaths of 10 crew members who died together in the crash of Hercules XV179 on 30 January 2005. The coroner held a pre inquest hearing in February 2007 and hopes to fix a date for the inquest after a further pre-inquest hearing in July and August.

A further 22 inquests relating to deaths since 16 May 2006 fall within the jurisdiction of the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner. Of these the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner has transferred or is in the process of transferring 12 inquests to other coroners with jurisdiction closer to the next of kin. A further inquest has been heard by the Liverpool coroner, André Rebello.

We are very grateful for the efforts of all the coroners involved in conducting these inquests.

We shall continue to keep the House informed on a quarterly basis about progress through the remaining inquests. I have placed a table in the Library which outlines the status of all cases and the date of death of each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

Liaison with the Next of Kin

It is of the greatest importance that the next of kin have full information about the progress on the inquest of their deceased next of kin.

In order to further improve the service to families, I invited to meet me on 4 December 2006 the families of service personnel who died in Iraq whose inquests had been held. We are grateful to the 17 relatives of the 12 deceased servicemen and women who gave us the benefit of their views and experiences so as to improve the inquest system for the benefit of future families of members of the armed service who die abroad.

Following that meeting we have been working on better supporting bereaved military families. My right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Ministry of Defence issued a written ministerial statement on 7 June, *Official Report*, column 26WS giving details of the support which is now being provided.

CABINET OFFICE

Regulatory Impact Assessment

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. Pat McFadden): I have today presented to Parliament a Command Paper listing regulatory impact assessments published between July and December 2006. This is the Twenty-Sixth Command Paper.

The Government are committed to ensuring that regulations are necessary, give effective protection, balance cost and risk, are fair and command public confidence.

In accordance with this, we require Departments to produce and publish regulatory impact assessments for all regulatory proposals likely to have an impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies and the public sector.

Copies have been placed in the library for the reference of members and will be available in the Vote Office.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): I will be attending the Competitiveness Council in Luxembourg on 25 June.

The Council will be chaired by Annette Schavan, German Federal Minister for Research and Education.

The first item on the agenda is the proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Institute of Technology. This proposal will be put for a Council general approach. While the UK is generally content with the way in which the EIT proposal has evolved, the financial aspects of the proposal need to be dealt with satisfactorily.

The next item on the agenda is on knowledge transfer. The Council will adopt conclusions on a Communication from the Commission on knowledge transfer and a Presidency initiative for a Charter for the management of intellectual property from public research institutions and universities. The UK supports the need for better knowledge transfer between universities and business, in line with the Lambert Review.

This will be followed by the adoption of Council conclusions on a report from the Scientific and Technical Research Committee (CREST) on "how to make better coordinated use of Structural funds and the Framework Programme to support R&D." The UK supports the coordinated use of these major EU funding programmes in support of the Lisbon Agenda.

The next item on the agenda is a Green Paper on the future of the European Research Area. There will be

an exchange of views on this. The UK considers future EU research policy to be an important component of the Lisbon strategy and supports the consultation on the Green Paper.

Eight items will be taken under Any Other Business:

(i) Proposal for a Council Regulation on a Joint Technology Initiative "Clean Sky". (Presentation by the Commission)

(ii) Proposal for a Council Regulation on a Joint Technology Initiative "ENIAC". (Presentation by the Commission)

(iii) Future Commission proposal on Article 169 Initiative AAL. (Information on the state of play)

(iv) Future Commission proposal on Article 169 Initiative Euro STARS. (Information on the state of play)

(v) Euro-Med Education and Research Ministers Conference (Information from the Presidency)

(vi) Proposal for a Directive on restrictions on the marketing of certain measuring devices containing mercury. (Information from the Presidency)

(vii) Work programme of the incoming Presidency. (Information from the Portuguese Delegation).

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Mr. Alistair Darling): I will be attending the extraordinary meeting of the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) in Luxembourg on 25 June, which has been called due to the likelihood of important developments in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

The Council will be chaired by Bernd Pfaffenbach, State Secretary in the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour. EU member states will be represented at the GAERC by Trade Ministers, rather than Foreign Ministers, due to the issue to be discussed.

The item on the agenda will be the Doha Development Round of multilateral trade negotiations. The meeting will review progress made during the negotiations between the G4 group of countries (EU, US, Brazil and India) between the 19-22 June, and discuss how these negotiations should be taken forward during the next few months, which represent a critical period in the negotiations. The Council is likely to adopt Conclusions to guide the Commission's negotiations on behalf of the EU at this meeting.

A further written statement will be prepared after the meeting has taken place.

Bevin Boys Badge

The Minister for Science and Innovation (Malcolm Wicks): My noble friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy, Lord Truscott has made the following written statement.

Following the Prime Minister's statement on 24 January this year in relation to the recognition of the contribution made by the Bevin Boys who worked in the UK coalfields during and immediately after World War II I would like to update the House on the recent developments.

Members will be aware that the Bevin Boys scheme was introduced in 1943 by then Minister for Labour and National Service, Ernest Bevin, in response to an increasing shortage of labour in the coal mining industry. The scheme ran between 1943 and 1948 and involved recruiting men aged between 18 and 25 years to work in coal mines rather than serve in the armed forces. Some 48,000 men worked in the mines under the scheme.

I am delighted to announce that the DTI is launching today a lapel badge in recognition of the contribution this group made to the war effort.

Of the 48,000 some 43 per cent. were conscripted directly into the mines and are known more generally as "ballotees". The remaining 57 per cent. were those who opted for mine work in preference to joining the armed forces or those who were in the armed forces and volunteered to become miners. Only those who fall into these categories will be eligible for the badge.

The Bevin Boys Badge is a survivors badge and I would encourage Bevin Boy veterans to wear it in public in order visibly to raise awareness of the important role they played during World War II and in the postwar reconstruction of the UK. Widows and estates will not eligible.

The application process for the badge will be launched towards the end of the year. With a view to the first badge being awarded to coincide with the 60th anniversary of the demobilisation of the final Bevin Boys in March 2008.

The DTI have worked closely with the Bevin Boys Association, who have expressed their extreme pleasure at the introduction, to ensure that the design of the badge suitably reflects the work they carried out. It is important that we never forget the sacrifices that were made both at home and abroad during the war, and this badge is a fitting way to remember the Bevin Boys' work to keep the coalfields going.

A copy of the badge design has been placed in the Library.

Construction Industry (Payment Practices)

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): I have today launched a consultation document on improvements to regulation intended to support better payment practices in the construction industry. Copies are available in the House.

It has taken a long time to assemble these proposals following the publication of the DTI and Welsh Assembly Government's first consultation in March 2005.I am delighted that we can now issue the second consultation we promised on "Improving payment practices in the construction industry". I know how important it is for all in the construction industry that we have a system which delivers fair payment practices. The framework set out in Part II of the Housing Grants Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 has delivered improvement over the past nine years and it is important we build on this. I look forward to a healthy and constructive discussion.

The consultation document sets out a number of proposals on how we might seek to introduce greater clarity and transparency into the statutory payment framework to enable construction companies to manage cash flow better; and encourage parties to resolve disputes by adjudication.

Prompt and fair payment practice throughout construction supply chains will help the construction industry to adopt integrated working as the norm.

The proposals:

improve transparency and clarity in the exchange of information relating to payments to enable the better management of cash flow;

encourage the parties to resolve disputes by adjudication, where it is appropriate, rather than by resorting to more costly and time consuming solutions such as litigation; and improve the right to suspend performance under the contract.

They do this by:

On adjudication

improving access to the right to refer disputes for adjudication by:

applying the legislation to oral and partly oral contracts

preventing the use of agreements that interim payment decisions will be conclusive to avoid adjudication of interim payment disputes

ensuring the costs involved in the process are fairly allocated

On payment

preventing unnecessary duplication of payment notices

clarifying the requirement to serve a section 110(2) payment notice

clarifying the content of payment and withholding notices

ensuring the payment framework creates a clear interim entitlement to payment

prohibiting the use of pay when certified clauses

On suspension

improving the statutory right to suspend performance by allowing the suspending party to claim the costs and delay which result.

These proposals are intended to be proportionate amendments to the existing framework to address specific issues that have arisen during the nine years the Construction Act has been in operation. Guidance remains the preferred route to improve the operation of construction contracts and we have only considered further legislative intervention where we believe it is absolutely necessary.

Having emerged from the first consultation on "Improving payment practices in the construction industry" in 2005, these proposals were first outlined in the analysis of the consultation in January 2006. During 2006 a DTI appointed sounding board assisted in the development of the detailed proposals for this second consultation. I am very grateful for the work that the sounding board did.

It was originally intended that these proposals should be introduced using a Legislative Reform Order (LRO) under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. But I have now concluded that it would be more appropriate to introduce these proposals using primary legislation. The consultation covers the primary legislative proposals in detail, as well as the consequential amendments that will need to be made to the Scheme for Construction Contracts (England and Wales) Regulations 1998.

We are now seeking the views of the construction industry and its clients on whether this package of proposals properly and adequately addresses the weaknesses in the existing framework, and how we might evaluate the costs and benefits of the package.

We will be seeking to introduce legislation to implement the proposals emerging from this consultation through primary legislation as soon as a legislative slot is available.

The consultation document is also available at: www.dti.gov.uk/sectors/construction/constructionact/page13956.html/

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 21 June 2007

TREASURY

Financial Services Authority

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): The annual report 2006-07 of the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has today been laid before Parliament. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The report forms a key part of the accountability mechanism for the Financial Services Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA), and assesses the performance of the Financial Services Authority over the year ended 31 March 2007 against its statutory objectives.

London Insurance Market Reform

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): Following Budget 2006, the Chancellor established a High Level Group to consider issues related to the international competitiveness of the UK financial sector, recognising the opportunities presented by emerging markets and the strength of international competition from other financial centres. As part of this work, the Chancellor asked Lord Levene, Graham Millwater and Andrew Kendrick to review the business processes of the London market. The Treasury too has been working closely with the Financial Services Authority and the wholesale general insurance market to identify market led reform and modernisation that can enable the industry to remain competitive in a global market. The Treasury has also been developing its understanding of the business environment for this sector. The Treasury, Financial Services Authority and wholesale general insurance market will take stock again and assess progress in the autumn.

As part of this wider work on reforms of the London insurance market, Lloyd's of London has been working with the Treasury to identify areas where its corporate governance arrangements are out of step with modern practices. Following these discussions, the Treasury has decided to develop legislative proposals to modernise the governance arrangement for Lloyd's. These proposals will take the form of a Legislative Reform Order to amend Lloyd's Act 1982. The aim of the proposals will be to update the governance arrangements of the market to reduce costs and unnecessary bureaucracy. The Treasury will have extensive consultation with interested parties and intends to publish proposals in the New Year. Any proposals will meet the preconditions and restrictions of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006.

Companies' Foreign Profits

The Paymaster General (Dawn Primarolo): The Treasury has today published a discussion paper entitled "The Taxation of the Foreign Profits of Companies: A Discussion Document". Copies of the document are available in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

Credit Unions

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): There are currently over 2.6 million Child Trust Fund accounts open of which around three-quarters have been actively opened by parents. The Government are committed to ensuring that all families, including lower income families, get the most from the scheme.

The Government believe that credit unions have an important role to play in delivering the Child Trust Fund. Credit unions offer a community-based alternative for people who may lack financial confidence, and be initially wary of large, commercial banks and building societies.

Where credit unions serve communities in low-income areas, they can be vital in targeting those encountering exclusion from mainstream financial services, helping clients obtain money advice in the course of providing a loan, and connecting people to other mainstream opportunities. The Government hope that credit unions will take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the Child Trust Fund to build on this success.

Child Trust Fund rules allow credit unions to offer both cash and Stakeholder accounts. The Government are encouraged that several credit unions have already chosen to provide these accounts: Leeds City Credit Union, Clwyd Coast Credit Union, Leicester Credit Union; Dragonsavers, Loans and Savings Abertawe and Bristol Credit Union, and are keen to see more do so in the future.

All MPs with credit unions in their Constituencies have a role to play in encouraging their participation in the Child Trust Fund scheme so that we can achieve our goal of giving every child the best start in life. Credit unions interested in becoming a provider can find more information at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/providers.htm.

Credit Unions

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ed Balls): Following my announcement in November 2006 of a review of co-operatives legislation—principally the Industrial and Provident Society Acts and Credit Unions Act—the Treasury has been carrying out research and holding informal discussions with representatives of the sector and other stakeholders.

I am now able to announce the publication of the first stage of a two-stage consultation to be undertaken by the Treasury, which will seek to identify the legislative needs of cooperatives and credit unions and put forward the most effective solutions. The aim of the review is not to give mutuality a privileged position but to allow the whole mutual sector—including building societies and friendly societies—to compete on a level playing field and to remove artificial restrictions that do not provide any benefit to members.

The focus of the review is on cooperatives and credit unions because their legislation is the oldest and most disparate. Important changes to the legislation have been made in recent years, particularly, through the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 2002, and the Co-operatives and Community Benefit Societies Act 2003

This review will build on that earlier work, clarify the needs of the sector and identify the right outcomes. The review will impact on over 8,000 industrial and provident societies and over 500 credit unions.

The first stage of the review will close for responses on 12 September 2007. We hope to begin the second stage as soon as possible thereafter. Copies of the review are available in the Vote Office and Libraries of both Houses and will be published on the Treasury website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Hot Water Safety

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Angela E. Smith): The Government are committed to ensuring that Building Regulations support the safety of hot water systems in the home. We have been working closely with the industry to develop guidelines and training notes to help ensure that those who install and maintain these systems are aware of the problems and dangers posed. I am very grateful to the industry for the work that has already been done.

However, it's clear we should do more as in the last six months there have been a number of tragic incidents as a result of defective hot water systems. I am therefore announcing today that I will undertake a new review of Part G of the Building Regulations to determine whether changes are needed, and can be made, that would improve the safety of these systems in the future. This review will cover the whole of Part G dealing with sanitary installations and the hot water systems that serve them as one package. The Department is now considering the scope of the review with the intention of beginning informal consultations shortly.

It is clear that a balance must be struck between ensuring health and safety risks are tackled without placing undue regulatory burdens on industry. The proposals for any amendments will be subject to full consultation and regulatory appraisal.

Social Housing

The Minister for Housing and Planning (Yvette Cooper): My hon. Friend the Under Secretary of State for Defence and Minister for Veterans and I have recently reviewed the way in which current housing legislation impacts on those leaving the Armed Forces. This follows representations from Service personnel and others that the local connection provisions in housing legislation put Service personnel and those leaving the Armed Forces at a disadvantage when trying to access social housing.

Local authorities in England are responsible for framing their own policies and procedures for allocating social housing. In deciding who gets priority for social housing, housing legislation allows local authorities to take into account whether someone has a local connection with their district. Not all local authorities take local connection into account. Where they do, the legislation can put Service personnel at a disadvantage since an individual cannot establish a local connection with an area through residence or employment there when serving in the Armed Forces.

The Government are committed to aiding the effective transition of Service personnel to civilian life, and access to suitable housing is a vital part of this. Many will have bought their own home during their time in Service—and the Ministry of Defence has several schemes in place to encourage this—or will do so on leaving. However, for some Service leavers home ownership may not be an option and they may wish to apply for social housing. We believe it is important that the service they have given to their country does not place them at any disadvantage in this respect. The Government have therefore decided to make the necessary changes to housing legislation, at the earliest opportunity, to ensure that Service personnel are treated fairly and put on an equal footing with other people applying for social housing.

The detail of how the change will be effected will need to await the outcome of the current review of housing policy which the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced, following publication of Professor Hills' wide ranging report on social housing on 20 February 2007. We will bring forward our proposals in due course.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Care Matters: Time for Change

The Secretary of State for Education and Skills (Alan Johnson): A year ago, when I was appointed as Education Secretary, I said that children in care would be my top priority so I am genuinely delighted to be able to announce that the White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change", is available on the DFES website. There is no more deserving or vulnerable group than the nation's 60,000 children in care. This White Paper aims to ensure that the State's expectations for them match the aspirations that loving parents would have for their own children. The measures focus on improving stability and outcomes for children in care, backed by a £305 million financial package over the next four years.

The paper includes measures on promoting family and friends care:

- requiring local authorities to consider family and friends as carers at each stage of the decision making about the child's future—as a first resort not a last;
- legislating to enable relatives who are carers to more easily apply for residence orders;
- providing better intensive support for families with young people on the edge of care—'Multi-systemic therapy'.

There are also measures to promote stable, successful placements and education:

- increased funding for parenting support for foster carers (£6 million), with clear national skills and standards, and increased access to specialist training and support;
- improved recruitment and retention: support for new social workers and improved training across the board;
- piloting European models of social work (social pedagogy) to improve the quality of residential care; and
- protection against unnecessary school moves—particularly in the GCSE years.

The White Paper will ensure access to leisure activities, personalised education for all children in care and increasing educational support for those who are falling behind:

- children in care have the highest priority in school admissions, with an expectation that they will get places in the best schools, even if they are full;
- children in care at risk of falling behind will get a £500 allowance to support their education and we will improve support for attendance, in part by revising the minimum standards for children's homes; and
- free access to after school activities, free music tuition in schools and an expectation that local authorities will make their own leisure provision free for children in care.

Lastly, there will be greater support for young people moving from care into adulthood:

- piloting "Right2B Cared4"—giving young people a greater say over when they leave care, so they move when they ready;
- extending the entitlement to a personal advisor up to age 25 for care leavers who are in education or want to return to education;
- introducing a national bursary of a minimum of £2000 for all young people in care entering university;
- expecting local authorities and their partners to offer employment opportunities and training to care leavers and young people in care; and
- for every year they are in care, each child will get a £100 top up in their Child Trust Fund account.

This document builds on the Green Paper "Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care", published in October 2006. It also takes on the messages we heard from young people in care and others in the consultation responses, which we published earlier this year and which are also available on our website.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Government Decontamination Service

The Minister for Climate Change and the Environment (Ian Pearson): The 2006-07 Annual Report and Accounts for the Government Decontamination Service will be laid before Parliament today.

Copies will be available in the Libraries of both Houses.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorist-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

During the period 11 March 2007 to 10 June 2007, one new control order was made with the permission of the court under section 3(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and, on 30 March 2007, served on a British citizen. This replaced an order, relating to an individual referred to as AF, that was quashed by the High Court.

During this reporting period, no control orders were renewed in accordance with section 2(4)(b) of the 2005 Act.

One control order has expired since the last report.

In total, therefore, there are seventeen control orders currently in force, eight of which are in respect of British citizens. Seven of the individuals live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the rest fall within other police force areas.

As Parliament will be aware, four of the seventeen individuals currently subject to a control order have absconded—one in January 2007 and three in May 2007. Details in relation to the three absconds that took place during this reporting period were given in my statement of 24 May. Parliament has also previously been informed of two other absconds: the individual who absconded in August 2006, after a control order was made, for example, signed against that individual, but before it had been served on him (this order has therefore never been in operation); and the individual who absconded in September 2006, who is no longer subject to a control order, as the order expired during this reporting period.

The High Court anonymity orders for the August and September 2006 absconders were lifted at a High Court hearing on 25 May. However, an extant anonymity order remained in place with regard to criminal proceedings in relation to the September 2006 absconder, so his identity was not made public at that time. For police operational and legal reasons, the Government are not currently seeking to lift the anonymity of the other (January 2007) absconder. Finding individuals who have absconded is an operational matter for the police, and investigations are ongoing.

During the period, sixteen modifications of control order obligations were made and fourteen requests to modify a control order obligation were refused. A right of appeal exists in section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State in relation to an application by an individual subject to a non-derogating control order to revoke such an order or modify an obligation imposed by such an order. An appeal has been made in respect of one modification request that was refused.

Control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned, and are based on the risk that individual poses. Each control order is kept under review to ensure their continuance and obligations remain necessary and

proportionate. Specifically, as Lord Carlile recommended in his February 2006 report on the operation of the control order system, the Home Office has established a review group, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular (quarterly), formal and audited review.

Breaches of control orders could arise from any obligation, and could include arriving home after commencement of a curfew period or breaking geographical boundary restrictions on movement. During this period, one individual has been charged with breach of control order obligations relating to curfew. This individual is currently on bail.

During this reporting period, three court judgments relating to control orders were handed down. Two were in the High Court. In both *Secretary of State for the Home Department v AF* [2007] EWHC 651 (Admin) and *Secretary of State for the Home Department v Mahmoud Abu Rideh* [2007] EWHC 804 (Admin), the High Court quashed the control order in question as it found that the control order obligations cumulatively amounted to a deprivation of the individual's liberty under article 5(1) ECHR. In both cases, the court accepted that the Secretary of State had reasonable grounds for suspecting that the individual was involved in terrorism-related activity. The Secretary of State is appealing these judgments.

Judgment was also handed down by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v E and S* [2007] EWCA Civ 459. The Court of Appeal concluded that the obligations in *E's* control order did not cumulatively amount to a deprivation of liberty. It also judged that while there was a breach of the obligation to keep prosecution under review, the quashing of the order was not the appropriate remedy for this failure. Consequently the Court of Appeal allowed the Secretary of State's appeal against the High Court judgment, and upheld the control order.

The Secretary of State's appeal in relation to the *AF* judgment has leapfrogged the Court of Appeal, and will be heard together with the *JJ and others* and MB cases in the House of Lords, which are now scheduled to be heard in early July. *E's* appeal against the Court of Appeal's judgment will also be heard together with these cases. However, the Rideh case will not be heard by the Lords at that time.

Counter-terrorism

The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police (Mr. Tony McNulty): I am today informing Parliament of an ongoing police operation to locate a foreign national who is believed to have absconded from his control order on the night of 18 June. This individual was placed under a control order in November 2005.

Public safety is the top priority for the Government and the police. Locating this individual is an operational matter for the police, and an active investigation is underway. An anonymity order is in place and, on the operational advice of the police, the Government is not currently seeking to overturn it. This will be kept under review.

The Government have consistently made clear its view that control orders are less than 100 per cent. effective in countering terrorism. As we have repeatedly made clear to the House, there are limitations and problems with the legal framework under which we must operate. The Government must operate under the constraints imposed by Parliament, the courts and the law. Control orders are not even our second—or third—best option for dealing with suspected terrorists. But under our existing laws they are as far as we can go.

In this case, the obligations included a tag, 14-hour curfew, a requirement to remain within a restricted area, reside at a specified address and restrictions on finance and communications. They are the most stringent obligations we could impose in this individual's case. He was previously subject to stricter controls but these had to be revised in light of last year's Court of Appeal judgment in this and other cases.

Unfortunately, within these limits, it is very difficult to prevent determined individuals from absconding. I am already appealing to the House of Lords this and several other control order cases, concerning the interpretation of article 5 ECHR (deprivation of liberty). We will consider other options—including derogation—if we have exhausted ways of overturning previous judgments on this issue.

Criminal Injuries Compensation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Joan Ryan): I am today laying before Parliament, with the Comptroller and Auditor General, the annual report and accounts for 2005-06 for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. It is being laid before the Scottish Parliament by the Scottish Ministers simultaneously. The annual report and accounts will be published by 29 June.

The annual report and accounts describe the activities of the authority in paying financial compensation to victims of violent crime, under the terms of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995.

The accounts estimate the final settlement value of cases in progress and the predicted value of applications which have not yet been received in respect of crimes that have already occurred. As a result, the balance sheet at 31 March 2006 shows net liabilities of £1,252 million and an operating surplus of £4 million.

In 2005-06 the authority received 63,078 applications for compensation and resolved 62,073. The number of cases outstanding at 31 March 2006 was 85,689. The proportion of cases decided within 12 months was 69.1 per cent.

JUSTICE

Public Guardian Board

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Vera Baird): My right hon. and noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Baroness Ashton of Upholland has made the following written ministerial statement.

"Today I have laid the Public Guardian Board Regulations 2007 before Parliament. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides the framework for making decisions and acting on behalf of individuals who lack capacity to make decisions for themselves.

The Act aims both to protect people who lack capacity and to maximise their autonomy and ability to participate in decision-making.

The Act establishes a new statutory office holder, the Public Guardian, with specific functions intended to ensure that attorneys and deputies appointed to make decisions on behalf of people who lack capacity do so in accordance with their powers. The Act also establishes a Public Guardian Board to oversee the functions of the Public Guardian. The board's duty is to scrutinise and review the way in which the Public Guardian discharges his functions and to make recommendations to the Lord Chancellor as it thinks appropriate. The regulations prescribe requirements for the selection of the board's chair, the term of office of members, the resignation, suspension or removal of members and other procedural matters.

I will today announce the appointment of the seven inaugural members of the Public Guardian Board. The board is operating in shadow form until October 2007 when it will take on its full statutory role".

Secure Training Centres

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The recent inquest into the death in 2004 of Adam Rickwood has drawn attention to a lack of clarity as to the powers of custody officers in secure training centres to restrain trainees, where it is necessary to do so. We have been asked by the coroner to rectify the position and clarify the rules.

This clarification is not designed to promote greater use of physical restraint. The Youth Justice Board's code of practice "Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate" states that restrictive physical interventions must only be used as a last resort, when there is no alternative available or other options have been exhausted. That continues to apply. The Youth Justice Board is working closely with all under-18 custodial establishments, including secure training centres, on all matters relating to the code of practice.

The Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 provides for the setting up of secure training centres and also for the powers and duties of custody officers at contracted-out centres. Section 9(3) specifies four duties, which include ensuring good order and discipline on the part of trainees. Section 9(4) provides that the powers arising by virtue of those duties shall include power to use reasonable force where necessary.

"Good Order and Discipline" is not defined in the legislation. It is critical for the safety and wellbeing of children, young people and staff in secure settings, and for the stability of secure establishments that appropriate powers are available to manage the behaviour of the troubled and sometimes troublesome young people in their care. The Government take very seriously the wellbeing of children held in secure settings.

We would not anticipate that a refusal to comply with an instruction alone would constitute a breach of good order and discipline. However, where the circumstances of the refusal are such that the refusal to comply with an instruction has wider implications for the safe running of the centre, undermining the general authority of the staff or putting safety or security at risk in some other way, then a genuine concern about good order and discipline may arise.

When it is necessary to resolve a refusal to comply to ensure the safe running of the centre, physical restraint must only be used as a last resort. The YJB code of practice sets out the principles underpinning behaviour management. The strategies in place emphasise:

an expectation of positive behaviour within an environment of mutual respect.

a child-centred culture.

high quality relationships between young people and staff.

Physical restraint would only ever be used when there is no alternative available or other options have been exhausted.

Rule 38 of the Secure Training Centre Rules 1998 specifies the purposes for which physical restraint may be used. It did not originally refer to ensuring good order and discipline: secure training centres have relied on the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 as giving the necessary authority for that purpose. However, following the inquest into Adam's death, the coroner recommended urgent clarification of the interrelationship between the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and the Secure Training Centre Rules. We have acted promptly in response to his recommendation.

The Secure Training Centre (Amendment) Rules 2007 were laid before Parliament on 13 June and come into effect on 6 July. They enable a trainee to be removed from association in the interests of good order and discipline; and permit physical restraint to be used to ensure good order and discipline.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Sector Bureaucracy

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong): I am today announcing the publication of "Cutting Bureaucracy for our Public Services", a strategy for better regulation of front line public sector organisations.

The strategy acknowledges that accountability and performance management is very important and has delivered changes that benefit the public. But as we move into the next phase of public sector reform, it makes sense to look to see what unnecessary bureaucracy there might be and what more we can do to ensure our front line staff have the freedom to do their jobs.

The strategy sets out steps which the Government will be taking to cut unnecessary bureaucracy which public service workers in delivery organisations have to deal with. The strategy is part of the Government's overall better regulation agenda, and fits with similar initiatives already introduced to reduce burdens in the private and voluntary sectors.

The proposals in the strategy reflect good work already underway in Departments, but also recognise the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach. Departments will collectively, for the first time, identify all the data requirements they place on the front line and set targets for reduction. Front line staff will be given the opportunity to challenge bad regulation if they find it. Departmental progress will be set out in simplification plans, starting this autumn.

Copies of the strategy have been placed in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. The strategy will also be available for viewing on the Better Regulation Executive website (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/regulation).

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business Support

The Minister for Industry and the Regions (Margaret Hodge): Tomorrow we are launching a consultation on how Government can better support business in the future. We are looking not just at the support that we provide, but much more broadly across the whole of Government.

The consultation document sets out our proposals for simplifying publicly funded business support schemes in England to no more than 100 by 2010 and ensuring these are easy to access, effective and good value for money.

It outlines and seeks views on what the Government should fund in the future; the route for businesses and entrepreneurs to access support and how to avoid business support schemes proliferating in the future.

We are consulting businesses, including social enterprises, business representatives, local authorities, organisations that support business and other interested parties. The consultation will run from 22 June to 14 September. Copies of the consultation document will be available in the Libraries of both Houses and the document will be on the DTI website at: http://www.dti.gov.uk/consultations/index.html.

Low Pay Commission

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): We are today setting the Low Pay Commission as follows:

LPC terms of reference for their 2008 report.

The Low Pay Commission is asked to:

Monitor, evaluate and review the NMW and its impact, with particular reference to the effect on pay, employment and competitiveness in the low paying sectors and small firms; the effect on different groups of workers, including different age groups, ethnic minorities, women and people with disabilities and migrant workers; the effect on pay structures; and taking into account any forthcoming changes to the statutory annual leave entitlement; review the levels of each of the different minimum wage rates and make recommendations for October 2008.

Contribute to Government consultations and reviews on major policy issues impacting the national minimum wage.

Report to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry by the end of February 2008.

The Government consider it inappropriate for the Low Pay Commission to review apprentice and pre-apprentice exemptions at this time, as the Government are currently consulting on plans to raise the participation age in education, which includes plans to expand apprenticeships.

Royal Mail and Post Office Limited

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Jim Fitzpatrick): I answered a Parliamentary Question from my hon. friend the Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) on, 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 697W. I would add that Articles 22 and 27 of the Services Directive do require the United Kingdom to impose some obligations upon service providers. The definition of service providers is broad and would be likely to include Royal Mail and Post Office Limited

Article 22 obliges member states to ensure that service providers such as Royal Mail and Post Office Limited make certain information available to service recipients. The information required to be made available is set out in Article 22(1). Additional information of the type set out in Article 22(3) must be provided at the recipient's request. The information required must be made available in a clear and unambiguous manner and in good time before the conclusion of the written contract or the provision of the service. Article 27 of the Services Directive obliges the United Kingdom to take the general measures necessary to ensure that service providers, such as Royal Mail and Post Office Limited, provide contact details to which recipients can send a complaint or a request for information about the service provided. The United Kingdom is also obliged to ensure that service providers respond to complaints within the shortest possible time and make their best efforts to find a satisfactory solution. Service providers will need to demonstrate compliance with these information requirements and demonstrate that the information provided is accurate.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I have today published a consultation paper setting out the Government's draft proposals on the detail of the environmental and sustainability reporting requirements for the proposed Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO). Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The consultation closes on 13 September 2007.

The consultation seeks views on matters such as:

the scope and format of monthly and annual reports;

the verification requirements; and

the default values to be used to calculate the carbon savings offered by different biofuels where specific data is not available.

Final decisions on the precise reporting requirements will be a matter for the Office of the Renewable Fuels Agency which will be established by the RTFO Order as the Administrator of the RTFO.

The RTFO's carbon and sustainability reporting requirements are a necessary first step on the road to linking the issue of certificates with mandatory carbon saving and sustainability requirements. In the light of

the responses we have received to our earlier consultation on the design of the RTFO and the recent G8 communiqué which reinforces the need to establish international biofuel quality standards and avoid the possible negative side effects of biofuel development, I am today announcing that the Government:

aims to reward biofuels under the RTFO in accordance with the carbon savings that they offer from April 2010, provided that this is compatible with World Trade Organisation rules and EU technical standards requirements, and is consistent with the policy framework being developed by the European Commission as part of the review of the biofuels directive, and subject to consultation on its environmental and economic impacts.

aims to reward biofuels under the RTFO only if the feedstocks from which they are produced meet appropriate sustainability standards from April 2011, subject to the same provisos and consultation as above and subject to the development of such standards for the relevant feedstocks.

will continue to work closely with out partners at a national, European and international level to develop robust standards for ensuring the sustainability of biofuels and to ensure that early consideration is given to the WTO implications of the UK's policy intentions.

will ask the RTFO Administrator to report to the Secretary of State every three months on the effectiveness of the RTFO's environmental reporting mechanisms, and on the carbon and sustainability effects of the RTFO. The Government will keep the RTFO under review in the light of these reports.

intends to set stretching indicative targets for the level of carbon and sustainability performance expected from all transport fuel suppliers claiming certificates for biofuels in the early years of the RTFO. These targets, which are included in the consultation paper we are publishing today, cover:

the level of greenhouse gas savings that we expect to see from the biofuels used to meet the RTFO;

the proportion of those biofuels that we expect to come from feedstocks grown to recognised sustainability standards; and

the amount of specific information that we expect to be included in sustainability reports.

has asked the Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership (LowCVP) to explore the feasibility of a voluntary labelling scheme to allow responsible retailers to show that their biofuels are genuinely sustainable. Any scheme would need to be compatible with WTO rules.

Moving to mandatory carbon saving and sustainability requirements would require changes to the RTFO Order which, under the Energy Act 2004, would be subject to consultation.

The Government will make a further announcement in due course on how they intend to respond to the other issues that stakeholders have raised in response to the February 2007 consultation on the design and future evolution of the RTFO.

Rail Franchising (West Midlands)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Tom Harris): The Department has announced today that London and Birmingham Railway Limited (a subsidiary of Govia) has been awarded the West Midlands franchise. The new franchise will begin on 11 November 2007 and will increase capacity, improve performance and begin the introduction of smartcard technology by 2010.

The West Midlands franchise combines the current Silverlink County services between London Euston and Northampton with the West Midlands local and regional service groups of Central Trains,. The department will pay a subsidy of £1,127 million over the seven-year 10-month franchise.

From December 2008, the franchise will operate new services as a result of extra capacity created by the £8.1 billion upgrade of the West Coast Main Line, including a new hourly semi-fast service between London and Crewe and extra services from Birmingham to Liverpool and Northampton. The franchise also delivers 217 new carriages by April 2010, as part of the Government's 1,000 new carriages on the network. They will replace existing rolling stock which will be freed for use in other parts of the country. The agreement also demands improved performance of 90.7 per cent punctuality by the end of the franchise.

The Government will continue to limit annual rises for regulated fares for the franchise in line with national policy, currently RPI+1 per cent. As with all franchises, unregulated fares are the responsibility of individual operators.

On most routes in the West Midlands franchise area, London and Birmingham Railway Limited proposes to raise such fares by no more than RPI+1 per cent. per annum. However, on the London to Northampton route the operator plans to raise such fares by 3 per cent. over inflation. This change is expected to affect 13 per cent. of total passenger journeys in the franchise area.

A single compensation policy for all passengers will be introduced during replacement rail franchises, commencing with the West Midlands.

With improving Passenger's Charter performance in punctuality and reliability the current discount system means that an increasing number of passengers receive no compensation for delays.

Therefore discounts in renewal for season tickets valid between one month and one year in compensation for poor punctuality and reliability will be replaced by compensation based on delays to individual journeys, known as Delay/Repay. Under the new system, all passengers will be entitled to claim compensation for all delays, whatever their cause:

50 per cent. of the price paid for a single-leg journey delayed by between 30 and 59 minutes;

100 per cent. of the price paid for a single-leg journey delayed by between 60 and 119 minutes; and

100 per cent. of the price paid for a return journey delayed by more than 119 minutes.

The changes will also start to standardise disparate compensation arrangements for single, return and weekly season ticket holders on different train operators.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 4 June 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Sitting Hours

22. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Leader of the House, if he will give further consideration to the sitting hours of the House on Wednesdays; and if he will make a statement. [140285]

Mr. Straw: The present sitting hours for Wednesdays were agreed by the House in October 2002 and were confirmed in January 2005. I have no plans to propose any changes to the current arrangements.

Bills: Programming

25. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Leader of the House, if he will take steps to reduce the number of Bills which are programmed. [140288]

Mr. Straw: I have no plans to do so.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Office; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138378]

Mr. Straw: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons and the House authorities commissioned Domain Technologies to develop a database to allow for the electronic exchange of parliamentary questions between Government departments and the House of Commons (ePC). The current phase of development cost £34,369 (including VAT.), shared between my Office and the House authorities. Domain Technologies have also been engaged to make enhancements to my private office database which manages correspondence and briefing documents. This is at a cost of £14,558 (including VAT.).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farming households there were in England in 2005-06. [138740]

Barry Gardiner: The June Agricultural Survey does not specifically collect data relating to farming households. The following figures show the number of registered holdings in England at June 2005 and 2006.

	Number of holdings in England
2005	195,908
2006	200,381

Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Angling: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much was received from the purchase of fishing rod licences in each of the last five years; [138880]

(2) what the cost of collecting rod licence fees was in each of the last five years, broken down by type of cost. [138881]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details on how much money was received in each of the last five years is given in the table below:

	Rod licence income (£ million)
2002-03	16.1
2003-04	17.7
2004-05	18.6
2005-06	19.7
2006-07	20.5

It is not appropriate to provide details relating to the cost of collecting rod licences at this point because this information is commercially in confidence. The Environment Agency are currently in the middle of procuring a contractor to sell rod licences from April 2009.

The Environment Agency can, however, say that the total costs for collecting licences (commission, printing, systems development, administration etc.) is less than 10 per cent. of the income brought in.

Bluetongue Disease

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many animals from northern France have been refused entry due to blue tongue exclusion rules since 17 April. [137655]

Mr. Bradshaw: Current EU law says that animals originating from, or transiting through, a bluetongue restricted area can be moved only if the member state of destination gives prior authorisation. Current UK policy is not to permit such animals to be moved to the UK. Therefore no animals have been granted entry into the UK from bluetongue affected areas.

Carbon Emissions: Publicity

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on advertising campaigns designed to encourage behavioural change to reduce carbon emissions in each year since 2000. [137582]

Barry Gardiner: Defra was created in 2001, and figures for 2000 from predecessor Departments are not available.

Since 2001, Defra has funded, through the core Department or key delivery partners, a number of campaigns designed to raise awareness, change attitudes and ultimately encourage behaviour change to reduce carbon emissions. Costs of the campaigns are as follows. Where available, a breakdown of the figures is provided.

Core Defra

1. Climate Change Communications Initiative (awareness raising and attitudinal campaign—commenced 2005)

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	[1]1,150,000
2006-07	[2]4,505,000

[1] Figure includes the following elements: Resource cost £477,000. Capital cost £643,000 for film, brochures, website etc. Staff cost £30,000.

[2] Figure includes the following elements: Resource cost £3,645,000. Capital cost £607,000 for film, brochures, website etc. Staff cost 253,000.

2: Act on CO_2 climate change behaviour change campaign

	Amount (£ million)
2006-07	1.1

Carbon Trust

The Carbon Trust, an independent company funded by Defra, spent the following on its marketing campaign.

Carbon Trust

	Expenditure (£)
2000-01	—
2001-02	—
2002-03	[1]700,000
2003-04	3,300,000
2004-05	3,600,000
2005-06	3,800,000

[1] The Carbon Trust was formed in 2001-02 but did not begin marketing activity until 2002-03. Figure for 2002-03 is total marketing expenditure. Figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 represent expenditure on awareness campaigns.

Note:

Figures for resource breakdown are not available as Carbon Trust do not distinguish between these categories in the funding information they provide to Defra.

Energy Saving Trust

The Energy Saving Trust, an independent company funded by Defra, spent the following on its "Energy Efficiency" Consumer Marketing Campaign.

Energy Saving Trust

	Expenditure (£)
2000-01	[1]4,208,000
2001-02	6,542,000
Staff	(488,000)
Resource	(6,054,000)
2002-03	5,742,000
Staff	(487,000)
Resource	(5,255,000)
2003-04	6,038,000
Staff	(560,000)
Resource	(5,478,000)

Energy Saving Trust

	Expenditure (£)
2004-05	[2]8,453,000
Staff	(547,000)
Resource	(7,906,000)
2005-06	5,946,000
Staff	(511,000)
Resource	5,435,000

[1] Figures for 2000-01 show advertising expenditure only and include a small amount of Scottish Executive support.

[2] Figures for 2004-05 have been updated as the previous figures supplied for PQ 0622 (March 2005) were an estimated outturn including a separate campaign to promote energy efficiency in the run-up to the start of the Energy Efficiency Commitment for 2005-08.

Cattle: Exports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many live young calves were exported from the UK in each of the last five years; and to which destinations. [138784]

Mr. Bradshaw: No cattle were exported before May 2006 due to the EU BSE related ban. This ban was lifted on 3 May 2006.

The number of cows exported in 2006, from the UK to the EU, is set out in the table. Romania was the only country outside the EU to which cattle were exported during 2006; they joined the EU on 1 January 2007.

Data are available only for cattle as the data source does not differentiate between calves and adult cattle.

Destination country	*Number of cows exported in 2006*
Netherlands	82,612
Belgium	28,626
France	9,237
Italy	2,706
Spain	20,937
Ireland	7,542
Hungary	250
Estonia	94
Poland	85
Germany	79
Greece	63
Denmark	16
Romania	45

Coastal Areas: Access

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to fulfil his Department's pledge to improve access to the English coast. [139701]

Barry Gardiner: The Government received Natural England's report on coastal access on 28 February in which they recommended that new legislation should be introduced to enable it to align a "coastal access corridor" around the whole English coast that people could enjoy with confidence and certainty. We are currently considering Natural England's report and will shortly launch a public consultation document inviting views on ways of improving access.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135154]

Barry Gardiner: The Civil Service Management Code sets out the requirements for Departments to have procedures in place to deal with grievances. The Defra Grievance Procedures are laid down on the departmental intranet.

The number of formal grievances that were initiated in the core-Department in 2006 was 14.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department and its predecessor held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136867]

Barry Gardiner: From records held centrally, there have been no meetings between Ministers in Defra and Sovereign Strategy. It is not possible, on grounds of disproportionate cost, to answer the question in relation to meetings involving officials.

Floods: West Midlands

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on flood defences in the west Midlands in *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2004 and *(c)* 2006. [140215]

Ian Pearson: The midlands region of the Environment Agency spent the following on flood defences in the requested years:

	£ million
2001	3.82
2004	7.58
2006	10.82

This expenditure is inclusive of capital and maintenance expenditure and includes the flood defence schemes built at Shrewsbury, Bewdley, Kidderminster, Hereford, Cannock and Burton on Trent.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions for the offence of fly-tipping there were in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* the West Midlands Region in each of the last three years. [138251]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of individuals and companies prosecuted in magistrates courts for offences under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (the main offence covering illegal waste disposal) in England in the past three years:

	Prosecutions
2003	785
2004	1,066
2005	1,434

Source:
Criminal Justice Systems Analysis (2007)

The number of prosecutions recorded by local authorities in the West Midlands on Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database, is shown in the following table.

	Prosecutions
2004-2005	22
2005-2006	36

The Flycapture database, which was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, records the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities and details of enforcement action. Data for 2006-07 have not yet been finalised but will be available in the summer.

Fly Tipping: Databases

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps he is taking to encourage local authorities to increase the amount of information they submit to the Flycapture database; [138253]

(2) what the cost is of maintaining the Flycapture database. [138257]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since the Flycapture database was set up in 2004, DEFRA has funded a national data co-ordinator to help and encourage local authorities (LAs) in England to register and to submit regular monthly returns. The national data co-ordinator issues guidance to Flycapture data co-ordinators within LAs, and visits them to help resolve problems and validate data. DEFRA has also held a number of workshops with LAs to raise awareness, and has run Flycapture support group meetings, where good practice and knowledge are shared. We have also worked with the Department for Communities and Local Government to ensure Flycapture is used to monitor LAs' performance on the Best Value Performance Indicator on fly tipping (BV199d).

As a result of this effort, and the hard work of LAs themselves, I am pleased to say that 100 per cent. of LAs in England are registered to use the database and, in 2005-06, 93 per cent. returned 10 or more monthly returns. DEFRA is continuing to encourage the remaining authorities to fulfil their legal requirement in submitting regular monthly returns.

DEFRA provides £159,000 per year to the Environment Agency to maintain and run the Flycapture database. DEFRA also pays for technical improvements. The budget for these in 2007-08 was £50,000. The devolved administrations also contribute funds, since Flycapture covers all parts of the UK.

Freight: Transport

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the relative carbon efficiency of transporting freight by rail and by road. [139748]

Ian Pearson: Making direct comparisons between these types of transport is not straightforward because of the range of factors that impact on fuel efficiency; for example, the size of the vehicle or how heavily laden it is. However, an assessment has been made of the carbon dioxide (CO_2) efficiency of transporting freight by road, rail and other methods. This forms part of the 'Guidelines for Company Reporting on Greenhouse Gas Emissions', published by DEFRA, to assist companies in reporting their carbon emissions. Emissions for freight carried by road (table 1) are based on how full the vehicle is, and conversion factors for CO_2 emissions per tonne kilometre are provided for rail (table 2) and other freight transport types. It is possible to calculate CO_2 emissions from transporting a certain amount of freight by road or rail from these data.

Table 1 Calculation of CO_2 emissions from freight carried by road

Diesel freight road mileage conversion factors

Type of lorry	*Percentage weight laden*	*Total km travelled*	*x*	*litres fuel per km*	*x*	*Fuel conversion factor*	*Total kg CO_2*
Rigid	0		x	0.236	x	2.63	
	25		x	0.262	x	2.63	
	50		x	0.288	x	2.63	
	75		x	0.314	x	2.63	
	100		x	0.340	x	2.63	
Articulated	0		x	0.311	x	2.63	
	25		x	0.345	x	2.63	
	50		x	0.379	x	2.63	
	75		x	0.414	x	2.63	
	100		x	0.448	x	2.63	

Table 2 Calculation of CO_2 emissions from other freight transport

Other freight transport mileage conversion factors

Freight transport mode		*Tonne km*	*x*	*Factor*	*Total kg CO_2*
Rail			x	0.03	
Air	long haul		x	0.57	
	short haul		x	1.58	
Shipping	small roll on-roll off		x	0.06	
	large roll on-roll off		x	0.02	
	small tanker		x	0.04	
	large tanker		x	0.003	
	small bulk carrier		x	0.014	
	large bulk carrier		x	0.007	

Further details are available on the DEFRA website. The guidelines are currently being updated and are scheduled to be published soon.

Grazing Land: Walls and Fences

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration has been given to bringing forward proposals to extend the provisions of the Commons Act 2006 to deal with the issue of straying sheep. [138407]

Barry Gardiner: We do not intend to extend the Commons Act 2006 to deal with straying sheep. On many commons, customary law already requires adjacent landowners to fence against the boundary of the common. This issue was considered during the passage of the Commons Bill, where it was concluded that it would not be appropriate to use legislation to extend this practice to all commons, given that operational needs may differ between commons. The Commons Act provides that fences may be constructed on common land, for example to control the movement of livestock, provided the consent of the Secretary of State is secured.

Landfill

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* number and *(b)* total area was of landfill sites in each region of England in each year since 2002-03. [137894]

Mr. Bradshaw: At the end of 2005 there were approximately 638 active landfill sites in England and Wales, as shown in the following table. Data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are not yet available.

Table 1: Landfill data 2002-05

Region	*2002-03*		*2003-04*		*2004-05*	
	Number of sites	*Total area (m^2)*	*Number of sites*	*Total area (m^2)*	*Number of sites*	*Total area (m^2)*
Anglian	237	42313951.46	241	42697561.83	254	43255123.64
Midlands	164	31843944.73	166	31895730.53	177	32958824.39
North East	269	33226586.03	273	34161987.55	277	34161987.55
North West	145	23849197.01	145	23849197.01	150	23849197.01
Southern	95	222987.775	95	222987.775	96	222987.775
South West	199	19159302.52	201	19159399.04	202	19159485.52
Thames	113	26172713.2	115	26172417.2	121	27113258.84
Wales	63	9758868.415	63	9758868.415	66	9988633.305

The number of sites listed will include inactive sites. The area will include non-active parts of a landfill site. Historical information is not held in one single place and is therefore not 100 per cent. accurate.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the basis is for the policy on the allocation of landfill allowance trading scheme targets for local authorities *(a)* in sustainable communities plan growth areas and *(b)* outside those areas. [139144]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* Landfill allowances were allocated in 2005 to local authorities based on the approach that all waste disposal authorities (WDAs) make the same relative contribution to the landfill directive targets for England, based on their share of municipal waste arisings in 2001-02.

Allowances have been allocated each year from 2004-05 to 2019-20 to provide local authorities with greater certainty for long-term planning. The allocation does not differentiate between local authorities in sustainable communities plan growth areas and local authorities outside those areas. Predictions of future population growth do not provide a sufficient basis of certainty for allocating allowances.

The Government recognise that WDAs located within the Government's specified growth areas may find meeting targets for reducing the amount of biodegradable municipal waste sent to landfill particularly challenging. The flexibilities of trading, banking and borrowing allowed within the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme are intended to give WDAs every opportunity to avoid becoming liable to a financial penalty for failure to comply with limits on landfilling.

Landfill: Pollution

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what value of fines has been issued by courts following successful prosecutions for release of pollution from landfill sites in each year since 2000; how many offences were identified in each year; and what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest fine was in each year; [137653]

(2) what the total was of fines issued by courts following successful prosecutions for release of pollution from landfill sites in each year since 2000; how many offences were recorded in each year; and what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* average and *(c)* lowest fine was in each year. [137895]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the following table. The fines listed are in respect of offences committed under the Water Resources Act s.85 (1), the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) 1990, s.33 (6) and the Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) Regulations, reg. 32 (1) (b). The water offences relate directly to the release of pollutants. With regard to the EPA and PPC offences, the database is not sufficiently refined to pinpoint whether the specific instances relate to release of pollution or to some other violation of the conditions of a licence or permit. The figures provided therefore include, but are not limited to release of pollution.

Prosecution of landfill sites

	Count	Total (£)	High (£)	Low (£)	Average (£)
2000	7	58,000	35,000	1,000	8,286
2001	7	29,750	16,000	1,750	4,250
2002	6	57,000	17,000	5,000	9,500
2003	4	7,000	6,000	1,000	1,750
2004	7	110,500	33,500	3,000	15,786
2005	3	49,500	42,000	2,500	16,500
2006	3	42,000	25,000	2,000	14,000

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* complaints, *(b)* court actions and (c) fines there were against landfill sites for problems related to (i) odours, (ii) water pollution, (iii) air pollution and (iv) human health impact (1) in England and (2) in each region of England in each year since 2001-02, what the locations were of the sites against which each fine was levied; and what the level of fine was in each case. [137873]

Mr. Bradshaw: As it is quite lengthy, I am arranging for copies of the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

Milk: Prices

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit a dairy farm in Kettering constituency to discuss farmgate milk prices. [138053]

Barry Gardiner: I am unable to accept the hon. Member's kind invitation on this occasion. However, my Ministerial colleagues and I regularly discuss issues affecting the dairy sector with industry and farming representatives and visit a wide variety of farms across the country.

The Government believe that the setting of milk prices is a commercial matter to be resolved by private negotiation which should take place within the parameters set by competition law. We believe the market must determine prices.

Pollution: Fines

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been levied in fines by local authorities for incidences of pollution against *(a)* companies, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* individuals for each type of pollution incidence (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) for each fine in each financial year since 1998-99. [137891]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total value of fixed penalty notices (FPNs), issued by English regions for noise related offences in 2004-05 and 2005-06, is shown in the following table.

	Fine total (£)	
Region	2004-05	2005-06
South East	100	100
North West	4	—
North East	56	1,500

Region	Fine total (£) 2004-05	2005-06
West Midlands	1,500	—
East of England	2	—
Yorkshire and Humber	—	100
Total	1,672	1,700

The Department does not hold data for offences from 1998 to 2003, or whether FPNs were issued to companies or private individuals.

The Clean Air Act provides for fines for various offences which are all enforced by local authorities through magistrate courts. However, DEFRA does not collect these data.

For contaminated land, part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides for fines, levied through the courts, where a person fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any of the requirements of a remediation notice. Any convictions for such offences are contained on a register maintained by the enforcing authority. DEFRA does not collect these data centrally.

Total fines imposed by the courts for offences under the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations, where local authorities are the regulator, are shown as follows. Data are only available from 2000.

Region	Fines imposed (£) 2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
North East	—	—	—	—	—	—
North West	—	—	500.00	23,000.00	475.00	22,500.00
Yorks and Humberside	5,500.00	10,500.00	9,500.00	4,500.00	—	4,500.00
West Midlands	2,000.00	15,000.00	—	—	237,820.00	23,000.00
East Midlands	—	—	4,000.00	30,000.00	8,000.00	—
East of England	72,400.00	—	2,500.00	—	2,000.00	—
Wales	—	8,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	—	750.00
London	—	—	21,116.00	—	—	—
South East	—	29,000.00	—	—	—	—
South West	7,250.00	—	—	—	—	—
Total	87,150.00	62,500.00	39,616.00	59,500.00	248,295.00	50,750.00

Again, a more detailed breakdown of this information is not available.

Further data on fines levied by local authorities for other pollution incidents could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

State Veterinary Service

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff worked at the (i) State Veterinary Service, (ii) Dairy Hygiene and Egg Marketing Inspectorates and (iii) Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service in each of the last 12 months. [135504]

Mr. Bradshaw: The figures requested are as follows:

(i) State Veterinary Service

	Permanent	Temporary
April 2006	1,282.2	107.0
May 2006	1,268.3	115.7
June 2006	1,261.8	122.9
July 2006	1,267.4	130.7
August 2006	1,302.0	105.5
September 2006	1,300.5	95.5
October 2006	1,268.7	128.9
November 2006	1,274.2	125.9
December 2006	1,278.0	123.9
January 2007	1,289.4	135.4
February 2007	1,297.0	144.2
March 2007	1,301.8	154.8

(ii) Dairy Hygiene Inspectorates

	Permanent	Temporary
April 2006	39.9	2.5
May 2006	40.3	3.5
June 2006	41.3	3.5
July 2006	41.3	3.5
August 2006	41.3	3.3
September 2006	40.3	1.5
October 2006	39.1	5.1
November 2006	42.6	4.1
December 2006	38.9	3.1
January 2007	37.8	3.6
February 2007	36.7	4.6
March 2007	35.5	5.6

(ii) Egg Marketing Inspectorate

	Permanent	Temporary
April 2006	38.7	0.5
May 2006	38.7	0.5
June 2006	38.7	0.5
July 2006	38.7	0.5
August 2006	38.7	0.5
September 2006	38.7	0.5
October 2006	36.7	0.5
November 2006	36.7	0.5
December 2006	36.7	0.5
January 2007	35.7	0.5
February 2007	35.7	0.5
March 2007	35.7	0.5

(iii) Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service

	Permanent	Temporary
April 2006	27.6	6.0
May 2006	25.8	8.0
June 2006	25.8	8.0
July 2006	27.8	7.0
August 2006	27.8	6.0
September 2006	28.6	6.0
October 2006	29.6	5.0
November 2006	29.0	6.0
December 2006	30.0	5.0
January 2007	30.1	4.0
February 2007	30.1	4.0
March 2007	31.1	3.0

Waste Management

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* incentives and *(b)* penalties his Department has put in place to encourage local authorities to reduce their waste collection volumes. [138929]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The amount of waste collected from households per head is measured under local authority (LA) Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 84a.

BVPIs have statutory performance targets and are monitored by the Audit Commission. As a standardised suite of performance indicators, BVPIs help central Government and the public to monitor, analyse and compare the achievements of a local authority.

Action to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first instance, and therefore collected by local authorities, is driven by regional and local strategies and supported by nationally funded programmes.

In addition, the Government are providing funding and support to local authorities to help them promote and develop more sustainable waste management practices such as recycling, reuse and waste minimisation.

The Waste Minimisation Programme run by the Defra-funded Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) is working to stem the growth of household waste. This is part of a package of measures to enable the UK to meet the requirements of the landfill directive and move towards sustainable waste management.

As part of the Waste Minimisation Programme, WRAP is working with 13 major retailers to reduce the amount of waste from supermarkets. This includes looking at ways to redesign packaging as well as providing support for research and development into waste minimisation. It is also working with local authorities to establish greater participation in recycling and home composting. This is achieved by WRAP through a variety of means, for example through local authority advice and training; food waste collection trials with selected local authorities; funding support for local authority campaigns to boost recycling participation in their areas; and a targeted National Home Composting Programme.

The review of England's Waste Strategy, due to be published on 24 May will also put forward a range of measures to reduce household waste and build on recent improvements in household recycling. The consultation on the review proposed target increases for household waste recycling to 40 per cent. by 2010, 45 per cent. by 2015 and 50 per cent. by 2020.

Local authorities have received £45 million in 2005-06, £105 million in 2006-07 and £110 million in 2007-08 under the waste performance and efficiency grant to help them develop new and more efficient ways to deliver waste reduction and increase recycling.

There are no specific penalties to encourage local authorities to reduce their collected waste volumes. The Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) places limits on the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that local authorities can landfill. Local authorities that exceed limits are liable to a penalty of £150 per tonne. Minimising municipal waste arisings helps local authorities meet their LATS obligations and so avoid penalties.

Wastes: Transport

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of UK recyclable waste was exported to *(a)* China and *(b)* other countries by (i) ship and (ii) other forms of transport in the latest year for which figures are available; what tonnage this represented; and what controls or restrictions are placed on the end disposal of exported waste. [138121]

Mr. Bradshaw: Where non-hazardous waste (such as separated recyclables) are exported, they are generally subject only to commercial controls, not to the prior notification and consent procedures which apply to exports of hazardous waste. They are, therefore, not notified and precise data are not available. However, HM Revenue and Customs' indicative overseas trade statistics show that, of the waste metal, paper, plastic and glass cullet and their associated scraps exported from the UK in 2006, 19 per cent. was destined for China. The tonnages for China that year were 2,430,618 against a figure for all exports of 12,735,753.

We are unable to provide exact data on the method of transport used to export waste. However, most waste is transported by sea. Until it reaches the UK port, this transport would probably be by road. Upon reaching its port of destination, the method of transport is likely to be road, rail or inland waterway. Air transport is generally uneconomic for wastes, given their low cost and bulky characteristics.

Exports of waste from the UK for disposal are prohibited. However, certain non-hazardous wastes such as paper, glass and plastic can be exported for recovery or recycling, provided the wastes are destined for genuine and environmentally sound recovery operations. This would include the management of any minimal residues from recovery that require disposal. Such disposal would also need to be consistent with environmentally sound management in any country of destination.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Expenditure

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* travel, *(b)* accommodation and *(c)* hospitality in relation to those people funded by the Northern Ireland Office to attend the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in the United States in each year since 1997; and how many people attended at his Department's expense in that period. [129647]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is shown in the following table:

	Number attending	Travel cost (£)	Accommodation and hospitality cost (£)
2001	7	[1]	[1]
2002	6	[1]	[1]
2003	[2]	23,174.88	[2]
2004	5	51,695.80	[1]
2005	5	27,945.29	[1]
2006	5	[2]	[2]
2007	4	24,697.20	[3]

[1] Information is not readily available except at disproportionate cost.
[2] Not all the costs associated with the officials and representatives travelling from Northern Ireland to events at the Whitehouse around 17 March 2006 are known. However the following can be advised:
Travel—£41,054.20;
Accommodation—£2,736.00;
Other—£1,765.00
These costs relate to expenses occurred in respect of the Secretary of State and officials from the Northern Ireland Office and the devolved Administration.
[3] Invoice/accounts not yet available.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on advertising by his Department in each of the last five years. [139533]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has spent the following on advertising in each of the last five years:

	Advertising (£)
2002-03	570,781
2003-04	353,114
2004-05	548,451
2005-06	159,146
2006-07	190,204

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138453]

Mr. Hain: As at 1 April 2007, the agencies and consultancies shown in the following table are undertaking work commissioned by my Department and its agencies. The table also provides information on the purpose and cost of each commission.

Details of agencies undertaking work	Purpose of commission	Cost of commission (£)
Grafton Recruitment Agency	State Pathologist Department, medical personal secretary vacancy	10.97 hourly rate plus agency fee
Tim Lewis Recruitment	Development of electronic authorisation and knowledge maps	10,000 estimated cost for 2007-08
	Provision of causeway Team Leader	Not available, staff substitution ongoing
Grafton Recruitment	Staff substitution	69,000 cost for 2007-08
	Organisational development	30,000 cost for 2007-08
Mr. Scott	Forensic accountancy advice, consultation and court attendance	60,000 per annum
T&S International Training and Consultancy Partnership	Consultancy and training on quality management	20,000 estimated cost for 2007-08
Ben Lee	Human Rights Consultant	19,200 for 2007-08
Collin Burrows	Advisor to UK Steering Group examining alternative policing approaches to the management conflict	217,778.80 from 2002-03 to date
Karolyn Cooper	Drafting of legislation	117,778.80 from 2001-02 to date
Odgers Ray and Berndtson	Executive search and advertising for Police Ombudsman appointment process	Not yet known
Deloitte Total Reward and Benefits Ltd.	Cross borders senior police officer pension transfers	37,451.95 from 2005-06 to date
DOMILL/DSTL	Review of AEP/taser (children and vulnerable adults)	Nil to date
Dr. Gaston	Specialist adviser on new consultant contracts	Hourly rate 56.70
Mott MacDonald Ltd.	FSNI new accommodation project, project management and technical design services	Daily rates apply
Watson Napier Consulting	Project management and technical design advice	3,000 estimate for 2007-08
Anderson Spratt	Contracted PR advice	40,000 estimate for 2007-08
	Public relations support	15,000 estimated cost for 2007-08

Details of agencies undertaking work	Purpose of commission	Cost of commission (£)
Computer Research Associates	Configuration of ICIS downloads for the purpose of statistical analysis of prosecution, conviction and sentencing data	15,000 cost for 2007-08
Biznet	Development of individual victims and witnesses walkthrough website	10,000 cost for 2007-08
Parasol	Process re-engineering and implementation of IT service desk	55,000 estimated cost for 2007-08
Jenkinson Consultancy	IIP advice	2,500 estimated cost for 2007-08
PricewaterhouseCoopers	Accountancy Advice (FRS 17)	2,500 estimated cost for 2007-08
Nicholson and Bass Ltd. on behalf of McCadden Design	Printing and folding of "Don't Discount Crime" postcards	4,838
Peninsula Print and Design	Design and printing of HIPA scheme leaflets	426
	Design and printing of crime prevention and home safety tips for older people	1,298
Coppernoise	Design and production of two pop-ups for message in a bottle campaign	695
DTZ Consultancy	Evaluation of the implementation of ASBOs	30,000 to date, further expenditure expected
Social and Market Research	Research into the views and experiences of people involved in Neighbourhood Watch schemes in NI	8,325
Peter Leitch Consultancy Ltd.	Provision of Programme Manager	Not available, staff substitution ongoing
Kairos	Organisational development	17,000 cost for 2007-08
Community Dialogue	Research project	29,900 cost for 2007-08
Whitewater Grafton	Organisational development	12,251 cost for 2007-08
Watts and Partners	Economic Appraisal and Feasibility Study	75,000 per annum up to 2010
Newell and Budge	IT Project and Programme management	15,176 cost for 2007-08
DJ Thompson	Organisational development	53,000 cost for 2007-08
BDP	Architectural/Planning	15,000 cost for 2007-08
Aedas	Architectural/Planning	19,617 cost for 2007-08
OHS DHSS	Staff substitution	64,000 cost for 2007-08
Hayes Construction and Property	Staff substitution	215 one day per week
RPS	Architectural/Planning	7,250 cost for 2007-08
Office of Government Commerce	IT application development	18,000 cost for 2007-08
Healthy Buildings International	Research Project	4,000 cost for 2007-08
Sean McConville, Queen May and Westfield College	Quality Accreditation	12,000 cost for 2007-08
Scrutiny Panel	Architectural/Planning	1,700 cost for 2007-08
Quest Consulting	Strategic management	10,000 cost for 2007-08
BT	IT security services	7,050 cost for 2007-08
BDO	Economic appraisal	72,000 cost for 2007-08
Carecall	Staff substitution	60,000 cost for 2007-08

Note:
This information does not include the Public Prosecution Service for Northern Ireland.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139218]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office has not received any notification from the Information Commissioner's Office in relation to a breach of the Data protection Act 1998.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139391]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs, has spent the following on legal fees in each of the last five years:

	Legal fees (£)
2002-03	5,494,196
2003-04	5,563,934
2004-05	6,977,043
2005-06	7,295,364
2006-07	10,821,790

Legal fees for the NIO have risen substantially in 2006-07, mainly due to expenditure by the Public Prosecution Service on the Omagh bomb trial, and also on the trial of James Fulton and his associates, which proved to be the longest murder trial in NI history. These two cases alone have accounted for an increase in legal expenditure of £2 million. Scale fees for counsel also increased in April 2006, the first increase in a number of years, and this also contributed to overall increase in 2006-07.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139310]

Mr. Hain: The following table provides information on the proceeds received from the sale of Northern Ireland Office (NIO) property in each of the last five years.

£

Financial year	*NIO property/land*	*Proceeds from sale*
2002-03	NIO residential property	74,500
	NIO residential property	74,500
	NIO residential property	115,000
		264,000
2003-04	NIO residential property	145,000
		145,000
2004-05	NIO residential property	96,000
	NIO residential property	94,000
	NIO residential property	105,000
	NIO residential property	98,000
	NIO residential property	200,000
	NIO residential property	98,500
	NIO residential property	102,000
	NIO residential property	97,000
	NIO residential property	175,000
	NIO residential property	156,000
	NIO residential property	91,500
	NIO residential property	160,000
	NIO residential property	208,500
	NIO residential property	193,000
		1,874,500
2005-06	NIO residential property	104,000
	NIO residential property	97,000
	NIO residential property	100,000
	NIO residential property	600,000
	NIO residential property	470,000
	NIO residential property	135,000
	NIO residential property	600,000
	NIO residential property	151,000
	NIO residential property	159,500
	NIO residential property	160,000
	NIO residential property	172,000
	NIO residential property	158,000
	NIO residential property	146,000
	NIO residential property	125,000
	NIO residential property	105,000
	NIO residential property	165,500
	NIO residential property	165,500
	NIO residential property	112,770
	NIO residential property	137,500
	NIO residential property	125,000
	NIO residential property	135,000
	NIO residential property	137,500
		4,261,270
2006-07	NIO residential property	230,000
	NIO residential property	196,000
	NIO residential property	380,000
	NIO residential property	250,000
	NIO residential property	297,500
	NIO residential property	205,000
	NIO residential property	137,500
		1,696,000

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was received by the Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139330]

Mr. Hain: The Northern Ireland Office does not let any of its properties.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what properties the Department has *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139350]

Mr. Hain: The following figures provide information on properties owned and rented by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) over the last five years.

(a) Properties owned by the NIO

	Number
2002-03	5
2003-04	72
2004-05	71
2005-06	57
2006-07	34

(b) Properties rented by the NIO

	Number
2002-03	62
2003-04	70
2004-05	68
2005-06	76
2006-07	93

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139372]

Mr. Hain: Northern Ireland Office (NIO) property, excluding its Agencies and NDPBs, is valued at 1 April 2007 as per Valuation and Land Agency valuations. The following table lists the buildings and their net book values.

Building	*Value as at 1 April 2007 (£)*
NIO Residential Property	112,413
NIO Residential Property	185,150
NIO Residential Property	244,663
NIO Residential Property	185,150
NIO Residential Property	198,375
NIO Residential Property	198,375
NIO Residential Property	211,600
NIO Residential Property	257,888
NIO Residential Property	231,438
NIO Residential Property	218,213
NIO Residential Property	92,575
NIO Residential Property	99,188
NIO Residential Property	112,413
NIO Residential Property	119,025
NIO Residential Property	132,250
NIO Residential Property	85,963
NIO Residential Property	99,121
NIO Residential Property	85,896
NIO Residential Property	244,663
NIO Residential Property	119,025
NIO Residential Property	191,762
NIO Residential Property	211,600
NIO Residential Property	198,375
NIO Residential Property	165,313
Mounteden Storage Facility	156,060
Maryfield Offices	3,264,509
Hillsborough Castle®	81,767,925
Total net book value	89,188,928.00

Departments: Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on overseas travel in each year since 1997. [135021]

Mr. Hain: My Department spent the following amounts on foreign air travel in the years detailed.

	£
2002-03	131,677.28
2003-04	137,261.12
2004-05	229,339.64
2005-06	158,454.14
2006-07	179,313.94

Overseas accommodation and transportation is arranged through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Details of the associated costs are not held centrally within the NIO and could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information prior to 2002-03 is not available.

Motoring Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what procedures are in place for recovering penalties imposed for road traffic offences committed in Northern Ireland by drivers whose vehicles are registered *(a)* in other parts of the United Kingdom and *(b)* in other European countries; and how much in penalty fines was recovered from drivers whose vehicles are registered (i) in other parts of the United Kingdom and (ii) in other European countries in each of the last six years. [129648]

Paul Goggins: Drivers from other parts of the UK are pursued in the same manner as drivers from Northern Ireland. Fixed penalty staff are tasked to make proactive inquiries to locate offenders and facilitate payment of the fines. Since 11 October 2004 there has been mutual recognition of GB and NI driving licences, thereby allowing penalty points to be attached to the respective licences through the fixed penalty process. Motorists who fail to pay the applicable fine are either 'Fine registered' and liable to arrest (in the case of 30 tickets) or summoned to appear at court (in the case of 60 tickets).

Since the introduction of mutual recognition of GB and NI driving licences on 11 October 2004, the following sums have been recovered from fixed penalty notices issued to GB drivers:

	£
2004	4,200
2005	34,860
2006	33,240

Note: Figures prior to this date are not available

Fixed penalty notices are not issued to drivers from other EU countries, rather they are likely to be arrested and charged to the next available court, subject to the seriousness of the offence committed.

Nuclear Power Stations

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the White Paper, Meeting the Energy Challenge, what consideration is being given by the Government to siting a new nuclear power station in Northern Ireland. [140112]

Mr. Hain: Although responsibility for nuclear energy remains an excepted matter under the terms of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, any proposal to build a new nuclear power station in Northern Ireland would require planning permission under Northern Ireland legislation and this would therefore be a matter for the Northern Ireland Administration.

I have previously made it clear that I would not favour a nuclear power station.

Remedial Education

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many children in Northern Ireland have been referred to the reading centre for remedial education from each parliamentary constituency. [115270]

Mr. Hain: This matter is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Sexual Offences

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the timescale for the introduction of legislation on the reform of sexual offences in Northern Ireland. [139698]

Maria Eagle: We hope to bring forward draft proposals for legislation on the reform of sexual offences law in Northern Ireland later this year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Freedom of Information

20. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, what the evidential basis was for the statement in the guidance issued by the House authorities on freedom of information that a "public authority may be required to release a copy of Members' correspondence if it receives a relevant request". [140283]

Nick Harvey: Following requests for advice from Members about their constituency correspondence held by public authorities including health trusts, House officials issued guidance in December 2005. The guidance was based on the requirements placed on public authorities by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Unless an exemption applies the public authority must respond to requests for information by confirming or denying it holds relevant material and, where held, providing a copy.

In practice an exemption (e.g. for personal or confidential information) may apply to the whole or part of such correspondence. The public authority is required to take a view on each case.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much was spent by the Commission on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139399]

Nick Harvey: Details of legal fees are readily available for the last four years only following a change in the accounting system in 2003. The amounts spent on external legal advice were:

	£
2003-04	108,158
2004-05	108,921
2005-06	293,025
2006-07	134,515

WORK AND PENSIONS

Incomes: Pensioners

12. **Kelvin Hopkins:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will undertake comparisons of minimum pensioner incomes across the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [140306]

James Purnell: It is difficult to make meaningful comparisons between minimum pensioner incomes in different countries. But for people on low incomes the UK provides one of the best systems of support in Europe replacing 78 per cent. of previous income. In 2005 the OECD concluded that "including benefits from private voluntary schemes, replacement rates in the United Kingdom are a little higher than the OECD average across the earnings range".

Carer's Allowance

13. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future provision of the carer's allowance. [140302]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government recognise the extremely valuable contribution made by carers.

We have made substantial improvements to the benefits available to carers including abolition of the age limit which precluded carers aged 65 and over from claiming carer's allowance, and we will continue to look at ways in which carers can be supported.

Occupational Pensions: Compensation

17. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if his Department will consider uprating the level of compensation payable to those who suffered financial losses when their occupational pension schemes were wound-up. [140308]

James Purnell: The Government have reviewed the money available for the FAS, and in March my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced a substantial package of additional public funding so that members of pension schemes that were wound up underfunded due to employer insolvency will receive significant assistance of up to 80 per cent.

Bereavement Benefits

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were entitled to bereavement benefits in the last year for which figures are available; and how many people claimed them. [140230]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. No information is available on the number of people who may be entitled to bereavement benefit, but are not receiving it. As at November 2006, the most recent available information, there were 57,130 people in receipt of bereavement benefit.

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps are taken to draw the attention of bereaved people to the availability of bereavement benefits. [140231]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 153W.

Carers' Allowances: Dystonia

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of the extreme variability of attack of spasmodic torticollis (dystonia) on care component payments for sufferers from the condition. [140480]

Mrs. McGuire: Entitlement to the care component or mobility component of disability living allowance is not linked to particular disabling conditions, but on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability.

People with spasmodic torticollis can qualify for the allowance if they satisfy the rules which govern entitlement most of the time. Advice is available in the Disability Handbook to decision makers on the variability of care and mobility needs that can result from this condition, and other forms of dystonia.

The Disability Handbook is maintained and updated on an ongoing basis by medical advisors in the health, work and wellbeing directorate and is available on the DWP website:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/#guides

Child Support

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what increase in the number of deduction from earning orders was anticipated following the introduction of the Child Support Agency's operational improvement plan; and what increase there has been to date. [129820]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 31 May 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what increase in the number of deduction from earning orders was anticipated following the introduction of the Child Support Agency's operational improvement plan; and what increase there has been to date.

In the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan we committed to using deduction from earnings orders earlier, and more frequently, for those who either default on other payment arrangements or indicate that they are unlikely to pay.

The Agency's data shows that there was a steady increase of approximately 7,000 in the number of Deduction from Earnings Orders (DEOs) recorded, from around 159,000 in March 2006 to around 166,000 in November 2006. However, following an exercise to validate this data, a long term accumulation of approximately 8,500 ineffective DEOs (cases where employers had informed the Agency that the non-resident parent on that case was no longer in their employment) were suspended pending investigation. The recorded number of DEOs then fell to around 158,000 in December 2006. These figures also include Deduction from Earnings Requests (DERs) as the two cannot be disaggregated for old scheme cases. A Deduction from Earnings Request is the Armed Forces equivalent of a DEO.

Since the launch of the Operational Improvement Plan payments via direct debit and standing order have shown a steady increase, with payments by direct debit up around 4,000 since December 2005, and payment by standing order also up by around 7,000 in the same period. Further, the number of non-resident parents who have their maintenance deducted directly from benefits payments has also risen by 27,000 in this period.

Children: Maintenance

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average difference in child support payments is between those on the pre-2003 system and those on the new system in similar circumstances. [131818]

Mr. Plaskitt: When applying the new scheme formula to a sample of cases on the old scheme, it is estimated that the maintenance liability is on average around £2 lower under the new scheme rules than the old scheme.

Source:

Child Support Computer System 5 per cent. extract, December 2006.

Disability Living Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of claims for disability living allowance made by *(a)* telephone, *(b)* post and *(c)* an online claim form have taken (i) up to four weeks and (ii) four or more weeks from receipt of claim to payment of benefit in the last 12 months; [140392]

(2) what the average period of time was between receipt of a claim for attendance allowance and payment of benefit for claims made by *(a)* telephone, *(b)* post and *(c)* an online claim form in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) Scotland, (iv) Wales, (v) each English region and (vi) each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 months. [140394]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not recorded in a format which would allow us to answer the questions.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received incapacity benefit in 2005-06. [136150]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in Great Britain at quarters shown

2005	
February	2,799,870
May	2,783,720
August	2,767,740
November	2,752,900
2006	
February	2,747,790
May	2,730,000
August	2,724,980

Notes: 1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Figures include incapacity benefit credits-only cases.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Incapacity Benefit: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Copeland were registered for incapacity benefit in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007. [138634]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested.

As at November 1997, there were 4,500 people in Copeland claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance. As at November 2006, there were 4,250 people in Copeland claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance. These figures include those receiving national insurance credits only.

Industrial Accidents

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fatalities at work were recorded in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how many have been recorded in 2007. [138302]

Mrs. McGuire: Statistics relating to work place fatalities and injuries are collected on the basis of financial year, from April to March. They are published annually for the previous year each summer. Six month provisional figures are made available via the Health and Safety Executive website. Figures for 2004-05, 2005-06 and the first six months of 2006-07 are set out in the following table. Final figures for the whole of 2006-07 should be published in July.

Number of fatal injuries notified to all enforcing authorities[1], across all industries

Year[2]	*2004-05* *1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005*	*2005-06[3]* *1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006*	*2006-07[3] (six months)* *1 April 2006 to 31 September 2006*
Employment status			
Workers[4]	223 (5)	212 (5)	124 (5)
Members of the public[5]	370 (285[6])	384 (290[6])	194 (141[6])

[1] Enforcing authorities include; HSE; local authorities; and the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Although ORR has enforced railway safety since 1 April 2006, there is still a requirement under RIDDOR to report certain incidents. RIDDOR (the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995) is the primary determinant as to whether a fatal accident is included in these figures or not.
[2] The year is defined as a planning year, 1 April to 31 March.
[3] Provisional: these figures are the latest available at the time of publication, and subject to change.
[4] Workers includes employees and the self-employed.
[5] Members of the public are those persons killed as a result of an accident arising out of or in connection with work activity, although they are not 'at work' themselves.
[6] Includes suicides and trespassers on the railways. There were 253 fatal injuries due to suicides and trespassers on railways in 2004-05, 254 in 2005-06—provisional, and 132 in the first six months of 2006-07—provisional.
Note:
Figures in brackets are those reported to the Railways Inspectorate (RI), although included in the 'all-industry' figures above.

Industrial Health and Safety: Noise

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspections the Health and Safety Executive made for compliance with the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [139155]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is only available from the year 2002-03 for those instances where, as part of a HSE Field Operations Directorate inspection, noise was discussed in order to ensure compliance with relevant statutory provisions relating to noise (including the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 and, from 6 April 2006 the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005). The figures for each of the years from 2002-03 are provided as follows. The level of HSE inspection activity on this topic has remained broadly similar as a percentage of total inspections carried out since 2002-03. In the last four years HSE has undertaken fewer, but more focused and longer, inspections targeted at priority areas known to cause the greatest numbers of injuries and cases of ill health (including noise).

Number of HSE inspections made in relation to compliance with statutory provision relating to noise at work

	Number of noise related inspections	*Total number of inspections*	*Noise as percentage of total*
2002-03	10,454	69,628	15
2003-04	8,430	68,604	12
2004-05	7,022	55,195	13

Number of HSE inspections made in relation to compliance with statutory provision relating to noise at work

	Number of noise related inspections	*Total number of inspections*	*Noise as percentage of total*
2005-06	5,318	53,274	10
2006-07	5,591	[1]36,260	15

[1] The total number of inspections for 2006-07 is provisional.

Note:
All data is taken from HSE's work recording systems and the years run from 1 April to 31 March. Figures for the total number of inspections in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are minimum numbers and because of a change to arrangements for recording the number of inspections made during these years are not directly comparable with the numbers for earlier years.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many companies the Health and Safety Executive prosecuted in each of the last 10 years for non-compliance with the Noise at Work Regulations 1989. [139156]

Mrs. McGuire: The following table sets out the number of proceedings instituted by HSE under the Noise at Work Regulations 1989, 1996-97 to 2005-06.

	Number of companies prosecuted
1996-97	—
1997-98	—
1998-99	2
1999-2000	—
2000-01	—
2001-02	—
2002-03	1
2003-04	—
2004-05	—
2005-06	—

Note:
All years run from 1 April to 31 March.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to provide guidance to the music and entertainment industry on the implementation of the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 in April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [139157]

Mrs. McGuire: Representatives of the music and entertainment sectors, with support from the Health and Safety Executive and local authorities, are developing specific, practical advice on controlling noise at work under the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005, which will apply to these sectors from 6 April 2008. The final guidance should be available by February 2008. Employers need information on the simple and straightforward actions they can take to protect workers. Regular exposure to high levels of noise can cause permanent hearing damage which for employees, including musicians and performers, can jeopardise their careers.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many venues on the Public Entertainment Licence Register have been inspected to ensure compliance with the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 in the last 12 months. [139158]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities do not use the Public Entertainment Licence Register as the basis for recording premises inspected to ensure compliance with health and safety legislation. Therefore the information requested is not available.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many venues on the Public Entertainment Licence Register he estimates will be inspected by April 2009 to ensure that they are complying with the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005. [139160]

Mrs. McGuire: The HSE and local authorities do not use the Public Entertainment Licence Register as the basis for planning inspections of premises in relation to compliance with health and safety legislation. Therefore the information requested is not available. Plans for proactive inspection work in 2008-09 have not yet been agreed.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many venues on the Public Entertainment Licence Register have been served staff improvement notices as a result of Health and Safety Executive inspections in relation to the Noise at Work Regulations 1989. [139161]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not record the number of improvement notices issued against venues on the Public Entertainment Licence Register and therefore the information requested is not available. However HSE figures show that between 1996-97 and 2005-06 a total of 1,650 improvement notices were issued by HSE with respect to the Noise at Work Regulations 1989.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were awarded compensation for damage to their hearing from exposure to loud music in nightclubs under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 in each of the last five years. [139163]

Mrs. McGuire: A breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act does not generally give rise to civil liability. However a breach of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 or the Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 may (provided damage results). HSE does not routinely collect information regarding private civil claims for compensation (even when breach of Health and Safety Regulations are the basis of any such claim). Therefore this information is not available except at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentres: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were available through the jobcentres in Copeland in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007. [138637]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the Copeland parliamentary constituency

Financial year	*Number of vacancies*
2004-05	3,220
2005-06	2,250
2006-07	3,050

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information is only available at constituency level from April 2004.
3. Figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

New Deal

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total expenditure was on each New Deal programme for each year since 1997-98. [118798]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

£ million

	New deal for young people	*New deal for 25 plus*	*New deal for young people and new deal 25 plus*	*New deal for 50 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal for disabled people*	*New deal for partners*	*Total*
1997-98	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
1998-99	162	17	—	—	1	—	—	180
1999-2000	282	71	—	1	12	15	—	381
2000-01	293	42	—	45	14	7	1	402
2001-02	219	140	—	82	9	4	2	456
2002-03	221	167	—	82	18	16	—	504
2003-04	264	189	—	41	20	28	—	542
2004-05	254	179	—	3	24	65	1	526
2005-06	—	—	3231	1	26	68	1	419
Total	1,707	805	3231	255	124	203	5	3,422

Notes:
1. There is no split currently available between new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus for 2005-06. The expenditure has been presented as a combined figure until an apportionment is made in the departmental report.
2. Spend data include all new deal programme costs and allowances paid to participants apart from the 50 plus element of the working tax credit. As this is not included, new deal 50 plus costs reduce after 2002-03.
3. Following agreement with HM Treasury in 2002-03, ring fences were removed from new deal. Administrative costs are excluded as it is no longer possible to identify the costs of administering the costs of each new deal separately from the costs of other labour market activities.
4. Expenditure data include start-up costs.
5. Following changes to the new deal 25 plus programme in April 2001 when a mandatory intensive activity period was introduced, programme costs rose significantly.
6. Expenditure for new deal for partners in 2002-03 and 2003-04 is not recorded in the table as, excluding administrative costs, costs were around £300,000 for both years and all figures are rounded to the nearest million. New deal for partners was re-launched in April 2004.
7. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal for partners: April 1999; new deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001 (new deal for disabled people pilots ran from September 1998 to June 2001).
8. Latest figures are to March 2006.

Source:
DWP Departmental Reports 2004-05, Jobcentre Plus Accounts 2005-06

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost was of the new deal programme in each of the years for which figures are available since its inception, broken down by region. [133456]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The information is in the following table.

New deal spend by region/country

£ million

Region	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Total*
East Midlands	—	8	17	18	20	21	20	20	13	136
East of England	—	7	14	14	13	14	16	17	18	112
London	—	11	33	36	39	51	66	77	59	371
North East	—	12	25	28	31	31	32	30	19	207
North West	—	14	37	40	43	43	51	44	39	311
Office for Scotland	—	10	34	40	38	45	46	42	31	286
Office for Wales	—	7	20	23	21	24	23	22	13	154
South East	—	6	12	14	12	15	18	22	23	121
South West	—	9	17	19	18	18	19	21	16	137
West Midlands	—	8	20	22	30	31	33	31	21	196

New deal spend by region/country

£ million

Region	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
Yorkshire and Humberside	—	18	36	39	36	38	37	33	36	273
Non regional[1]	12	70	115	110	155	174	182	168	131	1,118
Total	[2]12	180	381	402	456	504	542	526	419	3,422

[1] Relates to centrally administered expenditure, some of which is spent locally, for example, new deal allowances. Also includes new deal programme research.
[2] Expenditure in the 1997-98 financial year was centrally administered.
Notes:
1. Figures exclude administrative expenditure.
2. Figures are subject to rounding differences and totals may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
Departmental Report up to March 2005;
Jobcentre Plus Accounts to March 2006.

Occupational Pensions

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* all workers contributed to an occupational pension in each of the last 10 years, broken down by gender. [140439]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. Such information as is available is shown in the following table.

Percentage of employees aged 16 and over who are members of current employer's occupational pension scheme by sex[1,2,3]

Percentage

	Unweighted				Weighted					
	1993	1995	1996	1998	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Men full-time	60	58	58	57	55	54	54	55	55	53
Weighted base (000)	—	—	—	—	*11,009*	*11,323*	*11,220*	*10,820*	*10,708*	*10,422*
Unweighted sample (000)	*3,976*	*4,062*	*3,937*	*3,697*	—	*3,558*	*3,881*	*3,709*	*4,427*	*3,649*
Women full-time	54	55	53	56	55	58	58	60	56	56
Weighted base (000)	—	—	—	—	*6,429*	*6,353*	*6,465*	*6,362*	*6,554*	*6,601*
Unweighted sample (000)	*2,239*	*2,331*	*2,143*	*2,244*	—	*2,089*	*2,384*	*2,236*	*2,685*	*2,345*
Women part-time	19	24	26	27	26	31	33	33	33	34
Weighted base (000)	—	—	—	—	*4,628*	*5,059*	*4,990*	*4,963*	*5,044*	*5,182*
Unweighted sample (000)	*1,938*	*2,038*	*1,908*	*1,674*	—	*1,732*	*1,878*	*1,795*	*2,179*	*1,897*

[1] Includes employees temporarily away from a job or on a Government scheme, but excluding unpaid family workers.
[2] Includes a few people who were not sure if they were in a scheme but thought it possible.
[3] Table shows unweighted and weighted figures for 1998 to give an indication of the effect of the weighting. For the weighted data (1998 and 2000 to 2004) the weighted base (000) is the base for percentages. Unweighted data (up to 1998) are based on the unweighted sample.
Source:
General Household Survey, Office for National Statistics

Pension Credit

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants sold their domestic dwelling during the assessment period for the continued payment of pension credit in the last 12 months. [138995]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Pensioners: Overseas Residence

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has in respect of provision for the pension entitlement of British citizens who move to reside in *(a)* Canada, *(b)* Australia and *(c)* New Zealand. [139774]

James Purnell: We have no plans to change the current exportability arrangements for the UK state pension for people who are living in these countries.

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on removing the differential between fully indexed pensions and those pensions frozen because their recipients reside in certain overseas countries. [140484]

James Purnell: We have no plans to change the way we uprate the UK state pension paid to recipients living overseas.

Pensions: Insolvency

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what Government funding has been made available for pensioners whose pension funds have been wound up in the last 10 years. [137053]

James Purnell: The Pensions Act 2004 put in place the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) which provides support to members of defined benefit occupational pension schemes which started to wind up, underfunded, between 1 January 1997 and 5 April 2005. At that time the Government committed the equivalent of £400 million cash of taxpayers' money spread over 20 years.

On 25 May 2006, as part of the White Paper, "Security in Retirement: towards a new pension system", a further £1.9 billion cash was allocated, bringing the total funding to £2.3 billion.

In his Budget speech on 21 March 2007 the Chancellor announced that we now intend to increase total long-term expenditure on the FAS to £8 billion. This equates to more than doubling funding for the scheme in 'present value' terms, from £830 million to £1.9 billion and will allow us to further increase the scope of the payments.

Poverty

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* children and *(b)* pensioners in (i) Hartlepool constituency, (ii) Tees Valley sub-region, (iii) the North East region and (iv) the UK were recorded as living in poverty in each year since 1992. [130892]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised)". The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust estimates below the level of Government Office Region.

The numbers and proportions of children and percentages in households with low incomes, in the North East and Great Britain/United Kingdom for the period 1994-95 to 2005-06, are presented in the following tables 1 to 4 . Estimates are shown Before and After Housing Costs.

The data shown here are for Great Britain from 1994-95 to 1996-97 and for the United Kingdom from 1998-99 onwards.

Please note that the results are based on OECD equivalisation factors, and therefore may differ from previously published statistics which were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Table 1: Children in the North East 1994-95 to 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Number of children living in low income households (millions):		
1994-95 to 1996-97	0.19	0.22
1995-96 to 1997-98	0.20	0.22
1996-97 to 1998-99	0.20	0.23
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.20	0.23
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.19	0.22
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.17	0.20
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.18	0.20
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.17	0.18
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.17	0.19
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.15	0.17
Percentage of children living in low income households:		
1994-95 to 1996-97	32	37
1995-96 to 1997-98	33	38
1996-97 to 1998-99	35	40
1997-98 to 1999-2000	34	40
1998-99 to 2000-01	34	39
1999-2000 to 2001-02	30	35
2000-01 to 2002-03	32	36
2001-02 to 2003-04	30	33
2002-03 to 2004-05	31	34
2003-04 to 2005-06	28	32

Notes:
1. Numbers, for the North East region, are presented using a three-year moving average, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with any previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time. In circumstances such as a change in trend, moving averages will show less variation than single-year estimates.
2. The table shows number of children in millions—rounded to the nearest 10 thousand.
3. In this answer low income is determined for children as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the national median.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 2: Children in Great Britain/United Kingdom 1994-95 to 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Number of children living in low income household (millions):		
1994-95	3.2	4.1
1995-96	3.0	4.2
1996-97	3.4	4.3
1997-98	3.4	4.2
1998-99	3.4	4.4
1999-2000	3.4	4.3
2000-01	3.1	4.1
2001-02	3.0	4.0
2002-03	2.9	3.9
2003-04	2.9	3.7
2004-05	2.7	3.6
2005-06	2.8	3.8
Percentage of children living in low income households:		
1994-95	25	33
1995-96	24	33
1996-97	27	34
1997-98	27	33
1998-99	26	34
1999-2000	26	33
2000-01	23	31

Table 2: Children in Great Britain/United Kingdom 1994-95 to 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
2001-02	23	31
2002-03	23	30
2003-04	22	29
2004-05	21	28
2005-06	22	30

Notes:
1. The table shows number of children in millions.
2. In this answer low income is determined for children as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the national median.
3. Figures from 1998-99 onwards are for the United Kingdom, figures prior to 1998-99 are for Great Britain.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 3: Pensioners in the North East 1994-95 to 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Number of pensioners living in low income households (millions):		
1994-95 to 1996-97	0.12	0.15
1995-96 to 1997-98	0.12	0.15
1996-97 to 1998-99	0.12	0.15
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.13	0.15
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.14	0.14
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.13	0.13
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.12	0.13
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.11	0.11
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.10	0.09
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.09	0.08
Percentage of pensioners living in low income households:		
1994-95 to 1996-97	26	33
1995-96 to 1997-98	26	33
1996-97 to 1998-99	26	32
1997-98 to 1999-2000	28	31
1998-99 to 2000-01	30	31
1999-2000 to 2001-02	28	28
2000-01 to 2002-03	26	27
2001-02 to 2003-04	23	23
2002-03 to 2004-05	22	20
2003-04 to 2005-06	20	17

Notes:
1. Numbers, for the North East region, are presented using a three-year moving average, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes. Hence, figures are not consistent with any previously published single-year estimates and there may be differences in changes over time. In circumstances such as a change in trend, moving averages will show less variation than single-year estimates.
2. The table shows number of pensioners in millions—rounded to the nearest 10 thousand.
3. In this answer low income is determined for pensioners as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the national median.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Table 4: Pensioners in Great Britain/United Kingdom 1994-95 to 2005-06

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Number of pensioners living in low income households (millions):		
1994-95	2.4	2.8
1995-96	2.4	2.8
1996-97	2.4	2.9
1997-98	2.5	2.9
1998-99	2.8	2.9
1999-2000	2.6	2.8
2000-01	2.6	2.7
2001-02	2.6	2.7
2002-03	2.5	2.5
2003-04	2.4	2.2
2004-05	2.3	1.9
2005-06	2.2	1.8
Percentage of pensioners living in low income households:		
1994-95	24	28
1995-96	24	28
1996-97	25	29
1997-98	25	29
1998-99	27	29
1999-2000	25	28
2000-01	25	26
2001-02	25	26
2002-03	24	24
2003-04	23	21
2004-05	21	18
2005-06	21	17

Notes:
1. The table shows number of pensioners in millions.
2. In this answer low income is determined for pensioners as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the national median.
3. Figures from 1998-99 onwards are for the United Kingdom, figures prior to 1998-99 are for Great Britain.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Public Spaces: Accidents

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many legal actions were brought against local and central government authorities as a consequence of accidents in publicly administered space in each year since 1997. [133859]

Mrs. McGuire: This information could be provided, only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to reply to question 116900, on benefit sanctions on lone parents, tabled by the hon. Member for Bradford, North on 16 January 2007. [132549]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I replied to my hon. Friend's question on 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 784W.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners are continuing to draw entitlement under the National Insurance Act 1925. [139541]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available. The Widows', Orphans' and Contributory

Old Age Pensions Act 1936 was repealed by the National Insurance Act 1946. However, the 1946 Act provided that pensions in payment under the repealed legislation immediately prior to 5 July 1948, remained in payment as "contributory old age pensions".

By virtue of the Social Security (Consequential Provisions) Act 1975, those previously entitled to such pensions became entitled to Category A or Category B retirement pensions with effect from 6 April 1975 under the Social Security Act 1975.

Note:

The Widows', Orphans' and Contributory Pensions Act 1925 and subsequent amending legislation were consolidated by the Widow's, Orphans' and Contributory Old Age Pensions Act 1936. Entitlement under the 1936 Act was treated as giving entitlement under subsequent National Insurance Acts.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of 18 to 24-year-olds not in education, employment or training. [140292]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1593W.

Vacancies: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were notified to the jobcentre in Peterborough constituency in each month since January 2005. [139245]

Mr. Jim Murphy: For the period January 2005 to October 2006 I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1870-71W.

The information for the period November 2006 to April 2007 is in the following table.

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency

Month of Notification	*Number of vacancies*
2006	
November	850
December	910
2007	
January	450
February	950
March	520
April	1,000

Notes:

1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Jobcentre Plus boundaries do not match directly to parliamentary constituency boundaries. Therefore, figures quoted are aggregate totals for vacancies notified in the Peterborough parliamentary constituency.
3. Figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Welfare to Work

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many face-to-face meetings David Freud held with outside bodies as part of the research for his review of the welfare system; [135122]

(2) if he will list the outside bodies consulted by David Freud during his review of the welfare system; [135129]

(3) whether David Freud invited written submissions from outside bodies as part of the research for his review of the welfare system. [135297]

Mr. Jim Murphy: During the preparation of his review, David Freud met a variety of external stakeholders, both in face to face meetings and in a seminar environment. He made clear in these discussions that he welcomed contributions. After publication of his report, at the international conference on 26 March 2007, the Secretary of State invited all stakeholders to send in their views to the Department.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many meetings David Freud had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department in preparing his review of the welfare system. [135173]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud involved officials from across the Department in his review and informed Ministers of the progress of his review on eight occasions.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the documents provided to David Freud on the remit and scope of his review; [135178]

(2) what contribution was made by David Freud to decisions on the scope of his review of the welfare system; and if he will make a statement. [135181]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The terms of reference for David Freud's review were published on 18 December 2006. They were

"to review progress on Welfare to Work programmes since 1997, taking account of evidence from the UK and international experience, and make recommendations on how the Government can build on its success in using policies such as the New Deal to continue to reduce inactivity and in-work poverty, and to help meet the Government's 80 per cent employment aspiration."

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a list of the information sources used by David Freud and his team in preparing his review of the welfare system. [135206]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In preparing his report, David Freud used information from a variety of sources, looking at both the UK and international welfare systems. Key information sources re referenced at the relevant points in his report, which has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the total staffing budget available to David Freud for his review of the welfare system was; and what proportion of this budget was available to hire staff from outside his Department; [135220]

(2) how many staff *(a)* from his Department and *(b)* from outside his Department were involved in drafting the final report of David Freud's review of the welfare system, broken down by job title and pay grade; [135224]

(3) what David Freud's involvement was in selecting staff to work on his review of the welfare system; and if he will make a statement; [135225]

(4) how many civil servants from his Department worked on David Freud's review of the welfare system, broken down by civil service grade. [135227]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud involved officials from across the Department in his review and was supported by a secretariat of three officials on a full-time basis and two officials on a part-time basis. The breakdown by civil service grade is illustrated as follows.

Civil service grade	*Full-time basis*	*Part-time basis*
SCS PB1	1	1
Grade 7	1	1
EO	1	—

David Freud selected the Head of his Secretariat from two potential appointees put forward by the Department. The remaining members of the secretariat were assigned to the work by the Department.

No specific budget was allocated for the review. The costs of the staff that formed the secretariat for the review were borne within the Department's overall staffing allocation.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Historic Buildings: Conservation

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what plans the Commissioners have to conserve the Priory Gatehouse in Worksop. [139658]

Sir Stuart Bell: Worksop Priory is an important church founded in 1103. However, the Church Commissioners have not made any plans in relation to its conservation. Such plans are a matter for the individual parishes.

Legal Opinion: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrougl., representing the Church Commissioners how much was spent by the Commissioners on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139410]

Sir Stuart Bell: Legal fees incurred by the Commissioners in the last five years (less income from third parties for legal work, legal fees charged to the Commissioners by external firms and the cost of outsourced legal work) are as follows.

	Total net cost (£)
2002	705,407
2003	763,005
2004	817,502
2005	847,681
2006	850,200

Property: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much was received by the Church Commissioners from the letting of properties in each of the last five years. [139347]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners disclose income from property investments (net of expenses) in their annual report and accounts, a copy of which is placed in the House of Commons Library. The figures for the last five years are as follows.

	£ million
2002	45.2
2003	41.1
2004	38.2
2005	42.5
2006	38.2

Public Relations: Expenditure

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how much was spent by the Commissioners on public relations in each of the last five years. [139414]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commissioners' share of the cost of the National Church Institutions' Communications Department and the cost of producing and printing their annual report (which is not purely a public relations exercise but also a statutory document) have, in the last five years, been as follows.

	Total cost (£)
2002	146,023
2003	124,200
2004	120,724
2005	135,675
2006	168,797

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of redecoration and refurbishment in *(a)* Number 10 Downing street and *(b)* the flat above Number 11 Downing street has been since February 2007, broken down by month. [140005]

Hilary Armstrong: Information will be accounted for in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts when these have been audited.

Charities: Cross Border Co-operation

David Mundell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what joint arrangements the Charity Commissioners and the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator have in place for dealing with cross-border operation of charities between Scotland and England where the charity is based in *(a)* England but operates in Scotland and *(b)* Scotland but operates in England. [138545]

Edward Miliband: The Charity Commission and the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator have published a Memorandum of Understanding which is based on the principles of consultation, co-operation and co-ordination which underpin how they work together. It sets out the circumstances in which the Commission and OSCR will share information and collaborate operationally where a common regulatory approach is required. Both organisations are committed to minimise the burden of dual regulation for those charities which operate across both jurisdictions.

Charities: Public Sector

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government plan to make a public response to the Charity Commissioner's Stand and Deliver report; and if she will make a statement. [139720]

Edward Miliband: Alongside other surveys, the Stand and Deliver report makes a contribution to understanding third sector organisations' attitudes and experiences of public service delivery. The Government will continue to draw on such insights as we develop policy.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 795-96W, on the Delivery Unit, on what dates the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit held stocktake meetings with the Prime Minister in 2007. [139885]

Hilary Armstrong: The Prime Minister speaks at a wide range of meetings and meets with a large range of organisations and as was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 795-6W, on the Delivery Unit, on what dates the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit held stocktake meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer in 2007. [139893]

Hilary Armstrong: The Chancellor of the Exchequer speaks at a wide range of meetings and meets with a large range of organisations and as was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for her Office in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was; [139441]

(2) how much was spent on advertising by her Office in each of the last five years. [139530]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office does not commission consultancy services for advertising campaigns from advertising agencies and has not done so in the last five years. For the cost of advertising I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 6 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 849W.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people with epilepsy are employed by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139102]

Hilary Armstrong: Under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, people have a right to decide if they wish to disclose a disability. These data are stored confidentially and therefore not disclosed.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many of *(a)* her Department's and *(b)* Number 10 Downing street's special advisers were on (i) paid and (ii) unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140117]

Hilary Armstrong: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139322]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office received £4.2 million from the sale of freehold property in 2003-04. No other property was sold in the past five years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was received by her Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139341]

Hilary Armstrong: Information on receipts including rental income is published annually in the Department's accounts.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139385]

Hilary Armstrong: Information on the valuation of the Department's property portfolio is reported in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2005-06, available in the House of Commons Library. Subject to the National Audit Office's annual audit, the Annual Report and Resource Accounts for 2006-07 are expected to be published towards the end of July 2007.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost of leasing departmental buildings and office space was for *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139539]

Hilary Armstrong: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by the Cabinet Office on public relations in each of the last five years. [139417]

Hilary Armstrong: Expenditure on public relations is not separately identifiable on the Cabinet Office Resource Accounting System. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disadvantaged: Nottingham

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress has been made since the visit of her team to Nottingham on 5 March in convening a Joint National-Local Steering Group on Early Intervention in Nottingham; and if she will make a statement. [139872]

Hilary Armstrong: I am keen to support Nottingham's proposals for developing the idea of 'early intervention city'. My officials have already attended a meeting convened by One Nottingham to brief them on the national social exclusion policy context and they have indicated that they will attend quarterly steering groups convened by local partners. Other relevant Departments will also offer support to One Nottingham.

Maternity Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress she has made with plans to develop better health-led support from pre-birth to age two with midwives and nurses referred to in her announcement of 11 September 2006. [140139]

Hilary Armstrong: Following a large number of applications from PCTs and LAs, 10 health-led parenting pilots, based on the extremely successful Nurse-Family Partnership programme, were selected earlier in the year and went live across England on 2 April 2007. These pilots will provide structured and intensive home visiting to disadvantaged mothers from early pregnancy until the child is aged two. The pilot sites are already being successful in recruiting the first families to take part in the programme.

Policy Review

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget is of each of the Policy Review Working Groups. [139562]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 543W.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Defence and Overseas Secretariat received a copy of the Government's Unidentified Aerial Phenomena report. [139719]

Hilary Armstrong: The Defence and Overseas Secretariat has no record of receiving such a report.

V

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how she will assess the effectiveness of Government funding for the v charity. [139721]

Edward Miliband: The independent charity v has made good progress since it was created in May 2006. So far, it has created over 110,000 volunteering opportunities for young people through projects in partnerships with the third, public and private sectors.

The Government assess the effectiveness of the funding provided to v against the recommendations of the Russell Commission report and through regular meetings between v and the Office of the Third Sector which monitor the progress of the charity's work.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138449]

David Cairns: There are no agencies or consultancies currently undertaking work commissioned by this Office.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139220]

David Cairns: In the last five years the Scotland Office has not been found to be in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139303]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not own any properties.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139349]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not own any properties. The Office rents two properties located at 1 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh and Dover House, Whitehall, London.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland, how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139421]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has incurred no expenditure on public relations in the last five years.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission how much was spent by the Commission on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139393]

Mr. Alan Williams: Nothing.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Asia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's total direct expenditure in *(a)* China, *(b)* Vietnam and *(c)* Burma was in each of the last five years; and what it is projected to be in each of the next three years. [139650]

Mr. Thomas: The total DFID direct bilateral expenditure in each of the last five financial years is set out in Table 1 as follows, alongside projections for 2007-08. Projections beyond 2007-08 will not be available until the Comprehensive Spending Review is concluded later this year.

Table 1: DFID direct bilateral expenditure

£000

	China	Vietnam	Burma	
2002-03	41,546	18,508	7,020	Outturn
2003-04	32,255	23,264	3,720	Outturn
2004-05	35,876	40,425	6,008	Outturn
2005-06	34,744	57,502	6,483	Outturn
2006-07	38,200	50,000	8,000	Estimated outturn
2007-08	33,400	50,000	8,000	Projection

Burundi: Schools

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Government of Burundi on the reintroduction of confessional schools in Burundi. [139028]

Hilary Benn: We recognise the important work done by faith-based organisations all over the world in delivering aid and development. Many play a strong part in education, through partnerships with national governments. In Burundi, we are working together with other donors to develop and support the Government of Burundi's national education sector strategy. Faith-based schools are included in the strategy, which will support all children to access quality primary education. Individual faith-based organisations have been involved in its design. We are working with our partners to encourage them to join together in a formal coordination body to strengthen their contribution.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was; [139438]

(2) how much was spent on advertising by his Department in each of the last five years. [139534]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has not used advertising agencies in the last five years. DFID has used the Central Office of Information (COI) to source services for promotional campaigns.

Spend on promotional campaigns since January 2002 is listed as follows. In all cases this includes design and production of materials, and other promotional services. To disaggregate advertising direct spend would incur disproportionate cost.

All costs are inclusive of VAT:

(i) Developments Magazine and Rough Guide Campaign (2005)

To promote Developments Magazine and the Rough Guide to a Better World

Total: £3,642

(ii) Trade Matters Campaign (late 2005-early 2006)

To raise awareness of the role of trade in fighting world poverty and promote availability of a new free publication—Trade Matters.

Total: £26,176

(iii) Developments Magazine Campaign (2006)

To increase the number of subscribers to the Department's free magazine—Developments.

Total: £12,934

(iv) Third White Paper on International Development. (2006)

To raise awareness of the UK Government's action plan for working with overseas and international partners to reduce world poverty over the next five years.

Total: £125,000

(v) G8 Gleneagles—One year on (2006)

To report progress on delivering the commitments proposed at the G8 summit. Newspaper supplement in *The Observer*, adverts for the supplement in *The Guardian*, and content of the supplement placed on a Guardian Unlimited microsite.

Total: £62,275

DFID places recruitment and procurement advertisements in print media using Barkers Advertising and Marketing Agency. There is no direct cost to DFID for their services.

DFID has no Executive agencies.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139215]

Mr. Thomas: The definition of 'found to have been in breach' can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, by the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139108]

Mr. Thomas: Figures for the number of staff with epilepsy employed by DFID are not available, as we do not collect detailed information on the nature of disabilities declared by staff. DFID currently has 57 UK-based staff who have declared disabilities. DFID actively encourages staff to declare any disability in line with Cabinet Office guidelines and categories.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139400]

Mr. Thomas: DFID obtains its legal advice from three main sources—the Treasury Solicitor's Department, FCO Legal Advisers and Crown Agents Legal Advisers, which we and the Cabinet Office regard as in-house legal advisers—and very rarely uses external legal advisers in the UK. The costs set out in the table relate to legal advice provided on a UK property issue and represent our best data without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Cost of legal advice (£)
2005-06	7,678
2006-07	13,458

Our overseas offices may obtain advice from local legal advisers on a range of foreign domestic issues, from foreign accommodation leases to local employment law. Information on these costs could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139427]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has only issued one public relations contract in the last five years. This covered the period of November 2005 to March 2006, and was with Weber Shandwick to support the Asia 2015 conference and associated media relations in the UK and Asia, specifically India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. The total cost including VAT was £203,918.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140038]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not make use of recruitment, search and selection agencies when recruiting staff to the home civil service.

In accordance with The Civil Service Commissioners code external appointments are made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition.

Our job advertisements are placed in the national press or specialised magazines in addition to appearing on DFID's own website. Since 2003 all of our vacancies have also been placed on the civil service recruitment Gateway website.

Developing Countries: Environment Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes promoting development through eco-tourism and environmental protection his Department has. [139556]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's poverty reduction mandate means its primary environmental aim is to support sustainable use of natural resources, and equitable access to environmental assets for poverty reduction.

DFID's policy paper on the environment describes our approach, and can be found at

www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/environment.asp.

DFID does not have programmes dedicated to eco-tourism and environmental protection, but many of our programmes make a contribution to better environmental management, both globally and in developing countries. DFID's policy paper on the environment lists examples of these programmes.

DFID has supported a number of tourism related activities, through our Business Challenge Linkages Fund, which have focused on country level projects to improve labour standards and capacity building for small-scale suppliers to the tourism industry.

In addition, DFID country offices have committed £4.5 million on tourism related activities since 2000. Examples include: development of a Tourism Strategy for St. Helena (2005), creation of a botanical garden in Montserrat, and the implementation of a plan for biodiversity management and sustainable development around a Ramsar site in the Turks and Caicos Islands (2005).

DFID has funded research into the pro-poor potential of tourism development, at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the University of Kent, Canterbury.

Equatorial Guinea: Overseas Aid

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government gave *(a)* directly and *(b)* through non-governmental organisations to Equatorial Guinea in each of the last five years. [140069]

Hilary Benn: The UK Government have given no bilateral assistance to Equatorial Guinea in any of the last five years, either directly or through NGOs.

Group of Eight

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the forthcoming G8 meeting will discuss Africa and Climate Change; and if he will make a statement. [140075]

Hilary Benn: The theme of the German G8 presidency is "growth and responsibility", both in the world economy which includes climate protection and in Africa. Therefore climate change and Africa will be at the centre of discussions at the upcoming G8 summit.

We are extremely pleased with the German focus on Africa and development as well as climate change during its G8 presidency. We share the German view of the importance of good governance and economic growth for development in Africa. We believe that the agenda for Heiligendamm complements the commitments made at Gleneagles very well.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister will be making a statement on June 4 in Parliament before the summit.

Middle East: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what role his Department plays in HM Treasury's work on economic development in Israel and Palestine. [140137]

Hilary Benn: DFID works closely with HM Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on economic aspects of peace in the Middle East.

DFID has responded to the economic crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) with £15 million in contributions through the Temporary International Mechanism. This supports basic services and livelihoods for public sector employees and the poorest Palestinians. We are also developing a project to stimulate investment and business innovation in the OPTs.

Nepal: Refugee Camps

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of living conditions in the Goldhap refugee camp in eastern Nepal. [140185]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is not directly involved in the running and administration of the refugee camps in Nepal and has not made its own assessment. However, we are kept informed by the UN about the status of camps and refugees as part of the regular donor dialogue in Kathmandu. DFID Nepal has also had some direct contact and discussions with representatives from the camps about conditions generally and has fed their views back to the UN system.

Of the seven Bhutanese refugee camps in eastern Nepal, Goldhap camp is a middle-size camp, located in the Jhapa district, and has approximately 1,344 families with a total population of 9,626 persons.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assess the camps as having a high level of education. The general level of medical care and nutrition is above the national average; however recent studies have indicated the prevalence of anaemia in the camps, mainly among expectant mothers and children. In response, UNHCR is implementing a Special Project on Health and Nutrition designed to address this issue.

In terms of prosecuting sexual and gender-based violence and other crimes in the camps, the UNHCR-supported Nepal Bar Association provides a legal assistance programme consisting of legal counselling, legal representation and support in the filing of cases, either in court or at a police station. The involvement of legal professionals from the beginning of the process has helped to strengthen support mechanisms.

Daily camp life is managed with the active support of refugees through the Camp Management Committee, which is formed by refugee representatives annually elected by refugees in a democratic voting process.

Security is provided by the Government of Nepal through a small, recently reinstated police presence in all the camps, with the support of a small number of refugee volunteers who consist of the refugee Community

Watch Team. UNHCR also run a number of skills development training courses to promote refugee empowerment, with a specific focus on refugee women.

Overseas Aid: Electricity Generation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* expenditure and *(b)* proportion of the aid budget was used to support electricity generation projects in each of the last five years. [138102]

Mr. Thomas: At the Gleneagles summit in 2005, the UK secured G8 agreement that the World Bank should lead on establishing a new clean energy for development investment framework (CEIF), which would operate across the international financing system. The aim of this framework is to increase public and private sector investment in cleaner energy in developing countries. The World Bank published their action plan in March 2007 to implement their part of the framework.

The Multilateral Development Banks have looked for ways to take forward this work. The Asian Development Bank launched an energy efficiency initiative, with an annual target of providing $1 billion in assistance for clean energy projects. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development launched the sustainable energy initiative last year, which aims to leverage €5 billion of investment in cleaner energy over the next five years. The World Bank is working to increase its financial commitments on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The World Bank's action plan for the CEIF has three main parts, one of which is to increase energy access in Africa. This includes giving greater attention to Africa's need for increased electricity generation, transmission and household electrification. The World Bank is starting discussions with some African governments about how the action plan can be implemented, aimed at improving access by households to modern energy services.

The UK has committed over £15 million to the CEIF so far, including £3 million for technical support in developing the CEIF and supporting discussions in developing countries; £10 million to fund posts and programme budgets across the multilateral development banks and the United Nations Development Programme over the next three years; and £3 million to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's (EBRD) sustainable energy initiative.

Except in a few special circumstances, DFID has not provided bilateral funding in support of electricity generation projects over the last five years. We work closely with international finance institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank on financing arrangements they will apply to electricity generation projects in developing countries. A proportion of our funding to multilateral agencies such as these is spent on electricity generation projects.

The exceptions relate to our work for dependent territories and in Iraq. Over the past five years, DFID has spent about £260,000 on a wind turbine electricity generation project in St Helena. In Iraq, we have spent about £21 million on electricity generation projects to keep essential services running, through the installation of new equipment and the repair of existing assets.

Syrian Arabic Republic: Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid was given by the UK to Syria in *(a)* 1999 and *(b)* 2006. [140221]

Hilary Benn: The UK provided £90,000 bilaterally in official development assistance (oda) to Syria in 1999, when our estimated share of multilateral oda was £2,084,000. No oda was granted bilaterally by the UK in 2006. Figures for the breakdown of our share of 2006 multilateral oda are not yet available. DFID does not maintain a bilateral programme in Syria. However, the UK provides significant support to countries in the Middle East through multilateral channels, in particular a £1.5 billion share of the EC's European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument's (ENPI) £8.3 billion support from 2007 to 2013 which will include aid to Syria.

Vaccination: Tuberculosis

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the development of a new tuberculosis vaccine; and if he will make a statement. [139791]

Mr. Thomas: DFID officials have met staff from the Aeras Global TB vaccine foundation several times in the last year and are kept up-to-date with progress on the development and promotion of new tuberculosis vaccines.

World Bank

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what action he is taking in response to the resignation of the president of the World Bank. [139058]

Hilary Benn: The UK remains a supporter of the World Bank, and its staff, as a force for good in the world. The Bank's task now, is to renew its efforts to lift people out of poverty.

The UK has a long-standing commitment to support developing country calls for a stronger say at the World Bank. Last year's UK White Paper on International Development reaffirmed our view that the practice of picking the heads of the World Bank and the IMF based on nationality should end, and both presidents should be chosen on merit but changing the system would require consensus among member countries. We are working with other member countries of the World Bank to identify and select the best candidate to be the next president.

World Bank Energy Programme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's annual contribution to the World Bank was spent on the World Bank Energy Programme in each of the last three years. [140203]

Hilary Benn: The World Bank's Fiscal Year runs from 1 July to 30 June each year. For Fiscal Year 2004 (starting 1 July 2003) the Bank lent $1.05 billion for

energy projects. This amount increased to $1.9 billion in Fiscal Year 2005 and $3.1 billion in Fiscal Year 2006. Figures are not yet available for Fiscal Year 2007.

The UK has provided £1.65 billion in core contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association since 1 April 2003. However, annual payments from the UK and other Bank shareholders are just one source of finance drawn upon by the Bank to provide loans and credits to developing countries. Therefore it is not possible to say what proportion of the UK's contribution was spent on energy programmes.

At the Gleneagles summit in 2005, the UK secured G8 agreement that the World Bank should lead on establishing a new Clean Energy Investment Framework (CEIF) that would operate across the international financing system. The aim of this framework is to increase public and private sector investments in cleaner energy in developing countries.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Cheques

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the impact on the consumer of trends in the numbers of retailers refusing to accept cheques as payment in point of sale transactions. [139486]

Mr. McCartney: The decision on whether to accept cheques as a method of payment is a commercial one for retailers. Increasing numbers of transactions are now made electronically and by card. However, cheques are still widely used by consumers as a method of payment.

The Government recognise this, and welcome the reforms agreed by the OFT Payment Systems Task Force last November to introduce greater transparency and certainty for cheque users, including for basic bank account holders.

China: Motorcycles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many motorcycles manufactured in China of 50cc and under were imported into the UK in each year since 1997. [139695]

Mr. McCartney: The following table shows HM Revenue and Customs' overseas trade statistics for the value and number of UK imports from China of motorcycles, including mopeds, with engines of 50cc or less:

	£ million	*Number*
1997	0.006	11
1998	0.07	240
1999	0.19	739
2000	0.40	2,131
2001	0.36	2,366
2002	0.85	6,385
2003	2.63	43,933
2004	6.52	68,022
2005	10.10	111,659
2006	4.21	49,498

Coastal Areas: Conferences

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what action his Department plans to take as a result of discussions at the Coastal Towns Conference held on 8 May. [139617]

Margaret Hodge: The Coastal Towns Conference raised a wide range of issues, some of which were subsequently covered by the Government's reply to the report of the Communities and Local Government Select Committee on Coastal Towns. The Government will consider the need to examine further the evidence on the characteristics of coastal towns to help inform policy-making.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139202]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have not been found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in the last five years.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his policy is on responsibility for the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment where a company providing a membership scheme for that service goes into liquidation prior to the relevant equipment reaching end of life. [139659]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the WEEE Regulations (Regulation 10) where a scheme no longer exists the obligations to finance the collection treatment and reprocessing of WEEE will revert to the producer. The producer will have 28 days to join an alternative scheme.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* annual and *(b)* membership fees charged to companies by the Department in connection with the enforcement of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [139660]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the WEEE Regulations producers of electrical and electronic equipment are required to register with the environment authorities. These fees are tiered to represent the size of the producer, to ensure the cost to SMEs are proportionate. These fees do not cover enforcement costs which are met by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what provisions the Department has

negotiated with companies establishing membership schemes with advance fees for the disposal of waste electrical and electronic equipment to ensure that funds will remain available to meet the costs of disposal when the equipment reaches end of life. [139661]

Malcolm Wicks: Under the WEEE Regulations the issue of membership fees is a commercial matter between Producer Compliance Schemes and producers. Producer Compliance Schemes are however required under the regulations to ensure they have sufficient resources to fully discharge the obligation of their members.

Galileo Project

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the financial implications of the UK's involvement with the Galileo project. [139734]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply and will answer this question shortly.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to agree procedures for coal industry compensation claims where the Medical Disputes Procedure has been completed but subsequently further medical evidence has been obtained. [138414]

Malcolm Wicks: Such procedures (the Protocol for Collection of Additional Medical Records) have been in operation since 2003 for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. For vibration white finger services, similar procedures have been in place since 2006.

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* former miners and *(b)* members of families of former miners in (i) North Staffordshire, (ii) Newcastle-under-Lyme and (iii) the UK have (A) made claims, (B) received interim payments and (C) accepted final settlements in respect of compensation for (1) chronic bronchitis and emphysema or other respiratory diseases, (2) vibration white finger, (3) carpal tunnel syndrome and (4) pneumoconiosis; how much has been paid in respect of each category; and how many claims of each type in each area have yet to be settled in full. [138817]

Margaret Hodge: Pursuant to the answer given on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351. The entry in the table under VWF claims: the total number for claimants who have received an interim payment should read 64,868 and not 66,868.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many outstanding claims there are in relation to *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger for (i) living and (ii) deceased miners in Bassetlaw handled by (A) VDM/ Vendside and (B) others. [138824]

Malcolm Wicks: The outstanding claims for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) of living and deceased miners in Bassetlaw are broken down as requested in the following table:

	Living	*Deceased*	*Total*
COPD			
Total outstanding claims	755	902	1,657
Registered to UDM/Venside	127	15	142
VWF			
Total outstanding Claims	529	59	588
Registered to UDM/Venside	53	18	71

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many miners and former miners have died before settlement of *(a)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and *(b)* vibration white finger compensation claims. [138825]

Malcolm Wicks: The numbers of miners and former miners who have died while waiting for settlement of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and for vibration white finger compensations are shown in the following table:

	Settled claims	*Outstanding claims*	*Total*
COPD	18,266	7,042	25,308
VWF	6,941	1,370	8,311
Total	25,207	8,412	33,619

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many miners' compensation claims have been paid in part or in full by *(a)* the UDM, *(b)* Kidd and Spoor Harper, *(c)* Frank Allen Pennington, *(d)* Watson Burton, *(e)* Robinson King and *(f)* Oxley and Coward, broken down by parliamentary constituency. [139270]

Malcolm Wicks: A spreadsheet showing the number of miners' who have been paid compensation in part or full by those firms who handled their claims, as requested, and broken down by constituency, has been placed in the Library of the House.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to commence the pilot with the Law Society on advice for miners on complaints options for double-charging for industrial disease compensation. [139655]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is currently working with the Legal Complaints Service and Legal Services Ombudsman to take the pilot exercise forward in the coming weeks.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which 30 firms of solicitors have handled the greatest ill-health compensation cases settled via the fast-track for miners' compensation. [139656]

Malcolm Wicks: The 30 firms who have settled most claims through the fast-track options are shown in the following table:

Claimants' representative	*Claims settled by fast-track*
Beresfords Solicitors	23,671
Avalon Solicitors	13,546
Hugh James	10,105
Raleys Solicitors	9,819
Thompsons Solicitors	9,059
Browell Smith and Co	7,664
Barber and Co.	5,556
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	4,653
Watson Burton LLP	4,223
Delta Legal	4,191
Graysons Solicitors	3,220
Ashton Morton Slack LLP	3,001
BRM Solicitors	2,553
Randell Lloyd Jenkins and Martin	2,109
Ingrams Solicitors	1,907
Corries York	1,900
Mark Gilbert Morse	1,890
Hilary Meredith Solicitors	1,742
The Legal Warehouse	1,726
Gorman Hamilton Solicitors	1,573
Moss Solicitors	1,409
Corries Solicitors	1,314
Kidd and Spoor Harper Solicitors	1,215
Birchall Blackburn	1,079
1 Legal Solicitors	1,027
Onyems and Partners	1,011
Bailey Bravo Jobling	932
Recompense Ltd.	812
Towells Solicitors	760
Wake Smith	742

Judgments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the implications for *(a)* public policy and *(b)* the public purse of judgment in the Myatt *v.* NCB case. [139201]

Malcolm Wicks: We have not made a formal assessment. However, we were aware that significant savings on costs were at stake. One of the main drivers was to address bad practice by firms who were seeking to offload unrecoverable costs. We were similarly aware that some claimants would benefit from having costs claims struck down.

The implications of 'Myatt' on Conditional Fee Agreement litigation in the UK has been profound. It is a ground breaking case which has caused major problems for claimants firms who do not follow the Conditional Fee Agreement and 'After The Event' insurance regulatory regime. That regime was put in place as a limited exemption to the right of solicitors to profit from litigation directly. Parliament chose to tightly draw the acceptable bounds of that regime for reasons of public policy. 'Myatt' is one of the cases that reinforces the boundaries beyond which solicitors should not go.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on what date the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme will end. [138079]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The Low Carbon Buildings Programme was launched in April 2006 with a £30 million budget. In the Budget 07, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced that a further £6 million would be made available to the household stream of the programme, taking the total available including management fees to £18.7 million.

Since the Budget announcement, we took the decision to suspend the scheme as this provided an opportunity to consult key stakeholders on a re-structured scheme that better met the needs of industry and applicants alike. We have implemented changes that include the removal of the monthly cap. With the increased flexibility that removing the monthly cap provides, we cannot predict demand with certainty. We hope these changes will allow us to reach a wider audience. We will continue to monitor and report on grant commitments and payments. However, once the funds are allocated, this form of grant support will cease.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons further support for the domestic stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme is not being offered; and if he will make a statement. [138080]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* In the Budget 07, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced that a further £6 million would be made available to the household stream of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, taking the total available including management fees to £18.7 million.

We re-launched the household stream on 29 May 2007, having made a number of changes to the programme. We believe these changes will allow us to reach a wider audience, and demonstrate the potential of micro generation to a greater number of households. We will continue to monitor and report on grant commitments and payments. However, once the funds are fully allocated, this form of grant support will cease.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the reasons were for each of the reductions in domestic grant support for solar photovoltaics under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme; and if he will make a statement. [138081]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* When we launched the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in April 2006, we always intended to review grant levels at the end of the first year. After discussions with industry, we took the decision to reduce the grant level for solar photovoltaics from a maximum of £3,000 per kWp to a maximum of £2,000 per kWp installed. This measure, along with the introduction of a £2,500 cap per household will allow us to use the limited funds available to support an increased number of microgeneration installations, which is a fundamental aim of a demonstration programme such as this.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire to the Minister of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Sahara Desert and energy, transferred to his Department on 27 April 2007 (PQ 2499 06/07). [139587]

Malcolm Wicks: My noble friend, Lord Truscott, responded to the hon. Member's letter on 28 May 2007. I apologise for the delay.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the deterrent effect on employers of the January 2007 increase in financial penalties for non-payment of the minimum wage. [139478]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is too early to assess the deterrent effect on employers of the national minimum wage penalty policy announced in January 2007. Following on from the 2007 Low Pay Commission recommendation, we are currently consulting on a simple new penalty for any employer found to be underpaying the minimum wage. The Government are committed to stamping out non compliance with minimum wage legislation.

Office of Fair Trading: Complaints

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to simplify the procedure for making complaints to the Office of Fair Trading. [139647]

Mr. McCartney: At present any individual or organisation is able to bring a complaint to the Office of Fair Trading. On consumer matters this complaint should be made via Consumer Direct—either by calling 08454 04 05 06, or via the internet or in writing. On competition matters a complaint may be made to the OFT directly on 08457 22 44 99, or via their website or in writing. However, where a complaint relating to a competition matter is received via Consumer Direct, it will be passed to OFT.

Additionally, there is a separate process for designated organisations acting on behalf of groups of consumers to bring "super-complaints". These require a certain standard of evidence, but OFT must deliver a reasoned response to the super-complaint within 90 days.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many complaints the Office of Fair Trading has received in relation to uncompetitive practices in the newspaper industry in the last 12 months. [139648]

Mr. McCartney: The OFT has received 14 specific, individual complaints regarding competition issues in the newspaper industry over the last 12 months.

The OFT is also currently in the process of conducting work in relation to the distribution of national newspapers and magazines, further details of which are included in OFT press notices of 31 May 2006 and 8 March 2007. During this process the OFT has invited and received representations from a wide range of industry parties, some of which raise concerns about competition.

OM Energy

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to his answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1361W, on OM Energy, what assistance his Department has given to OM Energy in seeking a worldwide patent for this technology. [138973]

Mr. McCartney: The Global Entrepreneur Programme facilitated an introduction to a UK patent agent who helped the company with their worldwide patent strategy.

Pipelines: Sakhalin Island

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when the consultation process on the Export Credits Guarantee Department's funding of the Sakhalin II oil and gas project will end. [139653]

Mr. McCartney: ECGD is continuing to consider the provision of support for the Sakhalin II oil and gas project and the Department remains open to receive any comments. ECGD expects to invite comments from interested parties on the independent report on the environmental and social issues associated with the project whenever it is published. The Department will take into account the report, alongside any comments received, when the time comes to take its decision.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects the Export Credits Guarantee Department to make a final decision on funding the British elements of the Sakhalin II oil and gas project. [139654]

Mr. McCartney: ECGD has not received all the information it requires in order to start its decision making process on the provision of support for the Sakhalin II oil and gas project. No date exists for its decision.

Post Offices: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices closed in the Chelmsford local authority area *(a)* between June 1987 and May 1997 and *(b)* since May 1997. [140486]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post office closures there were between 1987 and 1997, broken down by type of post office. [139558]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the managing director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Professional Organisations: Complaints

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what discussions have taken place between the Office of Fair Trading and other bodies on complaints against the *(a)* Law Society, *(b)* Bar Council, *(c)* Institute of Legal Executives, *(d)* Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales and *(e)* Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors; [138557]

(2) if he will place in the Library correspondence between the Office of Fair Trading and other bodies on the making of super complaints on the *(a)* legal services market, *(b)* accountancy services market and *(c)* surveying market in England and Wales; [138558]

(3) if he will place in the Library correspondence between the Office of Fair Trading and other bodies on the making of super complaints on the *(a)* legal services market and *(b)* accountancy services market in Scotland; [138559]

(4) what discussions have taken place between the Office of Fair Trading and any other bodies on the making of super complaints against *(a)* The Law Society of Scotland and *(b)* The Faculty of Advocates. [138603]

Mr. McCartney: These are matters for the Office of Fair Trading. I will write to the chief executive of the Office of Fair Trading, John Fingleton, to ask him to reply to the hon. Member.

Research Councils

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he asks research councils *(a)* to report and *(b)* to record the regional distribution of their allocations; and whether the councils (i) make such reports and (ii) keep such records. [140191]

Malcolm Wicks: Research councils are required to allocate funding on the basis of excellence. They keep records of their investments and will analyse and report on regional distribution of their funding on request. All research councils publish responsive mode success rates by higher education institution and other research institution eligible for research council funding on their websites annually.

Sunbeds

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the size of the UK sunbed industry market; and what assessment he has made of the industry's contribution to the UK economy. [139251]

Margaret Hodge: No such estimate or assessment has been made. Officials statistics on the operation of sunbed salons are collected by the Office for National Statistics as part of Standard Industrial Classification 93.04 (physical well being activities). In 2005 there were 915 enterprises under this classification with a total turnover of £309 million adding under 0.02 per cent. to UK gross value added.

Telephone Services: Unsolicited Goods and Services

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how many £50,000 fines have been issued to companies using silent calls to contact consumers; [138294]

(2) what estimates his Department has/received from Ofcom of the levels of silent calls made by companies; and how the levels have changed over the last 12 months. [138295]

Margaret Hodge: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Thorp

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the financial impact of the delay in the restart of the THORP Reprocessing Plant at Sellafield; and when he expects the plant to be restarted. [138229]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* The Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate issued a 'Consent' on 9 January 2007 to allow the THORP plant to restart operations having been satisfied that the site licensee, British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd., had done all work necessary to ensure THORP could be restarted safely. Some areas of the plant have already resumed operation and the timing of restart of full reprocessing is currently delayed while ongoing investigations of the site's downstream evaporation facilities are underway. The precise date to restart reprocessing fuel at THORP is a matter for the site licensee in discussion with the site owner the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and is not expected before this summer. The financial aspects of this situation are a commercial matter for the NDA.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry within what timeframe he expects to establish a scheme for individual producer responsibility. [139284]

Malcolm Wicks: There is currently no timetable for the introduction of individual producer responsibility (IPR) in the UK under the WEEE Regulations.

The Government remain committed to the principles of IPR and will be establishing a WEEE Advisory Body in the autumn. As part of its remit the advisor body will be asked to examine IPR and make recommendations on how it can be introduced in the UK.

Wind Power: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many wind turbines there are in East Sussex; and where they are located. [138029]

Malcolm Wicks: For large scale wind, figures from Restats show that there are no wind turbines in East Sussex that are either operational, under construction or have received planning consent. However, there is one wind farm project application being considered for planning consent. This is the Glyndebourne Opera House project, to be located at Mill Plain, Glyndebourne, East Sussex, with one wind turbine.

For micro-wind, we have funded the installation of wind turbines in East Sussex through two capital grant programmes, which are as follows:

Period	*Grant programme*	*Number of installations*
2002-06	Clear Skies	[1]9
2006 to present	Low Carbon Buildings Programme	2

[1]In South East region.

TREASURY

Average Earnings

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average net weekly pay was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1979. [140398]

Mr. Timms: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 4th June 2006:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average net weekly pay was in (a) Cornwall, (b) the South West, (c) England and (d) the UK in each year since 1979. I am replying in her absence. (140398)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. Various breakdowns and analyses are available online for years 1997 onwards at:

http://www. statistics. gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=13101

Estimates of average net weekly pay are not available.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average gross weekly pay was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1979. [140556]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average gross weekly pay was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1979. (140556)

Since 1997, levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full time employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE.

The ASHE does not collect information on the self employed and people who do unpaid work. Prior to 1997, levels of earnings are estimated from the New Earnings Survey (NES) and are provided for all full time employees either on adult rates of pay, or for years prior to 1984, aged 21 and over (male) or 18 and over (female), whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence.

Estimates at the UK level are not available before 1997. For comparison, I have included figures at the GB level.

I attach a table showing Gross Weekly Pay for Cornwall, the South West, England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom, for all full-time employees, for the years 1979-2006.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent. sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gross weekly pay for all full time employee[1] jobs

£

	Cornwall		*South West*		*England*		*[2]GB*		*UK*	
	Mean	*[2]Median*	*Mean*	*[2]Median*	*Mean*	*[2]Median*	*Mean*	*[2]Median*	*Mean*	*[2]Median*
1979	72.6		82.9		89.9		89.6			
1980	88.9		103.6		110.7		110.2			
1981	106.3		118.6		108.8		124.9			
1982	114.8		127.6		137.1		136.5			
1983	125.3		139.6		149.0		148.3			
1984	135.0		149.1		160.2		159.3			
1985	143.8		160.6		172.0		171.0			
1986	152.6		172.8		186.3		184.7			
1987	161.1		185.7		200.8		198.9			
1988	172.8		202.8		220.9		218.5			
1989	196.3		225.0		242.8		239.7			
1990	214.1		246.7		266.7		263.1			
1991	219.9		265.6		288.3		284.7			
1992	239.4		283.1		308.1		304.7			
1993	252.3		298.4		320.8		316.9			

Gross weekly pay for all full time employee[1] jobs

£

	Cornwall		South West[1]		England		[2]GB		UK	
	Mean	[2]Median	Mean	[2]Median	Mean	[2]Median	Mean	[2]Median	Mean	[2]Median
1994	265.1		308.7		330.1		325.7			
1995	266.1		313.8		340.6		336.3			
1996	271.2		326.5		356.2		351.7			
1997	289.0	250.0	349.4	303.6	378.9	325.0	373.9	321.5	372.6	320.5
1998	298.4	253.4	361.4	314.8	399.7	339.4	393.9	335.8	392.5	334.9
1999	301.0	260.4	371.6	323.9	412.6	347.8	409.2	346.3	407.8	345.5
2000	318.2	276.2	385.0	336.0	433.3	364.4	426.7	360.0	425.1	359.0
2001	337.3	296.9	413.4	352.3	459.2	381.7	451.7	377.4	449.7	375.9
2002	349.0	303.4	429.2	365.0	482.0	396.5	474.3	392.2	472.1	390.9
2003	391.5	331.5	449.3	382.0	497.2	410.6	489.2	405.2	487.1	404.0
2004 excl.	395.1	333.4	464.3	394.9	516.7	430.0	508.2	424.2	506.1	422.8
2004 inc.[3]	390.5	327.9	457.6	392.6	508.0	425.0	500.1	420.3	498.2	419.2
2005	402.6	340.9	471.8	400.0	525.5	436.0	518.2	431.7	516.4	431.2
2006	412.4	357.5	493.3	417.0	546.5	453.3	539.3	448.6	537.3	447.1

[1] Employees on adult rates whose pay for the survey pay-period was not affected by absence.
[2] Prior to 1997 only mean figures are available, and only at the GB level.
[3] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for comparison purposes.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (1997-2006) and New Earnings Survey (1979-1996), Office for National Statistics.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what gross annual earnings were in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [140557]

Mr. Timms: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 4 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the average gross annual earnings was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West, and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. I am replying in her absence. (140557)

Levels of earnings are estimated from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and are provided for all full time employees on adult rates of pay whose pay for the survey period was not affected by absence. This is the standard definition used for ASHE. Estimates of Gross Annual Earnings are not available prior to 1999.

I attach a table showing Gross Annual Earnings for Cornwall, the South West, and England, for all full-time employees, for the years 1999-2006.

The ASHE, carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is based on a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

Gross annual earnings for all full-time employee[1] jobs

£ thousand

	Cornwall		South West		England	
	Mean	Median	Mean	Median	Mean	Median
1999[3]	15.3	13.4	19.2	16.7	21.6	17.9
2000	16.6	14.5	20.5	17.8	23.3	19.1
2001	17.2	15.4	21.5	18.5	24.5	20.0
2002	18.6	16.4	22.7	19.2	25.5	20.7
2003	19.9	16.8	23.7	20.0	26.5	21.5
2004 excl.	20.2	17.2	24.4	20.7	27.7	22.4
2004 inc.[2]	20.3	17.3	24.4	20.7	27.7	22.4
2005	21.6	17.9	25.4	21.3	28.9	23.3
2006	21.9	18.8	26.5	22.0	30.1	23.9

[1] Employees on adult rates, pay not affected by absence.
[2] In 2004 additional supplementary surveys were introduced to improve the coverage of the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings. Figures are presented both excluding and including the additional surveys for
[3] Estimates of Gross Annual Earnings are not available prior to 1999.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Departments: Public Appointments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to enhancing the role of Parliament in appointing *(a)* the chairman and chief executive of the Financial Services Authority, *(b)* members of the Statistics Board, including the Chairman and the National Statistician, and *(c)* the Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs. [139762]

Mr. Timms: The Statistics and Registration Service Bill, which is currently before Parliament, makes provision for the appointment of members of the Statistics Board. Permanent Secretary level appointments, including the Executive Chairman of HM Revenue and Customs, and appointments to the Board of the Financial Services Authority are conducted in accordance with the code of practice issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

Members: Correspondence

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the Financial Secretary to respond to the letter from the hon. Member

for Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey of 19 March 2007, reference SP2271, on Chernobyl children's life-line. [140447]

John Healey: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Older Workers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of *(a)* men aged 65 years and *(b)* women (i) aged over 60 years and (ii) over 65 years were (A) employed and (B) unemployed in each of the last 10 years. [140445]

Mr. Timms: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 4 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what percentage of (a) men aged 65 years were (i) employed and (ii) unemployed and (b) women (i) aged over 60 years and (ii) over 65 years were (A) employed and (B) unemployed in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (140445)

The attached table gives the numbers and rates for men aged 65 and over, women aged 60 and over, and women aged 65 and over who were in employment or unemployed. It covers the 3 months ending December each year for 1997-2006 (estimates for 1998 and 2000 are not available). The data are not seasonally adjusted.

Estimates are taken from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People in employment or unemployed by age and gender, United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006, not seasonally adjusted

	In employment		*Unemployment*	
3 months ending December each year	*Level (thousand)*	*Rate (percentage)[1]*	*Level (thousand)*	*Rate (percentage)[2]*
1997				
Men				
65 and over	277	7.5	9	3.1
Women				
60 and over	509	7.8	9	1.8
65 and over	167	3.3	2	1.3
1999				
Men				
65 and over	291	7.8	7	2.3
Women				
60 and over	537	8.2	13	2.3
65 and over	172	3.4	5	2.7
2001				
Men				
65 and over	298	7.8	7	2.3
Women				
60 and over	591	9.0	9	1.5
65 and over	175	3.4	2	1.1
2002				
Men				
65 and over	314	8.1	6	1.9
Women				
60 and over	583	8.8	13	2.3
65 and over	173	3.4	2	1.4
2003				
Men				
65 and over	331	8.4	10	3.0
Women				
60 and over	636	9.6	11	1.6
65 and over	194	3.8	5	2.3

People in employment or unemployed by age and gender, United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006, not seasonally adjusted

3 months ending December each year	In employment		Unemployment	
	Level (thousand)	Rate (percentage)[1]	Level (thousand)	Rate (percentage)[2]
2004				
Men				
65 and over	343	8.6	11	3.1
Women				
60 and over	658	9.8	9	1.4
65 and over	195	3.8	4	1.8
2005				
Men				
65 and over	382	9.5	12	3.1
Women				
60 and over	727	10.8	12	1.6
65 and over	214	4.2	4	2.0
2006				
Men				
65 and over	402	9.9	8	1.9
Women				
60 and over	795	11.6	15	1.9
65 and over	235	4.6	3	1.3

[1] Total in employment as a percentage of all persons in the relevant age group.
[2] Total unemployed as a percentage of all economically active persons in the relevant age group.
Note:
Comparable data are not available for 1998 or 2000.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Overseas Visitors

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* holidays and *(b)* visiting friends and relatives visits were made to the UK in (i) 1996 and (ii) 2006 from (A) the United States, (B) Germany, (C) Eire, (D) France, (E) Spain, (F) Australia, (G) Italy, (H) the Netherlands, (I) Canada and (J) Poland. [138990]

Mr. Woodward: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is contained in the following table.

Visits to the UK by overseas residents in 1996 and 2006

			Visits (thousand) All nationalities	
			Holidays	Visiting friends and relatives
(A)	The United States[1]	1996	1,481	579
		2006	1,427	957
(B)	Germany	1996	1,380	590
		2006	1,116	870
(C)	Eire	1996	544	663
		2006	705	1,062

Visits to the UK by overseas residents in 1996 and 2006

			Visits (thousand) All nationalities	
			Holidays	Visiting friends and relatives
(D)	France[2]	1996	1,704	570
		2006	1,246	1,037
(E)	Spain[3]	1996	245	221
		2006	659	709
(F)	Australia	1996	319	222
		2006	385	381
(G)	Italy[4]	1996	367	140
		2006	553	309
(H)	The Netherlands	1996	690	223
		2006	561	436
(I)	Canada[5]	1996	219	255
		2006	280	369

Visits to the UK by overseas residents in 1996 and 2006

			Visits (thousand)	
			All nationalities	
			Holidays	Visiting friends and relatives
(J)	Poland	1996	97	30
		2006	220	467

[1] USA includes Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.
[2] France includes Monaco.
[3] Spain includes Canary and Balearic Islands and Andorra.
[4] Italy includes the Vatican City and San Marino.
[5] Canada includes Greenland and St. Pierre et Miquelon.
Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Visits by country from the International Passenger Survey are subject to error and should be treated with an element of caution. As with all sample surveys, statistical reliability is reduced when results are based on responses from only a small number of people.

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* holidays and *(b)* visiting friends and relatives visits were made to the UK in (i) 1996 and (ii) 2006 by British passport-holding residents of (A) the United States, (B) Germany, (C) Eire, (D) France, (E) Spain, (F) Australia, (G) Italy, (H) the Netherlands, (I) Canada and (J) Poland. [138991]

Mr. Woodward: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is contained in the following table.

Visits to the UK by UK nationals with residency abroad in 1996 and 2006

			Visits (thousand)	
			UK nationals	
			Holidays	Visiting friends and family
(A)	The United States[1]	1996	57	146
		2006	67	222
(B)	Germany	1996	88	213
		2006	50	207
(C)	Eire	1996	—	—
		2006	42	187
(D)	France[2]	1996	50	127
		2006	61	357
(E)	Spain[3]	1996	30	121
		2006	57	431
(F)	Australia	1996	35	64
		2006	30	102
(G)	Italy[4]	1996	19	38
		2006	6	57
(H)	The Netherlands	1996	21	42
		2006	18	104
(I)	Canada[5]	1996	18	55
		2006	17	75
(J)	Poland	1996	4	1
		2006	3	7

[1] USA includes Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.
[2] France includes Monaco.
[3] Spain includes Canary and Balearic Islands and Andorra.
[4] Italy includes the Vatican City and San Marino.
[5] Canada includes Greenland and St. Pierre et Miquelon.
Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Visits by country from the International Passenger Survey are subject to error and should be treated with an element of caution. As with all sample surveys, statistical reliability is reduced when results are based on responses from only a small number of people.

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* holidays and *(b)* visiting friends and relatives visits were made to the UK in (i) 1996 and (ii) 2006 by non-British passport-holding residents of (A) the United States, (B) Germany, (C) Eire, (D) France, (E) Spain, (F) Australia, (G) Italy, (H) the Netherlands, (I) Canada and (J) Poland. [138992]

Mr. Woodward: I I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is contained in the following table.

Visits to the UK by non-UK nationals with residency abroad in 1996 and 2006

			Visits (thousand)	
			Non-UK national[1]	
			Holidays	Visiting friends and relatives
(A)	The United States[2]	1996	1,423	433
		2006	1,360	735
(B)	Germany	1996	1,292	377
		2006	1,066	663
(C)	Eire	1996	544	663
		2006	663	874
(D)	France[3]	1996	1,654	443
		2006	1,185	680
(E)	Spain[4]	1996	214	100
		2006	603	278

Visits to the UK by non-UK nationals with residency abroad in 1996 and 2006

			Visits (thousand)	
			Non-UK national[1]	
			Holidays	*Visiting friends and relatives*
(F)	Australia	1996	284	158
		2006	354	279
(G)	Italy[5]	1996	347	103
		2006	547	252
(H)	The Netherlands	1996	669	181
		2006	543	332
(I)	Canada[6]	1996	201	199
		2006	263	294
(J)	Poland	1996	92	28
		2006	217	460

[1] Include don't know and those who refused to give nationality.
[2] USA includes Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands.
[3] France includes Monaco.
[4] Spain includes Canary and Balearic Islands and Andorra.
[5] Italy Includes the Vatican City and San Marino.
[6] Canada includes Greenland and St. Pierre et Miquelon.
Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

Visits by country from the International Passenger Survey are subject to error and should be treated with an element of caution. As with all sample surveys, statistical reliability is reduced when results are based on responses from only a small number of people.

Personal Savings

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the savings ratio was for *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each of the last 10 years. [140440]

Mr. Timms: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 4 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question on the savings ratio for men and women in the last ten years. I am replying in her absence. (140440)

We are unable to provide the saving ratios, broken down by gender. The following table shows the households saving ratio for the whole of the UK.

	Households saving ratio
1997	9.5
1998	7.0
1999	5.3
2000	5.1
2001	6.4
2002	5.0
2003	4.9
2004	3.7
2005	5.3
2006	4.9

Note: When using Table A40 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts (weblink follows) the database identifier is NRJS.

The estimates of the households saving ratio are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. Estimates for households alone are not available. NPISHs are legal entities which are principally engaged in the production of non-market services for households and whose main resources are voluntary contributions by households. Examples of NPISHs are: charities; relief and aid organisations; educational establishments; trade unions; professional associations, political parties and religious organisations, and sports clubs and associations.

Further data are available from table A40 in United Kingdom Economic Accounts which is available at the following address:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Pre-School Education: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was allocated to each English local education authority for nursery education grant in each of the last three years; [138688]

(2) what percentage of each English local education authority's nursery education grant was passed on the providers in each of the last three years; [138689]

(3) what percentage of each English local education authority's nursery education grant was withheld for central administration of support in each of the last three years. [138690]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

From 2003-04 to 2005-06, school and early years funding was distributed to LAs through School Formula Spending Share (SFSS). Table 1 shows the funding allocation in £ millions for early years for each local authority in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Figures for spend on early years in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are not available.

Funding for nursery education provision is now provided to local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) alongside that for all pre-16 learning, but is not separately identified. Local authorities—in consultation with their School Forums— are responsible for deciding how best to apply their total school and early years funding across all age groups and between different types of provider, based on an assessment of local circumstances.

Table 1

LEA name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
City of London	0.226	0.223
Camden	12.938	14.036
Greenwich	17.302	18.761
Hackney	18.700	21.310
Hammersmith and Fulham	10.285	11.436
Islington	14.319	15.490
Kensington and Chelsea	8.501	9.122
Lambeth	20.203	21.861
Lewisham	18.730	20.432
Southwark	22.163	23.448
Tower Hamlets	20.745	22.826
Wandsworth	18.514	20.260
Westminster	11.548	12.507
Barking and Dagenham	12.502	13.071
Barnet	18.776	20.921
Bexley	13.224	14.645
Brent	17.803	19.340
Bromley	17.471	18.693

Table 1

LEA name	2004-05	2005-06
Croydon	21.110	22.364
Ealing	20.486	22.207
Enfield	19.321	20.502
Haringey	17.194	17.726
Harrow	12.370	13.230
Havering	12.737	13.562
Hillingdon	16.879	18.497
Hounslow	14.012	15.554
Kingston upon Thames	8.135	8.666
Merton	10.728	12.226
Newham	24.521	26.786
Redbridge	16.141	17.381
Richmond upon Thames	9.139	10.274
Sutton	10.378	11.140
Waltham Forest	14.763	15.901
Birmingham	67.650	74.008
Coventry	16.779	18.429
Dudley	15.994	17.772
Sandwell	17.672	19.299
Solihull	11.057	11.930
Walsall	15.416	17.040
Wolverhampton	14.130	15.267
Knowsley	9.619	10.360
Liverpool	24.920	26.492
St. Helens	9.394	10.036
Sefton	13.824	14.610
Wirral	16.398	17.713
Bolton	15.549	16.957
Bury	9.863	10.695
Manchester	26.568	28.829
Oldham	14.095	15.780
Rochdale	12.776	13.590
Salford	12.235	13.019
Stockport	14.334	15.381
Tameside	11.601	12.752
Trafford	11.124	12.527
Wigan	15.322	16.927
Barnsley	10.074	10.737
Doncaster	15.426	15.167
Rotherham	13.948	14.952
Sheffield	27.137	29.105
Bradford	31.382	35.437
Calderdale	11.397	12.466
Kirklees	23.664	24.736
Leeds	36.660	39.657
Wakefield	15.152	16.940
Gateshead	9.796	10.314
Newcastle upon Tyne	13.162	13.937
North Tyneside	9.984	10.429
South Tyneside	7.591	8.188
Sunderland	14.522	15.446
Isles of Scilly	0.115	0.117
Bath and North East Somerset	7.685	8.252
Bristol, City of	19.260	21.717
North Somerset	8.982	9.780
South Gloucestershire	13.400	14.190
Hartlepool	5.083	5.690
Middlesbrough	8.272	8.857
Redcar and Cleveland	7.241	7.659
Stockton-on-Tees	9.773	10.864
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	13.349	13.484
East Riding of Yorkshire	14.198	15.102

Table 1

LEA name	2004-05	2005-06
North East Lincolnshire	8.202	9.375
North Lincolnshire	7.625	8.174
North Yorkshire	25.554	27.442
York	7.749	8.605
Bedfordshire	19.863	22.117
Luton	13.020	13.984
Buckinghamshire	25.244	27.827
Milton Keynes	13.331	14.761
Derbyshire	35.859	38.499
Derby	13.433	14.979
Dorset	15.938	16.813
Poole	5.759	6.296
Bournemouth	7.076	7.224
Durham	24.190	25.611
Darlington	5.431	5.954
East Sussex	21.535	23.197
Brighton and Hove	10.965	11.435
Hampshire	64.339	69.489
Portsmouth	9.707	10.281
Southampton	12.473	11.501
Leicestershire	29.109	32.315
Leicester	18.737	19.968
Rutland	1.632	1.780
Staffordshire	38.912	41.441
Stoke-on-Trent	12.280	13.623
Wiltshire	21.993	24.620
Swindon	10.181	10.991
Bracknell Forest	5.638	6.062
Windsor and Maidenhead	6.291	7.332
West Berkshire	7.198	8.295
Reading	6.484	7.700
Slough	7.848	8.639
Wokingham	6.812	7.691
Cambridgeshire	27.559	29.844
Peterborough	9.959	10.896
Cheshire	32.581	35.642
Halton	6.834	7.140
Warrington	10.383	11.379
Devon	29.000	33.872
Plymouth	12.235	13.012
Torbay	5.965	6.359
Essex	66.744	72.601
Southend-on-Sea	9.392	10.017
Thurrock	8.746	9.257
Herefordshire	7.828	8.378
Worcestershire	26.018	28.179
Kent	71.552	77.073
Medway	13.995	14.893
Lancashire	56.973	61.794
Blackburn with Darwen	9.861	10.677
Blackpool	7.196	7.717
Nottinghamshire	31.646	34.124
Nottingham	14.295	15.190
Shropshire	11.447	12.303
Telford and Wrekin	9.387	10.019
Cornwall	20.727	22.517
Cumbria	22.036	23.885
Gloucestershire	27.608	29.911
Hertfordshire	61.327	64.540
Isle of Wight	6.113	6.631
Lincolnshire	30.662	33.061
Norfolk	35.729	38.312

Table 1

LEA name	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Northamptonshire	34.491	37.279
Northumberland	14.518	15.675
Oxfordshire	27.559	29.921
Somerset	23.601	24.791
Suffolk	28.999	31.087
Surrey	56.191	60.526
Warwickshire	25.512	27.498
West Sussex	35.675	39.275

Note:
Figures are after damping.

Social Security Benefits: Take-up

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the assumed percentage take up rate is for *(a)* working tax credit, *(b)* pension credit, *(c)* council tax benefit by (i) pensioners and (ii) all recipients, *(d)* housing benefit and *(e)* child tax credit in the public expenditure plans. [133042]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 April 2007]:* Forecasts of expenditure on tax credits are based on case load rather than take-up forecasts.

Forecasts of pension credit expenditure are based on forecast increases in the pension credit case load, driven primarily by growth in the estimated entitled population.

Forecasts of housing benefit and council tax benefit expenditure are based on forecast changes in housing benefit case load and average awards. The case load forecasts are driven primarily by changes in the estimated recipient populations for other benefits to which entitlement to housing benefits is related. There are no direct assumptions made for changes in the take-up of housing benefits. If necessary, off-model case load adjustments are used to reflect the impact on take-up of future policy changes.

Taxation: Fuels

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the consultation on the implementation of the EU leisure tax on marine fuel to report. [140485]

Mr. Timms: Officials are in the process of discussing with various representative organisations ways of implementing the new regime which will both minimise the impact and ensure that any additional compliance burden is as small as possible. These discussions will inform a consultation to be held later this year and we aim to report on this at the 2007 pre-Budget report.

As announced at Budget 2007, private pleasure craft owners will continue to be able to use red diesel at the rebated duty rate until 1 November 2008.

Unemployment: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged 24 years of age or under were considered to be economically inactive in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [138907]

Mr. Timms: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 4 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about economic inactivity. (138907)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of inactivity for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of economically inactive persons aged 16 to 24, resident in the London boroughs, from the annual local area LFS for the 12-month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12-month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2006. Table 2 shows these numbers expressed as a percentage of the resident population of the same age.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Table 1: Economically inactive persons aged 16 to 24, London boroughs

Thousand

	12 months ending:									
London borough	*February 1997*	*February 1998*	*February 1999*	*February 2000*	*February 2001*	*February 2002*	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*
Barking and Dagenham	4	5	6	6	8	6	7	7	7	8
Barnet	11	12	9	17	15	12	12	17	22	16
Bexley	7	5	6	5	7	7	8	7	9	8
Brent	12	12	12	15	17	13	17	14	17	14
Bromley	7	8	6	7	9	8	10	10	10	11
Camden	9	9	8	9	9	11	11	8	18	15
City of London	[—]	1	1	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
Croydon	10	10	11	8	7	9	10	11	14	16
Ealing	13	10	13	11	18	16	19	16	15	16
Enfield	10	10	10	14	12	12	10	11	16	16
Greenwich	9	7	4	7	8	9	10	12	12	9
Hackney	11	9	11	13	11	13	15	13	16	19
Hammersmith and Fulham	7	8	7	10	8	6	9	8	8	11
Haringey	11	11	12	11	17	15	12	14	14	16
Harrow	7	8	8	8	4	11	12	10	7	9

Table 1: Economically inactive persons aged 16 to 24, London boroughs

Thousand

London borough	*12 months ending: February 1997*	*February 1998*	*February 1999*	*February 2000*	*February 2001*	*February 2002*	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*
Havering	4	5	5	7	5	5	7	4	9	6
Hillingdon	3	8	8	8	8	7	10	9	10	12
Hounslow	9	12	9	7	9	10	11	12	10	8
Islington	7	10	11	6	9	8	10	14	10	12
Kensington and Chelsea	6	6	8	6	4	8	9	8	15	8
Kingston-upon-Thames	3	6	5	7	8	6	7	5	9	8
Lambeth	10	12	11	11	12	15	11	11	12	15
Lewisham	8	5	7	10	9	12	11	10	9	13
Merton	4	5	3	3	6	5	4	4	7	9
Newham	10	15	13	16	19	19	19	21	19	15
Redbridge	10	9	9	11	10	9	10	12	15	17
Richmond-upon-Thames	4	5	4	3	3	5	4	8	8	9
Southwark	8	12	15	10	11	10	15	16	14	16
Sutton	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	4	6	5
Tower Hamlets	9	12	14	10	18	18	20	16	14	19
Waltham Forest	10	10	11	8	10	12	11	11	11	10
Wandsworth	6	7	7	7	8	7	10	7	12	15
Westminster, City of	7	11	9	9	9	12	10	12	11	15

Table 2: Economic inactivity rates for persons aged 16 to 24, London boroughs

Percentage

London borough	*12 months ending: February 1997*	*February 1998*	*February 1999*	*February 2000*	*February 2001*	*February 2002*	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*
Barking and Dagenham	17	28	30	30	38	27	32	40	40	38
Barnet	33	34	28	41	36	35	38	45	57	40
Bexley	25	19	23	23	31	31	29	28	32	33
Brent	38	38	34	35	47	33	46	39	56	41
Bromley	26	28	24	26	31	27	40	34	36	37
Camden	47	60	40	40	42	51	41	34	56	58
City of London	[x]	100	61	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]	[x]
Croydon	31	27	29	25	22	24	25	25	38	40
Ealing	41	38	44	30	48	48	47	48	42	43
Enfield	29	30	32	45	35	42	37	36	49	49
Greenwich	35	33	27	35	34	37	40	44	47	35
Hackney	44	37	50	50	52	50	56	49	65	65
Hammersmith and Fulham	34	40	36	45	42	31	37	33	42	45
Haringey	36	44	41	38	60	54	48	61	50	56
Harrow	40	37	31	36	24	49	45	39	34	41
Havering	21	18	19	29	23	23	26	17	34	29
Hillingdon	14	27	28	31	37	27	36	38	34	44
Hounslow	41	43	39	27	36	34	42	42	32	31
Islington	31	51	49	28	38	36	46	53	46	49
Kensington and Chelsea	42	52	50	48	34	54	54	49	65	61
Kingston-upon-Thames	25	38	33	52	40	33	34	30	43	38
Lambeth	25	33	36	36	32	39	33	37	44	48
Lewisham	31	24	31	35	30	38	38	37	30	49
Merton	22	29	21	21	28	27	21	23	33	42
Newham	35	44	38	47	54	49	51	55	54	48
Redbridge	30	38	36	40	39	36	39	48	54	61
Richmond-upon-Thames	26	34	31	24	24	32	28	54	45	55
Southwark	29	33	41	33	36	34	49	46	46	47
Sutton	21	20	19	10	16	19	15	21	30	25
Tower Hamlets	38	40	50	33	50	51	57	49	44	56
Waltham Forest	30	35	39	29	37	37	42	43	44	38
Wandsworth	23	31	24	26	26	27	35	27	38	52

Table 2: Economic inactivity rates for persons aged 16 to 24, London boroughs

Percentage

London borough	*12 months ending: February 1997*	*February 1998*	*February 1999*	*February 2000*	*February 2001*	*February 2002*	*February 2003*	*February 2004*	*March 2005*	*March 2006*
Westminster, City of	39	48	51	46	43	50	45	53	44	55

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Voucher Schemes: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many individual applications were approved under the childcare voucher scheme in each of the last five years. [138684]

Ed Balls: This information is not available. The tax and national insurance rules provide an exemption of up to £55 per week where an employer provides employees with vouchers for qualifying child care. Formal application to HMRC is not required nor are employers required to report that they are participating in the child care voucher initiative unless they provide vouchers in excess of the exempt amount.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people reported a change in earnings taking them above the £25,000 income disregard for tax credits in the latest financial year for which figures are available. [139792]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of in-work families in receipt of tax credits who estimated that their income had increased by more than £25,000 in 2006-07 is available in table 6.1 of the snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics—April 2007". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/ctc-wtc-snapshot-apr07.pdf.

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken was to dispatch an award notice to tax credit recipients who reported changed circumstances in each parliamentary constituency in each month from April 2003 to the latest month for which figures are available. [140071]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs do not routinely collect data on time taken to dispatch award notices. However, HM Revenue and Customs aim to process 86 per cent. of changes of circumstances within five working days and 95 per cent. in 30 working days and the Department is achieving that aim.

Welfare Tax Credits: Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how long staff answering customer calls at call centres on behalf of the tax credit office are recommended to spend on each call; and if he will make a statement; [135385]

(2) whether guidelines are issued to contact centre staff answering calls on behalf of the tax credit office on the number of calls from customers they should deal with each day; and if he will make a statement; [135386]

(3) whether guidelines are issued to staff at the HM Revenue and Customs Cardiff contact centre on the number of calls from customers they should deal with each day; and if he will make a statement; [135387]

(4) how long staff working at the HM Revenue and Customs Cardiff contact centre are expected to spend on each call; and if he will make a statement. [135388]

Mr. Timms: Staff are expected to take the appropriate time to resolve the caller's inquiry—there is no national set time for the duration of calls or for the number of calls to be handled.

As part of their day-to-day management activity, managers actively monitor individual and team performance focussing in particular on the relationship between call quality and call handling times. If appropriate, managers set local individual and team level goals for improvement.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings she has held with the Arts Council England since 1 January; and if she will publish the minutes of those meetings. [140549]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has regular meetings with the Arts Council in the course of official business. It is not usual practice to disclose the detail of such meetings.

Arts Council of England: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding was provided to the Arts Council England in each year since its formation. [140547]

Mr. Woodward: The table shows public funding provided to the Arts Council of Great Britain from its formation in 1945. From 1995 onwards the figures represent funding for Arts Council England only.

£000

Year ending 31 March	Grant in Aid	Lottery	Total
1945	175	—	175
1946	235	—	235
1947	350	—	350
1948	428	—	428
1949	575	—	575
1950	600	—	600
1951	675	—	675
1952	875	—	875
1953	675	—	675
1954	785	—	785
1955	785	—	785
1956	820	—	820
1957	885	—	885
1958	985	—	985
1959	1,100	—	1,100
1960	1,218	—	1,218
1961	1,500	—	1,500
1962	1,745	—	1,745
1963	2,190	—	2,190
1964	2,730	—	2,730
1965	3,205	—	3,205
1966	3,910	—	3,910
1967	5,700	—	5,700
1968	7,200	—	7,200
1969	7,750	—	7,750
1970	8,200	—	8,200
1971	9,300	—	9,300
1972	11,900	—	11,900
1973	13,962	—	13,962
1974	17,138	—	17,138
1975	24,485	—	24,485
1976	28,850	—	28,850
1977	37,150	—	37,150
1978	41,725	—	41,725
1979	51,800	—	51,800
1980	63,630	—	63,630
1981	70,970	—	70,970
1982	80,450	—	80,450
1983	91,300	—	91,300
1984	96,080	—	96,080
1985	101,900	—	101,900
1986	106,050	—	106,050
1987	135,600	—	135,600
1988	139,300	—	139,300
1989	152,411	—	152,411
1990	155,500	—	155,500
1991	175,792	—	175,792
1992	205,000	—	205,000
1993	221,200	—	221,200
1994	225,830	—	225,830
1995	185,990	48,900	234,890
1996	191,133	255,360	446,493
1997	185,133	262,802	447,935
1998	186,600	297,648	484,248
1999	189,950	241,748	431,698
2000	228,250	215,196	443,446
2001	237,155	204,874	442,029
2002	251,455	210,688	462,143
2003	289,405	178,331	467,736
2004	324,955	164,491	489,446
2005	368,859	170,195	539,054
2006	408,678	172,575	581,253

Arts: Taxation

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the impact of deduction of tax at source from the remuneration payable to self-employed contractors in the arts field who were previously regarded as freelancers; and if she will make a statement. [140102]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has made no assessment of any impact of deduction of tax at source from the remuneration payable to self-employed contractors in the arts field who were previously regarded as freelancers.

BBC

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the BBC Jam service prior to its suspension. [138838]

Mr. Woodward: This is a matter for the BBC. The BBC inform us that spend on BBC Jam to the end of March 2007 was £79 million.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she had with the BBC Trust prior to its decision to suspend the BBC Jam service. [138839]

Mr. Woodward: Government officials had discussions with the BBC Trust Unit about the European Commission's request for a review of BBC Jam. However, the decision to suspend the service was a matter for decision by the Trust.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the implications for the BBC Trust's public service broadcasting obligations of its decision to suspend its BBC Jam services; and if she will make a statement. [138840]

Mr. Woodward: None. It is the responsibility of the Trust to determine, within the framework of the Charter and Agreement, how the BBC's obligations are best fulfilled. It is disappointing that the Jam service has been suspended but we understand the reasons for the Trust's decision.

British Library

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the visitor numbers recorded for the British Library were for the latest year for which figures are available; and what change this represents from *(a)* the previous year and *(b)* each of the previous five years. [139766]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is as follows.

Number of visits to reading rooms[1]

	Visits	*Percentage increase*
2006-07	474,074	—
2005-06	462,207	2.5
2001-02	431,525	9.9

[1] Comprising manual tickets issued to readers at St. Pancras; headcounts taken three times a day for the open access reading rooms at St. Pancras; daily counts of visitors to reading rooms at Boston Spa, Colindale and Philatelic Section.

Number of visits to on-site public access facilities[1]

	Visits	*Percentage increase*
2006-07	510,212	—
2005-06	385,263	32.4
2001-02	365,792	39.5

[1] Comprising number of visits to the exhibitions, auditorium events for the public and piazza events. 2005-06 Exhibition gallery visits adversely affected by terrorist activities in the vicinity.

Number of learners attending educational sessions[1]

	Visits	*Percentage increase*
2006-07	10,127	—
2005-06	9,500	6.6
2001-02	7,604	33.2

[1] Number of individual learners (schools/FE colleges) who have participated in a workshop, outreach visit or project activity.

Website visitors[1]

	Visits	*Percentage increase*
2006-07	7,920,127	—
2005-06	4,229,076	87.3
2001-02	n/a	n/a

[1] Best approximation of the use made of the BL website by individuals. Figures not available for 2001-02

Broadcasting Programmes: Children

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what response she has made to the recent Ofcom report on the trend in levels of spending on domestically-originated television programming for UK children; and if she will make a statement. [140105]

Mr. Woodward: None. The data on spending on domestically-originated programming for UK children represent one strand of the Ofcom review of children's television. I await the conclusion of the review with interest.

Cultural Heritage: Barwick in Elmet

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what action English Heritage is taking under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 to protect and enhance the Barwick in Elmet Earthworks. [139508]

Mr. Woodward: In July 2006, using its powers under Section 17 of the Act, English Heritage provided a grant for the site to be cleared of scrub and rubbish, for fencing to be erected, steps to be repaired and access improved. These works were completed satisfactorily. The site was also successful in attracting Heritage Lottery funding for a Local Heritage Initiative to, among other things, increase access. A programme of community involvement is in development to supplement this and a Scheduled Monument Consent application is currently being considered for the installation of notice and information boards.

Cultural Heritage: Climate Change

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if her Department will take steps to include measures required to accommodate the effects of climate change on heritage sites and the historic environment in future heritage protection legislation. [139825]

Mr. Woodward: We do not envisage that any future heritage protection legislation to enact the reforms proposed in the White Paper, Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, will include specific measures on climate change. However our proposals for reform will enable more flexible management arrangements for historic assets and allow for a wider range of historic assets to be protected. Both of these measures could be used to accommodate measures to address the effects of climate change.

DCMS is also looking to initiate a project in consultation with its NDPB's, including English Heritage, which will record and summarise their current activities to mitigate and support adaptation to climate changes and produce an estimate of the Department's and NDPB's carbon footprint.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will issue guidance to relevant organisations to which her Department provides funding on matters concerning the impact of climate change on heritage sites and the historic environment. [140130]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS is currently scoping a project to address potential climate change impacts on all our sectors, including heritage sites and the historic environment. The findings from the project will help to shape any recommendations to the organisations to which DCMS provides funding. English Heritage, the Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment, is developing a website tool to help the public understand the implications of climate change for older buildings in private ownership, and is planning a major conference on climate change early next year.

Cultural Heritage: Seas and Oceans

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if her Department will take steps to consolidate and update legislation on the protection of marine heritage. [139824]

Mr. Woodward: The White Paper, Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, published in March, set out our policy to develop an improved system of UK-wide marine heritage protection. We will be seeking parliamentary time for legislation to introduce these reforms. DCMS has also been closely involved with DEFRA throughout the development of proposals for a Marine Bill.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times her Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139208]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS has not been found in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in any of the last five years.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people with epilepsy are employed by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139105]

Mr. Woodward: Personal health records are confidential. 2 per cent. of people working in DCMS have declared a disability. DCMS is a very small Department so we are unable to provide specific information about epilepsy requested, on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by her Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139407]

Mr. Woodward: On the basis of available records, the total cost to the Department of external legal advice in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*£*
2002-03	524,059.86
2003-04	490,242.08
2004-05	791,050.23
2005-06	456,480.95
2006-07	251,011.67

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of her Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140121]

Mr. Lammy: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what operating grants were allocated to each of the non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible in each of the last five years; and what change this represented in each case from the previous year. [139966]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Operating grant allocated to DCMS non-departmental public bodies

£000

Body	*2003-04*	*+/-*	*2004-05*	*+/-*	*2005-06*	*+/-*	*2006-07*	*+/-*	*Plans 2007-08*
British Museum	37,699	300	37,999	216	38,215	4,639	42,854	1,969	44,823
Natural History Museum	39,603	44	39,647	433	40,080	3,055	43,135	2,030	45,165
Imperial War Museum	16,541	930	17,491	320	17,811	2,802	20,613	1,564	22,177
National Gallery	20,499	728	21,227	233	21,460	2,581	24,041	1,525	25,566
National Maritime Museum	13,945	1,786	15,731	-906	14,825	2,263	17,088	1,323	18,411
National Museums Liverpool	17,332	1	17,333	346	17,679	3,274	20,953	873	21,826
National Portrait Gallery	5,712	396	6,108	55	6,163	597	6,760	278	7,038
National Museum of Science and Industry	34,750	-1,631	33,119	-237	32,882	2,815	35,697	2,787	38,484
National Coal Mining Museum of England	2,408	-3	2,405	21	2,426	102	2,528	131	2,659
Tate Gallery	30,282	-401	29,881	530	30,411	3,213	33,624	2,305	35,929
Victoria and Albert Museum	34,839	1,286	36,125	656	36,781	2,831	39,612	2,908	42,520
Wallace Collection	3,013	-439	2,574	-79	2,495	1,033	3,528	628	4,156
Museum of Science and Industry Manchester	3,199	310	3,509	231	3,740	394	4,134	37	4,171
Museum of London	6,574	-68	6,506	70	6,576	1,355	7,931	878	8,809
Sir John Soane's Museum	1074	-105	969	-193	776	407	1,183	-111	1,072
Horniman Museum	3281	378	3,659	23	3,682	250	3,932	418	4,350
Geffrye Museum	1,199	612	1,811	-380	1,431	256	1,687	269	1,956
Royal Armouries	6,286	601	6,887	226	7,113	541	7,654	658	8,312
National Football Museum	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100
People's History Museum	150	0	150	0	150	6	156	8	164

Operating grant allocated to DCMS non-departmental public bodies

£000

Body	*2003-04*	*+/-*	*2004-05*	*+/-*	*2005-06*	*+/-*	*2006-07*	*+/-*	*Plans 2007-08*
Tyne and Wear Museums	1,100	100	1,200	510	1,710	151	1,861	465	2,326
Design Museum	200	380	580	-240	340	143	483	20	503
British Library	88,929	2,664	91,593	3,500	95,093	7,496	102,589	1,822	104,411
Public Lending Right	7,201	180	7,381	19	7,400	302	7,702	-20	7,682
Museums Libraries and Archives Council	13,393	65	13,458	806	14,264	1,117	15,381	-860	14,521
Arts Council of England	335,455	30,000	365,455	45,000	410,455	10,500	420,955	-3,000	417,955
Football Licensing Authority	1,125	0	1,125	100	1,225	140	1,365	-104	1,261
UK Sports Council	19,600	7,710	27,310	1,995	29,305	22,800	52,105	10,900	63,005
Sport England	60,775	12,470	73,245	6,525	79,770	35,693	115,463	500	115,963
Royal Household	16,407	-850	15,557	2,670	18,227	-2,120	16,107	0	16,107
English Heritage	123,237	878	124,115	8,400	132,515	-379	132,136	1,000	133,136
National Heritage Memorial Fund	5,000	0	5,000	2	5,002	0	5,002	5,000	10,002
Churches Conservation Trust	3,000	0	3,000	0	3,000	62	3,062	0	3,062
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	3,530	500	4,030	660	4,690	0	4,690	0	4,690
Visit Britain	47,200	-2,700	44,500	-1,000	43,500	6,460	49,960	-60	49,900
UK Film Council	24,110	800	24,910	-800	24,110	0	24,110	0	24,110
The National Film and Television School	2,800	0	2,800	100	2,900	0	2,900	0	2,900
National Lottery Commission	4,942	0	4,942	2,620	7,562	-2,620	4,942	9,059	14,001
Spaces for Sport and Arts	68,118	-40,660	27,458	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gaming Board for Great Britain/Gambling Commission	2,885	-500	2,385	9,747	12,132	-3,911	8,221	-4,001	4,220

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what efficiency savings *(a)* her Department has sought from and *(b)* have been achieved by each of the non-departmental public bodies for which her Department is responsible in the last five years. [139967]

Mr. Lammy: As announced in the 2004 spending review, the Department has a target to make £262 million efficiency savings by 2007-08. This includes a sub-target of £114 million efficiency savings by NDPBs. This sub-target has now been exceeded. At 31 March 2007, NDPBs had made the following savings:

NDPB sector	*2006-07 provisional gains*	*2007-08 target*
Museums and galleries	52.9	45
Heritage bodies	13.3	14
Strategic bodies	64.5	55
Total	130.7	114

DCMS did not set targets for individual NDPBs but asked them to identify what savings they could achieve. The majority of 2006-07 data is still provisional and although we can be confident in the approximate accuracy of the overall figure, individual NDPB figures are subject to fluctuation. The 2005-06 gains, validated by the bodies, are:

NDPB	*2005-06 gains (£000)*
Natural History Museum	3,909
British Museum	7,189
Victoria and Albert Museum	2,275
National Museum of Science and Industry	2,690
Tate	1,545
National Gallery	1,440
National Museums Liverpool	2,728
Imperial War Museum	679
Nation Maritime Museum	2,454
Royal Armouries	232
Museum of London	1,937
National Portrait Gallery	390
Horniman Museum	59
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	105
Wallace Collection	130
Geffrye Museum	2
Sir John Soane Museum	15
British Library	12,059
Public Lending Right	41
Sub-total, museums and galleries	39,879
English Heritage	6,490
Royal Parks	521
CABE	230
Sub-total, heritage	7,241
Arts Council England	23,383

NDPB	2005-06 gains (£000)
Sport England	7,964
UK Sport	613
VisitBritain	6,656
MLA	756
UK Film Council	2,920
Sub-total, strategic bodies	42,286
Total	89,406

Progress at achieving savings has been periodically revised as NDPBs have implemented the programme, for example, where they have been able to validate additional savings. This means that these individual figures are higher than the aggregate total reported to HM Treasury in 2005-06, which has previously appeared in published reports.

In the SR2002 period (2003-06), the British Library, the British Museum, Sport England, the tourism bodies, English Heritage and the Lottery bodies undertook modernisation programmes as part of the Department's PSA4 target. All targets relating to PSA4 were met, as detailed in the Department's 2005 and 2006 autumn performance reports, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Departments: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants for which her Department is responsible have been given to Peterborough city council since 1997; and what the value was of such grants. [139250]

Mr. Woodward: In the revenue return to Communities and Local Government, Peterborough reported that it has received no grants between 1997-98 and 2006-07 from my Department. These specific grants are those inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services) paid to Peterborough and exclude grants outside AEF such as capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities, European funding; or where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

These revenue returns do not therefore detail the money that is paid out by the National Lottery, DCMS non-departmental public bodies and other sources. Departmental data indicates that the following grants were paid to Peterborough.

The following table shows the number and value of grants on the Department's Lottery Grants Database (which uses information supplied by the lottery distributors) where the name of the recipient is recorded as "Peterborough city council". Lottery distributing bodies make grant decisions independently of my Department.

Calendar year	Number of Grants	Value of grants to nearest £1,000
1997	1	15,000
1998	1	54,000
1999	1	629,000
2000	3	528,000
2001	6	490,000
2002	6	653,000
2003	12	1,326,000
2004	5	1,480,000
2005	4	401,000
2006	0	0
2007 (to date)	0	0
Total	39	5,578,000

Arts Council England has provided grants totalling £204,659 to Peterborough city council since 1997, see following table.

	Project	Value of Grant
1997-98	Consultancy for Peterborough Arts Strategy	7,500
1998-99	To support the salary of a literature development worker in Peterborough	4,500
1998-99	Towards 'Once Upon a Time' video drama project, from the Media Production fund	4,000
1998-99	Many Voices, One City project	1,500
1998-99	To support artists' fees, venue hire and publicity costs of the Peterborough Festival of Stories	1,000
1999-2000	To support the salary of a literature development worker for Peterborough	4,500
2000-01	ESF Project Funding	5,334
2001-02	To present and promote a programme of contemporary art and digital	art at the Museum and Art gallery	7,426
2002-03	New Media Gallery	132,899
2002-03	To link the launch of the New Media Gallery with the regional 'MESH' event in April 2003. The project will commission new work	36,000
Total		204,659

English Heritage has provided grants totalling £99,651 to Peterborough city council since 1997, see following table.

		Value of grant (£)
1997	Conservation Area Partnership Scheme	18,937
1998	Conservation Area Partnership Scheme	3,322
1999	Conservation Area Partnership Scheme	17,767
2005	Peterborough's First People Project	59,625
Total		99,651

Sport England has provided one grant to Peterborough city council since 1997 of £100,000 for Woodford Skate Park in 2004.

Screen East, the Regional Screen Agency, has provided grants totalling £11,000 to Peterborough city council since 1997, see following table.

Date	Project	Value of grant (£)
4 July 2005	Children's & Young People's Film Awards	5,000
29 September 2006	Children's & Young People's Film Awards	6,000
Total		11,000

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139430]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

(a) (b) (i) The Department had a zero spend on advertising between 2000 and 2002. The expenditure and agencies used for advertising and consultancy for advertising campaigns from 2003 has been as follows:

	Agency/Organisation	£
2003-04	Central Office of Information (COI)	20,987
2004-05	COI	37,085
2005-06	COI	139,578
2006-07	COI	3,580.89

(ii) The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139523]

Mr. Woodward: The information is as follows:

	(a) spend (£)
2003-04	20,987
2004-05	37,085
2005-06	139,578
2006-07	3,580.89
Total	201,230.89

(b) This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140032]

Mr. Woodward: The Department and its agency, the Royal Parks, do not separately identify the cost of recruitment consultants from other recruitment costs such as advertising. The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Digital Broadcasting: Broadcasting Reception

Mr. Olner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of households can currently receive digital terrestrial transmission in the *(a)* Anglia, *(b)* Border, *(c)* Central, *(d)* Granada, *(e)* London, *(f)* Meridian, *(g)* STV Central, *(h)* STV North, *(i)* Tyne Tees, *(j)* Ulster, *(k)* Wales, (l) West, *(m)* West Country and *(n)* Yorkshire ITV regions. [140406]

Mr. Woodward: We do not have figures for digital terrestrial transmission by ITV region. Ofcom hold the following information on DTT coverage by Government region:

54 per cent. of households in the East of England;
94 per cent. of households in the north-west of England;
82 per cent. of households in Scotland;
74 per cent. of households in the West Midlands;
74 per cent. of households in the East Midlands;
86 per cent. of households in London;
58 per cent. of households in the south-east;
89 per cent. of households in the north-east;
58 per cent. of households in Northern Ireland;
57 per cent. of households in Wales;
62 per cent. of households in the south-west; and
82 per cent. of households in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many households qualifying for assistance in switching over to digital television in each parliamentary constituency in Scotland will be required to pay a £40 fee to access assistance. [139919]

Mr. Woodward: The information is not available in the form requested.

We estimate about 49 per cent. of Scottish households in the Grampian and Scottish TV regions eligible for help will qualify for free assistance under the Digital Switchover Help Scheme; 51 per cent. of households in the Grampian and Scottish TV regions eligible for help will qualify for assistance to which there is a £40 charge.

For the Border region covering England and Scotland (but excluding Whitehaven and the Isle of Man), we estimate that 41 per cent. of eligible households will qualify for free assistance; 59 per cent. of eligible households will qualify for assistance to which there is a £40 charge.

Football: Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to prevent the re-sale of tickets for football matches *(a)* on the street and *(b)* online. [139031]

Mr. Woodward: The resale of tickets for football matches on the street and online is prohibited under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. It is a matter for the police.

Leisure: Training

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the chief executive of People 1st on the national skills strategy for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism sectors on the account taken of environmental sustainability in the delivery of the strategy. [139950]

Mr. Woodward: People 1st regularly attend the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games. DCMS works closely with People 1st on improving skills and retention rates across the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries. Officials have regular meetings with their Chief Executive.

The industry-led National Skills Strategy (NSS) for England contains a Ten Point Plan of action to improve skills and retention levels. Research indicates that industry increasingly recognises the need to adopt sustainable practices and the NSS will take this into account in implementation and delivery. In particular, the UK Skills Passport, qualifications reform and the National Hospitality Skills Academy (Points 1, 2 and 8 of the Plan) are important developments which can help promote the sustainability agenda. For example, there are currently no publicly funded training programmes for sector businesses which reflect the trend toward a sustainable business approach and this will be considered as part of the wider qualifications reform programme and in the new and innovative programmes developed by the Skills Academy.

Sustainability will be fully integrated and built into the Department's tourism policies and practices, including skills. This is a key theme running throughout our Tourism Strategy for the 2012 Games, due to be launched later this summer, which will balance the needs of visitors, industry, community and the environment.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for [redacted]lture, Media and Sport what effect the use of [redacted]tery funding for the 2012 Olympic Games will have on funding of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. [139749]

Mr. Woodward: Subject to parliamentary approval £4.5 million will be transferred to the Olympic Lottery Distribution Fund between 2009 and 2012 from the balance of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI). On current projections, even after this contribution, and any sales diversion effect from Olympic Lottery products, ACNI should still have around £20 million of fresh Lottery income over those four years. Existing commitments need not be affected by the additional Olympic transfer.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will *(a)* consult shooting organisations on the location for Olympic shooting events and *(b)* reconsider the decision to site them at Woolwich; and if she will make a statement. [140147]

Mr. Caborn: The Great Britain Target Shooting Federation and International Shooting Federation were previously involved in the decisions regarding the change of shooting venue from the National Shooting Centre, Bisley to the current venue at the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich.

The Royal Artillery Barracks are part of the Host City Contract agreement with the IOC and are deemed to provide a more compact Games that allowed athletes to train and compete within 30 minutes travel time of the Olympic Village. There are currently no plans to move the Olympic shooting events to an alternative venue.

Sport England: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the funding allocation for Sport England is for each of the next two financial years. [140548]

Mr. Caborn: It will not be possible to confirm the funding allocation to Sport England for the next two financial years until the outcome of the comprehensive spending review 2007 is known.

Sports: Apprentices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans she has to extend the young apprenticeship in sports management leadership and coaching pilot project. [139952]

Mr. Caborn: The Young Apprenticeships in Sports Management, Leadership and Coaching were first delivered in September 2005 as part of the Department for Education and Skills' Young Apprenticeship programme.

An expansion of the Young Apprenticeship programme has been approved to start in September 2007 which will see the number of pupils on the Young Apprenticeship in Sports Management, Leadership and Coaching increase from 350 currently to around 1000. The number of Young Apprenticeship partnerships will also rise from 13 to 46.

SkillsActive (the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure and Learning) is working closely with a network of specialist Sports Colleges, particularly those also with vocational specialisms to ensure the Young Apprenticeship is established nationwide as a viable opportunity to those entering Key Stage 4.

Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the report prepared and sent in response to the request from the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2005 to send them a report on progress in resolving the A303 Stonehenge Improvement Scheme; and when the report was sent. [139820]

Mr. Woodward: I am arranging for copies of the 2005 Reactive Monitoring Report for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site to be

placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The report was sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on 31 January 2005.

Tickets: Touting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's code of practice on ticket touting in reducing that practice. [138841]

Mr. Woodward: The Department has held four summits with the primary and secondary ticket markets and agreed a Statement of Collective Agreement. We continue to engage with stakeholders, both to benefit and protect the public. We will continue the dialogue with industry to tackle ticket touting.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance her Department has issued to internet auction sites on ticket touting; and if she will make a statement. [138842]

Mr. Woodward: None. At a meeting with key stakeholders in April 2006, a Statement of Principles was presented and agreed, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Ministers continue discussions with all stakeholders including principal online auction sites, to find solutions to ticket touting concerns.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions she has had with representatives of *(a)* music concerts, *(b)* music festivals, *(c)* sporting events and *(d)* theatres on ticket touting; when such discussions took place; and if she will make a statement. [138843]

Mr. Woodward: Ministers met representatives from the music industry at the fourth summit meeting on ticket touting on 8 February 2007 and met with the five major professional sports governing bodies on 16 May 2007. DCMS officials met the Society of Ticket Agents and Retailers, who represent ticket agents, theatre and others, on 17 May 2007 and with senior representatives from the UK major events industry on 23 May 2007. Discussions continue with key interested parties on finding solutions to tackle further ticket touting.

Tourism: Costal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much VisitBritain spent in promoting British seaside destinations in each of the last five years. [139615]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain actively promotes seaside destinations to the inbound and domestic tourism markets, in partnership with regional and local partners where appropriate. The amounts it has spent in this way cannot be disaggregated from its general marketing spending.

By way of illustration, however, over the period 2004-05 to 2005-06, VisitBritain spent £363,000 on the EnjoyEngland WatersideEngland campaign, which includes the promotion of seaside locations. VisitBritain was also active in promoting the SeaBritain campaign in 2005.

Tourism: Irish

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists from the Irish Republic visited the UK in each of the last 10 years. [140141]

Mr. Woodward: The number of visits to the UK from the Irish Republic since 1995 is shown in the table. This information is taken from the International Passenger Survey and primarily gives an annual estimate of the number of visits to the UK via air and sea routes. However, an estimate of visitor flows across the land border between the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland has also been included in the figures.

Visits to the UK from the Irish Republic [1] 1995-2005

	Visits (000)
1995	2,809
1996	3,169
1997	3,613
1998	3,937
1999	4,233
2000	3,961
2001	3,930
2002	3,965
2003	3,913
2004	4,125
2005	4,221

[1] Changes were made to the IPS methodology in 1999 to improve the quality and detail of estimates of travellers to and from the Irish Republic. Care should be taken when comparing results for 1999 and 2000 with earlier years.

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Tourism: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which 10 tourist attractions in the Peterborough city council area attracted the largest number of visitors in each year since 1997. [139243]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain holds data on tourist attractions which participate in its surveys. Visitor number figures are available for the following attractions in the vicinity of Peterborough since 2000:

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Nene Valley Railway	N/A	64,606	52,571	51,813	55,642	57,506
Activity World and Animal World	N/A	50,000	52,874	51,780	74,165	N/A
Peterborough Cathedral	48,700	46,706	48,291	54,153	60,563	59,412E

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Railworld	3,405	3,260	3,466	3,130	N/A	N/A
Peterborough Museum/Art Gallery	34,000	32,041	33,183	31,003	31,088	38,784
Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre	14,924	13,929	15,490	17,800	65,780	66,266
Thorney Abbey Church	N/A	600	800	1,000	1,500	N/A
Thorney Heritage Museum	578	948	743	649	672	597

VisitBritain

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions she has met the current Chairman of VisitBritain; what the agenda was for each meeting; and if she will make a statement. [138844]

Mr. Woodward: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met the chairman of VisitBritain on 22 January and on 24 April 2007. I met VisitBritain's chairman on 19 February 2007. Among other matters discussed on each occasion were VisitBritain's role in maximising the opportunities for tourism from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, and the refocusing of VisitBritain's activities in preparation for these.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the adequacy of VisitBritain's funding against its objectives. [138845]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain's objectives are set out in its Funding Agreement with the Department, a copy of which is lodged in the Library of the House. These objectives were agreed to ensure the best possible support for the British tourism industry.

VisitBritain's future funding levels are presently being considered as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans and resources VisitBritain has to change the scope of its operation in countries that have acceded to the European Union since 1997; what assessment she has made of the potential for growth in such markets; and if she will make a statement. [138985]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain has monitored and analysed the opportunities in the expanding market represented by the 12 countries that have acceded to the European Union since 1997.

Following this analysis, VisitBritain is active in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, where the evidence suggests the return on investment can currently be maximised. VisitBritain opened a new office in Budapest in early 2007, with Hungary and the Czech Republic falling under its remit. VisitBritain's work in Poland, which was previously the responsibility of its Berlin office, is being integrated into the Budapest office. The number of staff employed in marketing work in these countries has not been affected by the re-structuring proposals which VisitBritain announced recently.

Global Insight has forecast that the total world market from these countries will increase, in terms of outbound overnight visits between 2005 and 2010, as follows:

	Visits (millions)		
	2005	2010	Percentage increase
Czech Republic	3.2	4.4	37.5
Hungary	2.4	3.2	33.3
Poland	5.8	7.7	32.7

A market profile for each of these countries is available on VisitBritain's industry website

www.tourismtrade.org.uk.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the recent job reductions announced by VisitBritain are of posts located in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* other European Union member states, *(c)* North America and *(d)* other countries; and if she will make a statement. [138986]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain is currently consulting on its proposals for re-structuring its overseas marketing operations. The changes are designed to focus VisitBritain's activities on developing markets, and to meet the challenges posed by emerging market trends such as the move away from printed consumer literature, and towards online marketing. The UK consultation process will end on 31 May.

The number of posts, by location, which VisitBritain proposes to reduce as part of its present re-structuring process is as follows:

(a) in the UK, 55;

(b) in other European Union member states, 29;

(c) in North America, none; and

(d) in other countries, none.

In the UK, VisitBritain proposes to discontinue 45 vacant posts, to make 20 posts redundant, and to create 10 new posts. VisitBritain proposes to increase staffing levels in the Asia Pacific region.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the recent job reductions announced by VisitBritain will be in tourism research and statistics; and if she will make a statement. [138987]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain is currently consulting on proposals to achieve economies of scale by means of a net reduction of two domestic and international research posts in research and statistics.

VisitBritain: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what resources will be made available to VisitBritain for promoting overseas visits to the UK during and following the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games; and if she will make a statement. [138988]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain is contributing fully to the tourism strategy for 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games, which my Department expects to publish shortly. Should the strategy have implications for the levels of grant-in-aid funding allocated to VisitBritain's overseas marketing activities, these will be considered in the context of the present comprehensive spending review. That review is due to be completed in the autumn.

World Heritage Sites: Greater London

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what response she has made to UNESCO's proposal to remove Westminster and the Tower of London from the list of world heritage sites; and if she will make a statement. [139258]

Mr. Woodward: UNESCO has not proposed to remove either the Tower of London or Westminster from the list of World Heritage Sites. The World Heritage Committee has raised concerns about the potential impact of tall building developments in the environs of both sites. My Department invited a UNESCO/ICOMOS mission to London to discuss these concerns and we will respond to the World Heritage Committee on the findings of the mission in time for the Committee's 31st session in June.

TRANSPORT

A14: Lorries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he took into account in implementing a ban on allowing HGV vehicles to overtake on the A14; what criteria were used to select the A14; if he will implement such a ban on parts of the M18; and if he will make a statement. [139876]

Dr. Ladyman: The A14 between M1 junction 19 at Catthorpe and junction 2 at Kelmarsh has particularly long uphill gradients. This section of road was included in a study carried out in 2002 which analysed long uphill gradients along the A14 trunk road. The study identified problems with congestion caused by overtaking HGVs at this particular location.

The two sections of the A14 between Catthorpe and Cold Ashby eastbound and between Kelmarsh and Cold Ashby westbound, are clear of junctions and it was for this reason that this particular section of the A14 was selected for the trial project.

The Highways Agency aims to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety. Through this trial, which restricts HGVs from overtaking along this busy section of the A14, it is expected that journey times will improve and the traffic will flow more smoothly.

Traffic behaviour on the A14 was monitored prior to the trial and will continue to be monitored, during and after its 18-month duration. Depending on the findings, the Agency will decide whether or not to make the restriction permanent.

There are no current plans to restrict heavy goods vehicles from overtaking on the M18.

Aviation: Radioactive Wastes

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights have taken place in which *(a)* spent nuclear fuel and *(b)* nuclear waste was carried within United Kingdom airspace since 2001; what the (i) place of origin and (ii) destination was of each flight; and what volume of material was carried on each. [139663]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold information in the form requested.

Central Trains: Manpower

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has held with Central Trains on staffing levels on services between Shropshire, Wales and Birmingham New Street station. [139030]

Mr. Tom Harris: The responsibility for staffing levels on any specific train service is a matter for the train operating company concerned.

Driving Instruction: Manpower

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many qualified driving *(a)* instructors and *(b)* examiners there were in England in each year since 1997. [139681]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of driving instructors and examiners recorded by the Driving Standards Agency as qualified is shown in the following table. Due to a change in IT systems, the number of DSA examiners is not known prior to 2005.

	Approved driving instructors	*DSA examiners*
1997	32,497	n/k
1998	30,500	n/k
1999	29,185	n/k
2000	29,103	n/k
2001	29,626	n/k
2002	29,962	n/k
2003	31,786	n/k
2004	33,306	n/k
2005	36,252	1,875
2006	39,001	1,946
2007	41,507	1,847

n/k = not known

Driving Tests

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving tests for the car were taken in each year since 1997. [139673]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driving Standards Agency records the tests conducted figure by financial year, and only has records from 1999-2000 onwards. The number of car driving tests conducted per year is shown as follows.

Practical tests conducted

	Number
1999-2000	1,129,904
2000-01	1,129,849
2001-02	1,217,515
2002-03	1,348,191
2003-04	1,399,385
2004-05	1,676,147
2005-06	1,836,867
2006-07	1,789,882

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the overall pass rate was for those taking car driving tests in each year since 1997. [139679]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) measures the car driving test pass rate by financial year, and only has records from 1999-2000 onwards. The pass rate percentage by year is shown as follows.

	Pass rate (percentage)
1999-2000	44.1
2000-01	43.9
2001-02	42.3
2002-03	43.2
2003-04	42.7
2004-05	42.4
2005-06	42.6
2006-07	43.4

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people passed their car driving test at the *(a)* first, *(b)* second, *(c)* third, *(d)* fourth and *(e)* fifth attempt in each year since 1997, broken down by (i) age and (ii) sex. [139680]

Dr. Ladyman: The Driving Standards Agency did not record number of driving test attempts before April 2004, and determining the amount of attempts by age could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The passes by attempt and gender for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are shown as follows.

	Passes
2006-07	
Test attempt (male)	
1	183,133
2	105,944
3	56,363
4	29,960
5	15,227
Test attempt (female)	
1	147,904
2	95,902
3	55,755
4	31,320
5	16,795
2005-06	
Test attempt (male)	
1	184,304
2	108,698
3	57,414
4	29,600
5	15,067
Test attempt (female)	
1	145,063
2	97,856
3	57,538
4	32,208
5	17,669
2004-05	
Test attempt (male)	
1	200,719
2	99,894
3	41,196
4	15,877
	5,716
Test attempt (female)	
1	169,565
2	97,704
3	44,396
4	17,970
5	6,870

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers are licensed to drive motor vehicles on public roads in Great Britain. [139628]

Dr. Ladyman: On 8 May 2007 there were 42,289,023 drivers licensed to drive motor vehicles on public roads in Great Britain.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* provisional, *(b)* full and *(c)* repeat provisional driving licences were issued in each year since 1997. [139675]

Dr. Ladyman: See following table for the total number of licences issued between 1997 and 2006.

	Total
1997	6,718,570
1998	6,186,831
1999	5,394,258
2000	5,372,457
2001	5,955,405
2002	4,820,503
2003	6,619,823
2004	6,957,384
2005	7,029,344
2006	7,587,193

The breakdown of these figures into full and provisional licences is not available. We do not have figures for the numbers of repeat provisional driving licences.

Great Western Trains

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what action First Great Western is taking to improve its *(a)* 143, *(b)* 150, *(c)* 153 and *(d)* 158 class diesel multiple units. [139252]

Mr. Tom Harris: The First Great Western (FGW) franchise agreement commits FGW to a number of reliability modifications to these classes of diesel multiple units, from an initial interior refresh and a further interior refresh later in the franchise, to a new external livery and to the fitting of CCTV.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 750-51W, on Heathrow Airport, what estimate his Department has made of the likely increase in the number of private motor vehicles travelling to and from Heathrow Airport which would result from an additional 61 million passengers per year; and if he will make a statement. [139546]

Gillian Merron: The Government are currently assessing all the impacts associated with a potential third runway at Heathrow airport, including the impacts on local roads. We will report the findings as part of the Heathrow consultation later this year.

Lorries: Tachographs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the *(a)* introduction of digital tachographs in heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* reliability of those instruments; and if he will make a statement. [139881]

Dr. Ladyman: Since digital tachographs became mandatory, from 1 May 2006, the Department for Transport and its agencies have received a number of queries about their introduction, most of which have been of a largely technical nature. There have been no reported problems about the reliability of the digital tachograph vehicle unit itself, although around 2 per cent. of the 304,784 tachograph "smart" cards issued as of 29 May 2007 by DVLA (the UK's card issuing authority) have had to be returned due to malfunctions.

M42: Lorries

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* lessons have been learned and *(b)* conclusions have been reached on the trial ban on heavy goods vehicles overtaking on the M42; whether he is considering introducing such a ban on parts of the M18; and if he will make a statement. [139879]

Dr. Ladyman: The 18-month experimental period of the trial preventing heavy goods vehicles from overtaking on part of the M42 in Warwickshire expires in October this year. The Highways Agency has not yet completed an overall assessment of the results although initial indications are that there have been no disbenefits to heavy goods vehicles and some benefits to light vehicles. Further trials have begun at suitable locations on the A1 in Durham and the A14 in Northamptonshire. There are no current plans to introduce a similar restriction on the M18.

Motorcycles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has had from motorcycle racing and motorcycle sports organisations on the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [139677]

Dr. Ladyman: This Department has received representations from motorcycle racing and motorcycle sports organisations on the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill expressing reservations at the scope of the Bill.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* fatal road traffic accidents, *(b)* serious road traffic accidents and *(c)* minor road traffic accidents in each year since 1997. [139667]

Dr. Ladyman: The values used to estimate the benefits of the prevention of road accidents are set out in the "Highways Economic Note No. 1: 2005 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties" which can be found on the DfT website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/ea/.

Included within these values are the costs to public funds for medical, ambulance and police costs (emergency services). The estimated totals of such costs in each year since 1997 in Great Britain are set out in the following table.

Estimated cost of emergency services

£ million

	Fatal accidents	*Serious accidents*	*Slight accidents*
2005	21	334	202
2004	21	349	201
2003	25	356	198
2002	25	366	198
2001	24	356	188
2000	14	360	190
1999	19	346	178
1998	24	346	167
1997	24	346	167

The values reported in the "Highways Economic Note No. 1: 2005 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties" also cover a wide range of other costs incurred following accidents. These include the human costs of pain, grief and suffering, insurance and administrative costs, damage to property and lost output. Some element of

these costs must be borne by the public sector, but reliable estimates as to the size of this burden are not available.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost to the public purse of each *(a)* fatal road traffic accident, *(b)* serious road traffic accident and *(c)* minor road traffic accident was in the latest period for which figures are available. [139668]

Dr. Ladyman: The values used to estimate the benefits of the prevention of road accidents are set out in the "Highways Economic Note No. 1: 2005 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties" which can be found on the DfT website at http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/ea/. Included within these values are the costs to public funds for medical, ambulance and police costs (emergency services). The average medical, ambulance, and police costs assumed in the Highways Economic Note No.1 for 2005 are as follows:

For a fatal accident: £7,110
For a serious accident: £13,360
For a slight accident: £1,180
(2005 prices)

The values reported in the "Highways Economic Note No. 1: 2005 Valuation of the Benefits of Prevention of Road Accidents and Casualties" also cover a wide range of other costs incurred following accidents. These include the human costs of pain, grief and suffering, insurance and administrative costs, damage to property and lost output. Some element of these costs must be borne by the public sector, but reliable estimates as to the size of this burden are not available.

Roads: Litter

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent in the last 12 months in each Highways Agency area by them on litter collection; what further action he plans to take to reduce rubbish being dumped on the public highway; and if he will make a statement. [139878]

Dr. Ladyman: Section 89 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on the Highways Agency to remove litter from motorways in England. Responsibility for removing litter from the all purpose trunk road network, with the exception of DBFO managed roads, lies with local authorities.

Litter collection on motorways is one of the numerous duties carried out as part of the Highways Agency's routine maintenance function, and costs for individual activities are not recorded separately. It is therefore not possible to provide costs for litter collection.

Responsibility for enforcing the law against leaving litter, as defined in section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, lies with local authorities and the police.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance he has issued to Highways Agency staff on the reporting and prosecution of those witnessed depositing rubbish or litter on the highway; and if he will make a statement. [139880]

Dr. Ladyman: Specific guidance has not been issued to Highways Agency staff on the reporting and prosecution of those witnessed depositing rubbish. Prosecution is a matter for the police authorities.

Highways Agency traffic officers have a general instruction to report acts of a criminal nature, including littering, to their control office. These reports are passed to the police for possible prosecution.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate what average reduction in speed results from the use of *(a)* a visible police patrol and *(b)* SPECS cameras. [139627]

Dr. Ladyman: This specific information is not available. TRL Report 637, "How Methods and Levels of Policing Affect Road Casualty Rates", prepared for Transport for London in 2005, reviewed the findings from literature around the world. They concluded that speed cameras had proved to be particularly effective enforcement tools and appear to be more effective than physical policing methods in reducing mean speeds and accidents. However, the report did not specifically look at time over distance cameras. It also highlighted that physical policing methods have still been found to be effective and the effects of speed cameras appear to be mainly limited to the camera site.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of film speed cameras which will be converted to digital in each of the next five years. [139633]

Dr. Ladyman: It is not possible to estimate this. Safety cameras are managed locally by road safety partnerships as part of their wider road safety remit and, in accordance with DfT Circular 01/2007, highway authorities and police forces have the freedom to deploy type-approved cameras without Government approval.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of speeding infringements which were detected by *(a)* fixed speed cameras, *(b)* mobile speed cameras, *(c)* SPECS cameras and *(d)* police enforcement in the latest period for which figures are available. [139634]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is not held in the form requested. The total number of speeding offences recorded in 'Home Office Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics for England and Wales 2004' was 2,104,800. Safety cameras provided evidence in 1,913,700, or 91 per cent. of these cases.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* fixed speed cameras, *(b)* mobile speed cameras, *(c)* SPECS speed cameras and *(d)* police enforcement teams were in operation in each year since 1997. [139635]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department only holds information about the number of safety camera sites operating within the national safety camera programme for England and Wales over the period

2000-06. The following table, which is published on the Department's website, shows the number of camera sites in place by type during the lifetime of the national programme:

Camera type	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*[1]2006*
Fixed	1,295	1,479	1,733	2,036	2,303	2,469	2,544
Mobile	173	281	1,002	1,739	1,981	2,279	2,373
Red-light	464	483	505	539	556	600	600
RL-Speed	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Route	0	0	1	4	6	6	27
Time over distance	1	2	10	10	14	14	15
Total	1,935	2,247	3,253	4,330	4,863	5,371	5,562

[1] the number of camera sites in the national programme as at 30 March 2007.

The following table shows the number of full-time equivalent traffic police officers in England and Wales over the period 1998-99 to 2005-06 for which information is available:

	Number of officers[1]
1998-99	7,525
1999-2000	7,238
2000-01	7,005
2002-03	6,902
2003-04	6,706
2004-05	7,104
2005-06	6,511

[1] complete information not available for 2001-02

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average *(a)* capital cost and *(b)* annual running costs were of (i) fixed speed cameras and (ii) vehicle activated speed indicating devices in the latest period for which figures are available. [139636]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not hold this information. The implementation cost of these measures will vary depending on the location and nature of individual sites. The annual operating costs would also reflect that the two measures are used in different circumstances with cameras used to enforce speed limits and reduce excessive speeds, and vehicle activated signs to warn drivers of inappropriate speed on the approach to isolated hazards.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the reduction in accidents resulting from the installation of *(a)* fixed speed cameras and *(b)* vehicle activated speed indicating devices in each of the five years following installation. [139637]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is not held in the form requested. The four-year independent evaluation report of the National Safety Camera Programme, published in December 2005 and covering the period 2000 to 2004, found that there had been a 49 per cent. reduction in killed and seriously injured accidents and a 23 per cent. reduction in personal injury collisions at all fixed camera sites. More specifically there had been reductions of 62 per cent. and 33 per cent. respectively at rural fixed speed camera sites. Transport Research Laboratory Report 548 "Vehicle-activated signs—a large scale evaluation", published in 2002, found there was a 58 per cent. reduction in personal injury accidents across rural sites where vehicle activated speed limit roundel indication signs were used.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle activated speed indicating devices were in operation in each of the last five years; and how many he expects to be in operation in each of the next five years. [139638]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not keep a record of how many vehicle activated signs are in operation. The decision on when and where to place vehicle activated signs is a matter for local traffic authorities as they are best placed to understand local needs and conditions.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the average reduction in speed which results from the installation of *(a)* a fixed speed camera and *(b)* a vehicle activated speed indicating device in each of the five years following installation. [139639]

Dr. Ladyman: The information is not held in the form requested. The four-year independent evaluation report of the National Safety Camera Programme, published in December 2005 and covering the period 2000 to 2004, found that there had been an average 5.3mph reduction in average speed at all fixed camera sites and rural fixed camera sites. Transport Research Laboratory Report 548 'Vehicle-activated signs—a large scale evaluation', published in 2002, found there was an average reduction of 3-9mph across rural sites where vehicle activated speed limit roundel indication signs were used.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which criteria are used when deciding whether fixed speed cameras should be installed. [139640]

Dr. Ladyman: On 31 January the Department issued new guidance on the deployment of speed and red light cameras (DfT Circular 01/2007). The guidance was placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website. This came into effect on 1 April 2007 and provides greater freedom and flexibility on the deployment of cameras in response to community concerns about speeding or at locations where there are speeding problems and a high risk that casualties will occur. The guidance highlights how the previous site selection criteria under the national safety camera programme was shown to reduce speeds and casualties at camera sites. However in view of the local needs and accountability, the guidance is not prescriptive on criteria or intervention levels and recommends that locally agreed deployment criteria are developed.

Thames Gateway Bridge

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to decide on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge; what progress he has made towards determining a tolling regime; and if he will make a statement. [138822]

Dr. Ladyman: The decision on planning consent, including the toll order, for the Thames Gateway Bridge will be taken by my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Communities and Local Government in due course.

Travel

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many passenger miles were undertaken by *(a)* car, *(b)* rail and *(c)* bus in (i) 1977, (ii) 1987 and (iii) in each year since 1997; [139610]

(2) how many tonne miles of freight were moved by *(a)* rail and *(b)* road in (i) 1985, (ii) 1995 and (iii) in each year since 1997. [139672]

Dr. Ladyman: Annual statistics on passenger transport distances travelled by mode are published in Table 1.1 of "Transport Statistics Great Britain: 2006".

Annual statistics on domestic goods moved by mode are published in Table 4.1 of the same publication.

Printed copies of the publication are available in the House Library. It is also available on the Department for Transport's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/

Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of the projected growth in vehicle use up to 2025 which is attributable to population growth. [139549]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not estimate the proportion of projected growth attributed to population alone. Estimates of the combined impact of growing population and employment on vehicle use have been published in the supporting papers to the Eddington study at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/eddingtonstudy/researchannexes/researchannexesvolume3/transportdemand (page 26).

The combined impact of population and employment change account for 21 per cent. of projected traffic growth over the period 2003 to 2025.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign registered vehicles left England in each year since 1997, broken down by category of vehicle. [139552]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table provides estimates of foreign registered lorries leaving the UK, and of vehicles used by foreign residents leaving the UK.

Passenger vehicles driven by foreign residents and foreign registered lorries leaving the UK (million)[1,2]

	Cars and motorcycles	*Coaches*	*Lorries*
1997	1.1	0.1	0.6
1998	1.0	0.1	0.7
1999	1.1	[3]—	0.9
2000	0.8	[3]—	1.0
2001	0.7	[3]—	1.2
2002	0.9	[3]—	1.3
2003	0.8	[3]—	1.3
2004	0.8	0.1	1.5
2005	0.9	0.1	1.5
2006	0.9	0.1	1.5

[1] Cars, motorcycles and coaches estimated based on the number of foreign residents leaving the UK together with average vehicle occupancy rates.

[2] Includes channel tunnel but excludes movements across the Irish land boundary.

[3] Denotes less than half final digit shown (coaches estimated at approximately 50,000 per year).

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS) and Survey of Road Goods Vehicles (DfT).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK registered vehicles there were in each year since 1997, broken down by category of vehicle. [139553]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is in the following tables:

Motor vehicles currently licensed, by taxation group, 1997-2005

Private and light goods

	Body type cars	*Other vehicles*	*Motor cycles scooters and mopeds*	*Buses*	*Goods*
1997	21,681,000	2,317,000	626,000	79,000	414,000
1998	22,114,732	2,361,952	683,923	80,131	412,431
1999	22,784,568	2,427,277	759,592	83,661	414,553
2000	23,196,112	2,469,445	825,197	86,333	417,520
2001	23,898,844	2,543,761	881,656	88,562	422,043
2002	24,543,396	2,621,818	941,033	92,318	425,203
2003	24,984,664	2,730,099	1,004,718	96,117	425,928
2004	25,753,802	2,900,419	1,059,879	99,866	434,101
2005	26,207,656	3,018,555	1,075,045	103,033	432,929

	Special machines/ special concession	*Other vehicles*	*Crown and exempt*	*Special vehicles group*	*All vehicles*
1997	249,000	38,000	1,522,000	48,000	26,974,000
1998	243,114	36,569	1,558,127	47,356	27,538,412
1999	241,264	36,288	1,573,309	46,993	28,367,560
2000	232,562	34,441	1,590,238	45,687	28,897,580
2001	232,538	33,079	1,601,602	45,044	29,747,130
2002	243,266	32,275	1,854,573	46,057	30,556,672
2003	257,626	31,913	1,886,735	47,185	31,207,360
2004	275,397	31,661	1,929,263	49,864	32,258,854
2005	282,960	30,836	1,978,219	51,109	32,897,384

Note:
Figures for 2006 are not yet available.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has had from rural and farming organisations on the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill; and if he will make a statement. [139678]

Dr. Ladyman: This Department has received representations from rural and farming organisations on the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill; expressing reservations at the scope of the Bill.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of additional vehicles which would be included in the provisions of the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 should the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill become law unamended, broken down by vehicle. [139694]

Dr. Ladyman: This Department estimates that up to three million additional vehicles could be included under the provisions of an amended Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994 should the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill become law. It is estimated that this figure could increase by approximately 500,000 new vehicles per annum.

These estimates have not been broken down by vehicle.

Vehicles: Taxation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many owners of cars in the Peterborough city council area are liable to pay the new band G tax. [139249]

Dr. Ladyman: As at 31 December 2006 240 vehicles registered to addresses in Peterborough were licensed in the new band G. In addition there were 2,496 vehicles which, although licensed in band F, would fall into the band G emission category.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption: Europe

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what legal advice the Government have received on the recognition of adoptions in Europe. [138333]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* A review all of the legal advice received by the Government relating to the recognition of adoptions in Europe could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Autism: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many autistic students are enrolled in schools in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford. [134548]

Jim Knight: Information on pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and their primary need is collected via the school census for pupils at school action plus and those with statements of SEN. The available information is given in the table.

Maintained nursery, primary, secondary and all special schools, city technology colleges and academies[1,2]: number and percentage of pupils whose primary need is autistic spectrum disorder[3,4] as at January 2006

	Pupils at School Action Plus or with statements of SEN whose primary need is autistic spectrum disorder							
	Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools		*City technology colleges and academies*		*Special schools*		*Total*	
	Number	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*	*Number*	*%*
England[5]	28,170	5.3	100	3.1	11,260	12.7	39,520	6.4
London Government Office Region[5]	4,210	5.0	60	3.3	1,800	15.6	6,060	6.2
Havering local authority area	96	4.9	n/a	n/a	70	26.3	166	7.5
Romford parliamentary constituency	24	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	24	4.3

n/a = Not applicable, no schools of this type.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] Information on type of need was collected from those pupils at School Action Plus and with statements of SEN.
[5] National and regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Connexions

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of interventions by the Connexions service involved face-to-face contact in the latest period for which figures are available. [139714]

Mr. Dhanda: Between April 2006 and March 2007 the Connexions Service had over 5 million interventions with young people of which 62 per cent. were conducted face-to-face.

	Number	*Percentage*
2006-07		
One-to-one personal contact with 13-19 age group	3,214,844	62
Total interventions with 13-19 age group	5,222,982	—

Curriculum: Physical Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the national curriculum requirement is for the provision of physical education in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools. [138883]

Jim Knight: Physical education (PE) is a compulsory part of the national curriculum for all pupils aged 5-16. Within national curriculum PE, programmes of study have been drawn up for six different activity areas: athletic activities; dance activities; games activities; gymnastic activities; outdoor and adventurous activities; and swimming activities. During each key stage, pupils should be taught the programmes of study for the following activity areas:

Key stage 1—dance activities; games activities; and gymnastic activities.

Key stage 2—dance activities; games activities; gymnastic activities; and two activity areas from: athletic activities; outdoor and adventurous activities; and swimming activities. Swimming activities must be chosen unless pupils have completed the full key stage 2 swimming requirements during key stage 1.

Key stage 3—games activities; and three of the following (at least one of which must be dance or gymnastics): athletic activities; dance activities; gymnastic activities; outdoor and adventurous activities; and swimming activities.

Key stage 4—any two of the six activity areas.

When delivering these compulsory requirements, teachers should ensure that pupils make progress in the following key aspects of PE: acquiring and developing skills; selecting and applying skills tactics and compositional ideas; evaluating and improving performance; and knowledge and understanding of fitness and health.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which projects in his Department the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has assessed in the last 12 months. [137067]

Mr. Dhanda: In the last 12 months, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) has carried out joint reviews with the Department of: primary and secondary school standards, teenage pregnancy, pupil attendance, pupil behaviour, Targeted Youth Support, implementation of the Schools White Paper, Building Schools for the Future, 14-19 local delivery policy, Childhood Obesity and the Department's Capability Review.

Education: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much capital expenditure there was in the education sector in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [138026]

Jim Knight: The following table shows how much capital funding has been allocated to the education sector in East Sussex LA since 1997. As our capital funding is made available through local authorities (LAs) we are unable to provide figures for Eastbourne, which comes under East Sussex LA.

Table 1: Capital Expenditure Allocated to East Sussex LA

£ million

	Schools Capital[1]	Sure Start Local Programme (SSLP)	General Sure Start Grant (GSSG)
1996-97	20.1	0	0
1997-98	16.5	0	0
1998-99	15.1	0	0
1999-2000	30.3	0.47	0
2000-01	18.1	0.80	0
2001-02	16.1	0.58	0
2002-03	23.9	0.06	0.18
2003-04	24.4	0.43	0.07
2004-05	23.7	1.39	0.04
2005-06	17.7	[2]0.59	2.22
2006-07	20.6	[3]0	4.53

[1] Schools Capital allocations are a mixture of grant and supported borrowing.
[2] The 2005-06 SSLP figure is not final as we have yet to receive the audit reports for all of the programmes—we would not expect any significant change however.
[3] There is no SSLP expenditure in 2006-07 as all SSLP capital programmes finished in 2005-06.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) also make capital allocations to local authorities but are unable to provide details below the level of Sussex LSC. The Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) do not provide any capital funding to local authorities.

Education: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils completed Learning and Skills Council-funded programmes in London in each of the last five years. [118007]

Jim Knight: Figures for those completing Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funded programmes are published in terms of success rates. National success rates are published in the "Statistical First Release Further Education and work-based learning for young people—learner outcomes in England" which is published each year and is available from the LSC website at http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/sfr/.

Success rates are not available at a regional level, but success rates for individual further education colleges in London are published on the LSC website at http://www.lsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/success/FEinstlevel.htm.

Education: Body Image

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the effect of an individual's body image on their academic achievement. [139135]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has not made a specific assessment of the effect of an individual's body image on their academic achievement.

Body image, whether negative or positive, may be one of a number of factors that affects an individual's self esteem, and research shows that self esteem and self confidence impact on attainment.

Families, early years settings and schools can play an important role in helping young people develop

confidence, self-esteem and positive emotional health. Helping children acquire good emotional health and well-being is a significant element of current Government policy, including the Personal, Social and Health Education curriculum, the National Healthy Schools Programme, the Improving Behaviour and Attendance Programme, and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning curriculum materials.

A distorted body image is particularly prevalent among those with eating disorders. The 2001 DFES guidance, "Promoting Children's Mental Health within Early Years and Schools Settings" includes a section on eating disorders and the general principles that schools should follow in working with young people who experience eating disorders.

ESOL

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the effect on *(a)* pupil attendance and *(b)* availability of places of changes to the English for Speakers of Other Languages programme's funding. [139782]

Bill Rammell: The funding changes being made to English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) from August 2007 are not expected to result in significant changes to the availability of ESOL places.

The overall funding will remain broadly comparable to this year and will be re-prioritised towards those people in the most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including those who are out of work through lack of skills and settled immigrant communities facing challenges to integration.

Level 2 Attainment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of people aged 19 achieved level 2 by *(a)* the age of 16 including English and mathematics and *(b)* by the age of 19 including English and mathematics in each year since 1997. [124834]

Jim Knight: We do not currently have information on level 2 attainment by age 19 including English and Maths.

The proportion of pupils achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and maths by the age of 16 are given in table 1.

Table 1: proportion of pupils aged 15[1] achieving 5+ A-C including English and maths*

	Percentage of pupils aged 15 achieving 5+ A-C inc. English and maths*
1997	35.6
1998	37.0
1999	38.6
2000	40.0
2001	40.7
2002	42.1
2003	41.9
2004	42.6
2005	44.3
2006	45.3

[1] Pupils aged 15 at the start of the academic year (i.e. 31 August).

The proportion of young people qualified to level 2 by age and cohort is given in table 2.

Table 2: proportion of young people qualified to level 2 or higher, by age and cohort

	Percentage						
	Attained level 2+ by age:						
Cohort	*16[1]*	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*Population[2]*
19 in 2004	49.2	56.1	62.0	66.3	69.1	71.1	614,560
19 in 2005	50.3	58.5	64.9	69.3	72.0	n/a	618,400
19 in 2006	52.2	60.1	67.1	71.4	n/a	n/a	631,890
19 in 2007	53.0	62.2	70.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	652,180
19 in 2008	55.5	64.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	645,400
19 in 2009	57.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	656,210

n/a = Data not available.

[1] Estimates at age 16 differ from other published figures on the attainment of pupils aged 15 in schools and colleges because different denominators are used and matching means the numerators are not quite the same.

[2] The population is the size of the cohort at academic age 14, taken from the Annual Schools Census count for the relevant year. For example, the 19 in 2006 population (people aged 18 on 31 August 2005) is the number of pupils aged 14 on 31 August 2001.

Free School Meals

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of children attending *(a)* denominational and *(b)* maintained schools in each local education authority in England were entitled to receive free school dinners in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2005-06. [137763]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

GCSE: Standards

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the local education authorities in England in order of proportion of students attaining five A to C grades GCSEs on average by its schools in *(a)* 1990, *(b)* 1995, *(c)* 2000 and *(d)* 2006. [139510]

Jim Knight: The information for 1994/95, 1999/2000 and 2005/06 has been placed in the Library. Information for 1989/90 is in Table C17 of Statistics of Education School Examinations GCSE and GCE 1990, which is also available in the Library. Since this information is only available within a hard copy publication, the local authorities are not ranked in order of the proportion of pupils achieving 5 A to C grades at GCSE.

Grammar Schools

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which organisation was used by his Department to assess the appropriateness of the electoral arrangements for deciding on the continuance of grammar schools; and how much that organisation was paid for its services. [138625]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* Pauline Hughes Consultancy was commissioned to do this work. The remit was wider than assessing the appropriateness of the electoral arrangements and it is not possible to separate out the costs on that specific aspect of the work. The total cost of the work was £2,732.40.

Higher Education: Yorkshire and Humberside

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students from *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside, *(b)* the East Riding of Yorkshire and *(c)* nationally were allocated a university place in each year since 1997. [140530]

Bill Rammell: The numbers of undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions for each year since 1997/98 are given in the table. Figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in January 2008.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from East Riding of Yorkshire local authority, Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region and England, UK higher education institutions[2]: academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

Academic year	East Riding of Yorkshire local authority	Yorkshire & Humberside Government office region	England
1997/98	2,685	32,310	377,855
1998/99	2,785	37,215	402,240
1999/2000	2,765	36,715	401,345
2000/01	2,925	36,965	398,700
2001/02	3,215	38,595	423,965
2002/03	3,110	39,685	440,520
2003/04	2,920	39,755	446,045
2004/05	3,130	40,050	446,695
2005/06	3,240	43,485	462,950

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
[2] Excludes the Open University.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December for comparability and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much per capita funding was provided by his Department for *(a)* higher national diplomas and *(b)* foundation degrees in each of the last five years. [138127]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* We can provide information on the rate of estimated average grant per full-time equivalent for the periods 2002-03 to 2006-07. The following table contains full-time equivalent cash figures calculated by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Figures include an allowance for widening participation.

Estimated HEFCE grant per FTE, to nearest £100

	Foundation degree	£ Higher national diploma
2002-03	3,600	3,300
2003-04	3,700	3,300
2004-05	4,100	3,700
2005-06	4,300	3,900
2006-07	4,500	4,000

Funds for rewarding and developing staff were consolidated into institutions' teaching grants for 2004-05 (having previously been separate). This therefore contributes to the large increase seen in estimated rates of grant for FDs and HNDs between 2003-04 and 2004-05.

Information Sharing Index

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the expenditure by his Department was on funding the supplement in *The Guardian* newspaper on the Information Sharing Index; and what editorial control his Department maintained over the publication. [114071]

Beverley Hughes: The expenditure by the Department on funding the supplement in *The Guardian* is as follows:

Guardian supplement x2 Society/Education	Every Child Matters	£120,000	October 2006

Two eight-page supplements on Every Child Matters (ECM) of which Contact Point (formally known by the working title of Information Sharing Index) were produced in association with Guardian Newspapers. The objective was to secure a wider and deeper understanding of, and support for, the Every Child Matters agenda.

The core of editorial content reflected the general scope of the Every Child Matters agenda, with case studies to illustrate how it is being employed across the country. The remainder reflected the particular editorial environment with more specific advice, inspiration and information about the application of Every Child Matters.

The Guardian submitted an editorial synopsis outlining what was to be covered by each supplement and passed this to those responsible for sign-off for fact checking, and to check for consistency against the editorial synopsis. *The Guardian* retained editorial control of the supplement to ensure that the integrity of the editorial was preserved.

Land: Expenditure

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much has been spent by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Government on the purchase of land for educational use in (i) outer and (ii) inner London boroughs in the last 12 months; and what average price was paid per hectare in each case. [138741]

Jim Knight: The Department does not maintain records centrally on purchases of land by local authorities for educational use. It is not Government policy to purchase land directly for educational use. Purchases are made at local authority level, or by the institution which owns the educational facility.

Mediation: Pilot Schemes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to increase the number of family law mediation schemes in England and Wales. [140270]

Ms Harman: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe that mediation can have considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved. There are already around 10 in-court referral schemes, where family mediators work together with CAFCASS and the courts to refer appropriate cases for mediation. We are also planning 10 judicial awareness seminars across England and Wales aimed at raising awareness among judges and magistrates. The Family Mediation Helpline began operating in January 2006. To date, it has received 2,800 calls and made over 800 referrals to mediation services; around 10,000 visits have been made to the supporting website.

Legal Services Commission figures tell us that publicly funded mediations have increased from 406 in 1997-98 to 14,000 in 2005-06; public funding for mediation has increased from £0.5 million in 1997-98 to £13.8 million in 2005-06. Mediation results in a resolution of all the issues involved in 60 per cent. of publicly funded cases where it is used.

Missing Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children went missing from social services care in each of the last 10 years; how many went missing for over one month; and how many of those children he estimates may have been trafficked. [129997]

Mr. Dhanda: The number of looked after children who went missing from care in 1997, the last five years and the number who went missing for over one month in 2006 is shown in the following table. Information on the number of children who went missing and who may have been trafficked is not collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Children looked after who were reported missing in the years ending 31 March 1997 and 2002 to 2006[1,2,3,4,5,6]

England	*1997[1,5]*	*2002[2,6]*	*2003[2,6]*	*2004[1,6]*	*2005[1,6]*	*Numbers 2006[1,6]*
Children missing from placement during the year	570	1,000	1,200	830	970	970
Children missing for more than 30 days	—	—	—	—	—	370

[1] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covered all looked after children.
[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[3] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[4] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[5] In 1997, a child is recorded with a missing placement if he/she is absent for more than seven days from his/her agreed placement.
[6] In 2002 to 2006 a child is recorded with a missing placement if he/she is absent for more than 24 hours from his/her agreed placement.

Ofsted

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1395-96W, on Ofsted, what the name was of each consultant employed; what role each consultant played; and what individual payments each consultant received. [133832]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 24 May 2007:

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply. I am sorry for the delay in my response. The information requested is held by a number of teams within Ofsted and it has taken us some time to collate the information.

You asked, following our response of 27th March 2007, Official Report columns 1395-6W, on Ofsted, the name of each consultant employed; the role each consultant played; and the individual payments each consultant received.

Our legal advice indicates it would not be appropriate to provide details of the names, fees paid and specific roles relating to individual consultants or companies only employing one consultant as we would be revealing personal data, and so information relating to individuals (which totals about £105,000) has been excluded from the information included at Annex A.

It would also be contrary to Ofsted's commercial interests and our general contractual relations to release contractual details such as company names and fee rates, and we have therefore presented information on the amount Ofsted has spent on consultancy with suppliers, by groups, in anonymous format in the table attached at Annex A. The amount Ofsted has spent is inclusive of VAT.

The broad roles fulfilled by the consultants are outlined below:

Project management and technical consultancy for new information systems development (Suppliers shown in Group A);

Project management and technical support for Human Resources, Health and Safety and operational management (Suppliers shown in Group B);

Technical support for an on-line self evaluation system for schools (Suppliers shown in Group C);

Property management for disposal of surplus property (Suppliers shown in Group D);

Project management and other technical support for the development for the new Ofsted web site (Suppliers shown in Group E);

Project management and technical consultancy to update our people management and finance systems (Suppliers shown in Group F).

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Annex A

Supplier number	*Group*	*Amount spent (£)*	*Sub total (£)*	*Total (£)*
1	A	46,013	—	—
2	A	25,000	—	—
3	A	55,000	—	—
4	A	5,941	—	—
5	A	77,093	—	—
6	A	36,861	—	—
7	A	283,507	—	—
8	A	22,995	—	—
9	A	20,642	—	—
10	A	238,398	—	—
11	A	2,820	—	—
12	A	4,512	—	—
13	A	94	—	—
14	A	16,744	—	—
15	A	31,666	—	—
16	A	4,700	—	—
17	A	48,089	—	—
18	A	1,645	—	—
19	A	420,984	—	—
20	A	4,573	—	—
21	A	12,440	1,359,717	—
26	B	1,281	—	—
30	B	5,462	—	—
31	B	58,309	—	—
32	B	71,193	136,245	—
33	C	12,330	—	—
34	C	15,999	—	—
35	C	97,416	125,745	—
36	D	153	—	—
37	D	105,129	105,282	—
38	E	2,350	—	—
39	E	71,411	—	—
40	E	527,661	601,422	—
41	F	93,951	—	—
42	F	21,284	115,235	—
				2,443,646

Physical Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on physical education what measures have been put in place to ensure the accuracy of the data provided by schools as part of the annual school sport surveys; [138836]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 363W, on physical education, how the validation exercise carried out by TNS is conducted; and what procedures are used; [138837]

(3) how many and what percentage of schools have been awarded the Sports Partnership Mark scheme by the Youth Sport Trust; and if he will make a statement; [138851]

(4) how many and what percentage of schools have been awarded the Sportsmark scheme by the Youth Sport Trust; and if he will make a statement. [138852]

Jim Knight: Activemark, Sportsmark and Sport Partnership Mark are awarded annually in recognition of outstanding delivery of the national PE, School Sport and Club Links strategy. The awards are open to schools and school sport partnerships, which are automatically assessed for them through the annual national school sport survey.

For the Sportsmark award, 16 per cent. (530) of the secondary schools taking part in the survey met the required standard and were given the award for 2006.

For the Sport Partnership Mark award, 10 partnerships (around 2.5 per cent.) met the required standard and were given the award for 2006.

A validation exercise is undertaken by a team of independent researchers to verify the accuracy of the survey returns. In 2005/06, the validation exercise involved visits to 10 per cent. of partnerships, selected at random. The independent researchers concluded that the majority of schools kept auditable records of the figures which they submitted, and did not uncover any systematic misreporting of data.

I have placed copies of the results of the 2005/06 School Sport Survey in the libraries of both Houses. Results from the 2006/07 School Sport Survey are expected in the autumn.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of current pupils have received *(a)* a fixed period exclusion more than once and *(b)* a permanent exclusion, broken down by (i) pupils receiving and not receiving free school meals, (ii) gender and (iii) ethnicity. [132384]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the tables.

Information relating to free school meal eligibility is not collected for permanently excluded pupils.

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1]: Pupils excluded for a fixed period more than once by free school meal eligibility, gender and ethnic group

	Pupils with two or more fixed period exclusions	
	Number	*Percentage[2]*
School meal arrangements[3]		
Pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	29,010	2.5
Other pupils	51,140	0.9
Total[4]	82,040	1.2
Gender		
Boys	63,020	1.8
Girls	19,020	0.6
Total	82,040	1.2
Ethnic Group[5]:		
White	67,250	1.3
White British	65,630	1.3

Maintained primary, secondary and special schools[1]: Pupils excluded for a fixed period more than once by free school meal eligibility, gender and ethnic group

	Pupils with two or more fixed period exclusions	
	Number	*Percentage[2]*
Irish	280	1.3
Traveller of Irish heritage	130	3.3
Gypsy/Roma	240	3.6
Any other White background	970	0.8
Mixed	3,120	1.8
White and Black Caribbean	1,680	2.7
White and Black African	210	1.6
White and Asian	280	0.8
Any other Mixed background	890	1.5
Asian	2,100	0.5
Indian	380	0.3
Pakistani	1,160	0.7
Bangladeshi	360	0.5
Any other Asian background	190	0.4
Black	4,020	1.7
Black Caribbean	2,130	2.5
Black African	1,240	1.0
Any other Black background	650	2.6
Chinese	30	0.1
Any other ethnic group	380	0.7
Unclassified[6]	4,930	n/a
All pupils[5]	81,820	1.3

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[2] Number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total school population of same gender, free school meal eligibility or ethnic group.
[3] Information of pupils' ethnicity and free school meal eligibility was not collected in the Termly Exclusions Survey. The ethnic and free school meal breakdown for fixed period exclusions given here was established by linking the dataset with the 2005 School Census database. No link was available for just over 2 per cent. of records.
[4] Total includes 1,892 pupils for whom free school meal eligibility was unclassified.
[5] Pupils of compulsory school age and above have been classified according to their ethnic group.
[6] Includes those pupils for whom information on their ethnic group was not sought, refused or is missing.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source: Termly Exclusions Survey.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: Number of permanent exclusions by gender and ethnic group 2004-05 estimates[2], England

	Permanent exclusions	
	Number	*Percentage[3]*
Gender		
Boys	7,490	0.19
Girls	1,940	0.05
Total	9,440	0.12
Ethnic Group[4]		
White	7,470	0.13
White British	7,220	0.13
Irish	50	0.21

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: Number of permanent exclusions by gender and ethnic group 2004-05 estimates[2], England

	Permanent exclusions	
	Number	*Percentage[3]*
Traveller of Irish heritage	30	0.78
Gypsy/Roma	30	0.39
Any other White background	140	0.09
Mixed	500	0.26
White and Black Caribbean	280	0.41
White and Black African	50	0.24
White and Asian	30	0.09
Any other mixed background	140	0.21
Asian	290	0.06
Indian	70	0.04
Pakistani	160	0.08
Bangladeshi	50	0.06
Any other Asian background	20	0.04
Black	670	0.26
Black Caribbean	380	0.39
Black African	190	0.14
Any other Black background	100	0.36
Chinese	10	0.02
Any other ethnic group	60	0.10
Unclassified[5]	380	n/a
All pupils[4]	9,380	0.14

n/a = Not applicable.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[2] Figures relating to permanent exclusions are estimates based on incomplete pupil level data.
[3] Number of permanent exclusions expressed as a percentage of the total school population of same gender or ethnic group.
[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above have been classified according to their ethnic group.
[5] Includes those pupils for whom information on their ethnic group was not sought, refused or is missing.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source: School Census.

Pupil Exclusions: Maintained Schools

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in how many maintained mainstream schools more than *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 15 per cent., *(c)* 20 per cent., *(d)* 25 per cent. and *(e)* 30 per cent. of pupils have been excluded. [133242]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of schools by proportion of school population excluded for a fixed period, England, 2004-05

	Schools reporting one or more fixed period exclusion	
	Number	*Percentage[2]*
Schools where percentage of school population excluded for a fixed period is[3]:		
Up to and including 10.0 per cent.	8,823	42.0
10.1 to 15.0 per cent.	723	3.4

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of schools by proportion of school population excluded for a fixed period, England, 2004-05

	Schools reporting one or more fixed period exclusion	
	Number	Percentage[2]
15.1 to 20.0 per cent.	373	1.8
20.1 to 25.0 per cent.	186	0.9
25.1 to 30 per cent.	113	0.5
30.1 per cent. or more	192	0.9
Unclassified[4]	96	0.5
Total	10,506	50.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of schools in each band expressed as a percentage of the total number of schools as at January 2005.
[3] The number of fixed period exclusions expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils on roll as at January 2005 (derived from School Census returns).
[4] School population figure could not be established.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census.

Pupil Referral Units: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* moderate learning difficulties, *(b)* emotional, behavioural and social difficulties, *(c)* multi-sensory impairment, *(d)* physical disability, *(e)* profound and multiple learning difficulty, *(f)* severe learning difficulty, *(g)* specific learning difficulty, *(h)* visual impairment and *(i)* hearing impairment (i) with statements and (ii) without statements were registered in pupil referral units at some point during each year from 1997 to 2006, broken down by local authority. [133856]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many applications for authorised absences for holidays during term time were made to *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in England in each of the last five years. [136670]

Jim Knight: The Department has just started to collect information on the reason for pupil absence relating to the autumn 2006 term.

Findings relating to the full 2006/07 school year are expected to be released via a National Statistics publication in February 2008.

Pupils: Apprentices

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what provision the Government make for apprenticeships to give school pupils access to one day or more training every week in a work-type setting. [139887]

Phil Hope: Young Apprenticeships give motivated 14 to 16 year-olds the opportunity to pursue industry-specific level 2 vocational qualifications outside of school and in partnership with employers. Learning is a combination of classroom delivery in colleges and direct application in a real working environment, including 50 days work experience. The programme has expanded from the first cohort of 1,000 pupils in 2004-5 to 13,300 on Young Apprenticeships in 2007-8 across a range of sectors.

The KS4 Engagement Programme provides 14 to 16 year-olds at risk of disengagement from education with up to two days a week work-focused learning delivered through a range of college classrooms and work-simulation environments and through work experience with local employers. This programme began in 2006-7 with 6,000 learners and is expanding to 15,300 in 2007-8.

Pupils: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many admissions appeals were *(a)* heard and *(b)* successful for pupils in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1997. [138024]

Jim Knight: Data on heard and successful admissions appeals for East Sussex local authority are given in the following table. Data are not available for Eastbourne as they are not collected at this level.

Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children primary schools

	Primary schools				Secondary schools			
	East Sussex		England[1]		East Sussex		England[1]	
	Appeals heard	Appeals decided in parent's favour	Appeals heard	Appeals decided in parent's favour	Appeals heard	Appeals decided in parent's favour	Appeals heard	Appeals decided in parent's favour
1997/98	106	52	20,180	9,560	95	43	32,980	10,720
1998/99	156	63	21,220	9,340	157	54	38,960	12,640
1999/2000	146	37	18,710	7,290	273	104	43,940	14,180
2000/01	101	24	17,510	6,210	225	60	46,370	14,990
2001/02	81	9	16,160	5,510	230	68	49,980	16,220
2002/03	68	14	13,760	4,540	192	50	50,200	16,820
2003/04	91	5	13,180	4,340	227	74	46,480	16,290
2004/05	61	9	13,600	4,700	323	109	45,730	16,340

[1] National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many unauthorised absences were recorded in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1997, broken down by type of institution. [138027]

Jim Knight: The percentages of half days missed due to unauthorised absence from maintained mainstream schools in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Eastbourne and (ii) East Sussex in each year since 1997 is shown as follows:

Unauthorised pupil absence (percentage of half days missed) in maintained primary schools[1], 1997/98-2005/06[2,3]

	Eastbourne	East Sussex	England
1997/98	0.5	0.4	0.5
1998/99	0.6	0.4	0.5
1999/2000	0.5	0.4	0.5
2000/01	0.6	0.5	0.5
2001/02	0.6	0.37	0.45
2002/03	0.6	0.41	0.43
2003/04	0.8	0.53	0.41
2004/05	0.8	0.77	0.43

Unauthorised pupil absence (percentage of half days missed) in maintained secondary schools[1], 1997/98-2005/06[2,3]

	Eastbourne	East Sussex	England
1997/98	0.8	1.3	1.1
1998/99	0.9	1.1	1.1
1999/2000	1.1	1.2	1.0
2000/01	1.2	1.2	1.1
2001/02	1.2	1.41	1.09
2002/03	2.0	1.35	1.07
2003/04	2.2	1.41	1.13
2004/05	1.7	1.34	1.23

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Due to local government reorganisation, regional figures are not available prior to 1998.
[3] Figures for the above local authorities are available to one decimal place prior to 2001/02 and two decimal places from 2001/02 onwards.

To break the information down by type of institution as requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Unauthorised absence is absence without leave from a teacher or other authorised representative of the school. This includes all unexplained or unjustified absences, such as lateness, holidays during term time not authorised by the school, absence where reason is not yet established and truancy.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average expenditure per head was on children in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) the denominational and (ii) the maintained sectors in each London local authority in (A) 1997 and (B) 2006. [137769]

Jim Knight: The following tables provide the aforementioned information in respect of maintained schools with and without a religious character.

School-based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained primary schools in London, 1997-98 and 2005-06

£

	School-based expenditure per pupil			
	1997-98	2005-06		
			Of which:	
Local authority name	All local authority maintained pre-primary and primary schools	All local authority maintained primary schools	Local authority maintained primary schools with no religious denomination	Local authority maintained primary schools with a specified religious denomination
Barking and Dagenham	1,970	3,350	3,360	3,290
Barnet	1,860	3,560	3,760	3,170
Bexley	1,590	3,020	3,050	2,910
Brent	2,030	3,520	3,490	3,560
Bromley	1,720	2,870	2,890	2,760
Camden	2,390	4,420	4,500	4,300
City of London	3,810	5,060	[1]—	5,060
Croydon	1,910	3,260	3,310	3,020
Ealing	2,020	3,570	3,650	3,190
Enfield	1,900	3,530	3,640	3,170
Greenwich	2,190	3,780	3,800	3,670
Hackney	2,420	4,520	4,510	4,290
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,520	4,100	4,320	3,600
Haringey	2,360	3,850	3,930	3,590
Harrow	2,140	3,400	3,460	3,010
Havering	1,750	3,160	3,190	3,010
Hillingdon	1,730	3,320	3,360	3,120
Hounslow	2,060	3,440	3,470	3,220
Islington	2,340	4,210	4,330	3,920
Kensington and Chelsea	2,650	4,440	4,560	4,300

School-based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained primary schools in London, 1997-98 and 2005-06

£

	School-based expenditure per pupil			
	1997-98	2005-06		
			Of which:	
Local authority name	All local authority maintained pre-primary and primary schools	All local authority maintained primary schools	Local authority maintained primary schools with no religious denomination	Local authority maintained primary schools with a specified religious denomination
Kingston upon Thames	1,830	3,250	3,380	3,050
Lambeth	2,810	4,400	4,470	4,240
Lewisham	2,340	4,120	4,090	4,200
Merton	2,060	3,360	3,450	3,110
Newham	1,850	3,970	4,010	3,670
Redbridge	1,810	3,070	3,100	2,960
Richmond upon Thames	1,940	3,220	3,270	3,110
Southwark	2,330	4,400	4,500	4,020
Sutton	1,870	3,110	3,130	3,030
Tower Hamlets	2,600	4,630	4,680	4,450
Waltham Forest	2,110	3,540	3,560	3,440
Wandsworth	2,210	3,910	3,940	3,840
Westminster	2,590	4,000	4,230	3,840

School-based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained secondary schools in London, 1997-98 and 2005-06

£

	Secondary school-based expenditure per pupil			
	1997-98	2005-06		
			Of which:	
Local authority name	All local authority maintained secondary schools	All local authority maintained secondary schools	Local authority maintained secondary schools with no religious denomination	Local authority maintained secondary schools with a specified religious denomination
Barking and Dagenham	2,650	4,850	4,880	4,570
Barnet	2,640	4,530	4,570	4,350
Bexley	2,350	4,100	4,050	4,300
Brent	3,850	5,180	5,060	5,530
Bromley	2,570	4,070	4,020	4,590
Camden	3,160	5,650	5,800	5,080
City of London	[—]	[—]	[—]	[—]
Croydon	2,700	4,220	4,250	4,180
Ealing	2,700	4,880	4,900	4,780
Enfield	2,630	4,540	4,580	4,290
Greenwich	2,700	5,230	5,210	4,960
Hackney	3,070	5,980	6,170	5,780
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,400	5,440	6,160	4,770
Haringey	3,170	5,310	5,280	5,550
Harrow	2,860	4,620	4,700	4,160
Havering	2,720	4,470	4,550	4,240
Hillingdon	2,720	4,420	4,410	4,320
Hounslow	2,670	4,700	4,810	4,380
Islington	3,170	5,560	5,670	5,100
Kensington and Chelsea	3,410	5,850	5,860	5,840
Kingston upon Thames	2,480	4,230	4,240	4,200
Lambeth	3,290	5,870	6,110	5,620
Lewisham	3,050	5,480	5,380	5,640
Merton	2,490	4,250	4,360	4,000
Newham	2,820	5,210	5,270	4,850
Redbridge	2,610	4,210	4,260	4,000
Richmond upon Thames	2,550	4,380	4,360	4,660
Southwark	3,040	5,640	5,620	5,680
Sutton	2,540	4,130	4,180	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,200	6,150	6,250	5,750
Waltham Forest	2,780	4,820	4,820	4,770

School-based expenditure per pupil by local authority maintained secondary schools in London, 1997-98 and 2005-06

£

	Secondary school-based expenditure per pupil			
	1997-98	*2005-06*		
			Of which:	
Local authority name	*All local authority maintained secondary schools*	*All local authority maintained secondary schools*	*Local authority maintained secondary schools with no religious denomination*	*Local authority maintained secondary schools with a specified religious denomination*
Wandsworth	2,640	5,190	5,170	5,310
Westminster	3,050	5,700	5,770	5,630

[1] Figures not available.

Notes:

1. School-based expenditure includes only expenditure incurred directly by the schools. This includes the pay of teachers and school-based support staff, school premises costs, books and equipment, and certain other supplies and services, less any capital items funded from recurrent spending and income from sales, fees and charges and rents and rates. This excludes the central cost of support services such as home to school transport, local authority administration and the financing of capital expenditure. Central local authority expenditure cannot, in all cases, be attributed to a particular phase of education and consequently is excluded from the table.
2. Pupil numbers are full-time equivalent pupil numbers and are drawn from the DfES annual schools census adjusted to be on a financial year basis.
3. Expenditure was not distinguished between the pre-primary and primary sectors until the inception of section 52 for financial year 1999-2000. Comparable figures for school-based expenditure in local authority maintained nursery schools are not available for 2002-03 onwards and hence direct comparisons of the combined pre-primary and primary unit cost in 1997-98 should not be made with the unit cost for primary only in 2005-06.
4. The religious denomination of a school is drawn from the religious character field on Edubase (the DfES database of educational establishments). Schools that are known not to have a particular religious denomination are included in the no denomination column whereas the specified religious denomination column includes all local authority maintained schools in London with a specified religious character. Expenditure data for individual schools is not available in 1997-98 and hence we are unable to split the LA level figures for 1997-98 into schools with and without a religious denomination.
5. Spending in 1997-98 reflects the transfer of monies from local government to central Government for the nursery vouchers scheme. These were returned to local government from 1998-99.
6. 1999-2000 saw a change in data source when the data collection moved from the RO1 form collected by the CLG to the section 52 form from the DfES. 2002-03 saw a further break in the time series following the introduction of Consistent Financial Reporting (CFR) to schools and the associated restructuring of the outturn tables.
7. The calculation for 2005-06 onwards is broadly similar to the calculation in 1997-98. However, 1997-98 includes all premature retirement compensation (PRC) and Crombie payments, mandatory PRC payments and other indirect employee expenses whereas in 2005-06 only the schools element of these categories is included. Also, for some local authorities, expenditure that had previously been attributed to the school sectors was reported within the central local authority expenditure part of the form in 2005-06 and would therefore be excluded from the 2005-06 unit cost.
8. All data are subject to change by the local authority.
9. Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.

Pupils: Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department issues to local authorities and schools about *(a)* appropriate professional relationships between teachers and other staff and pupils and their families and *(b)* physical contact with pupils to safeguard children in education. [138626]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Department has included guidance on physical contact with pupils and abuse of a relationship of trust in "Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education". Separate guidance has also been issued on the use of restraint in schools, "Circular 10/98 The Use of Force to Control or Restrain Pupils", outlines what teachers and other authorised staff are allowed to do. This is currently under revision, with the aim of publishing revised guidance by the end of June.

There are also two specialised guidance documents for pupils with special educational needs. "Guidance on the Use of Restrictive Physical Interventions for Staff Working with Children and Adults who Display Extreme Behaviour in Association with Learning Disability and/or Autistic Spectrum Disorders" and "Guidance on the Use of Physical Interventions for Pupils with Severe Behavioural Difficulties".

We have not however issued guidance on relationships between teachers and pupils' families.

Schools: Biometrics

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to publish guidance to schools on the use of biometric technologies. [139122]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The Department aims to publish guidance to schools on the use of biometric technologies shortly.

Schools: Combined Heat and Power

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 365-66W, on schools: combined heat and power, which local planning authorities require new schools of over 1,000m² in area to install on-site renewable energy to supply a proportion of the predicted building's energy load; and if he will make a statement. [138372]

Jim Knight: We do not collect information on which local planning authorities require new schools to install on-site renewable energy to supply a proportion of the predicted building's load. However, the Town and

Country Planning Association conducted their own survey of local planning authorities[1] in 2006 asking this question. This showed that nearly 60 per cent. of the 212 councils that replied (out of the 387 sent the survey) had a policy adopted or in draft form at that time. A further 20 per cent. were considering adopting a policy and 20 per cent. had not considered adopting a policy. Since that date more local planning authorities have adopted a policy following the strengthening of the policy recommendations in Policy Planning Statement 22 on Renewable Energy, by the Department for Communities and Local Government, in June 2006.

[1] Reported in the issue of Building Magazine dated 28-07-2007.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 365-66W, on schools: combined heat and power, how many new school buildings over 1,000m^2 in area built in the last five years use microgeneration facilities. [138373]

Jim Knight: We do not know how many new schools built in the last five years use microgeneration.

Schools: Crime

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students were convicted of crimes committed at their school during school hours in the London Borough of Havering in each year since 1997. [134620]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Schools: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has held with *(a)* the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, *(b)* the Health and Safety Executive and *(c)* the National Governors Association on health and safety within schools. [138252]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State has had no recent meetings with these organisations where health and safety within schools was discussed. Ministers regularly meet representatives of NASUWT and NGA on a wide range of issues; and officials are in regular contact with NASUWT and HSE on matters concerning health and safety.

Secondary Education: Curriculum

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which maintained secondary schools in England which have sixth forms preparing pupils for A level do not offer A level courses in *(a)* further mathematics, *(b)* French, *(c)* German, *(d)* Spanish, *(e)* economics, *(f)* physics and *(g)* chemistry. [127982]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer the question is not available.

Social Enterprise Studies

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* schools and *(b)* tertiary-level institutions offer social enterprise studies among the courses for the officially recognised qualifications, broken down by local education authority. [117518]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer this question is not available.

Statistics

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions in the last five years the publication date of statistics produced by his Department has been changed; what the *(a)* subject of the statistics, *(b)* (i) original and (ii) final date of publication and *(c)* reason for the delay was in each case; and who took the decision to delay the publication in each case. [113673]

Jim Knight: In accordance with the National Statistics Code of Practice (2002), the Head of Profession for Statistics in the Department for Education and Skills has sole responsibility for determining, pre-announcing and, if necessary, altering the dates of publication of "National Statistics" and other relevant statistics produced by the Department.

Any decision to change a pre-announced publication date will be based on a range of professional considerations such as the completeness of the underlying data, their fitness for purpose, the need for consistency and coherence, the need to promote widespread access and informed debate, or any earlier accidental or wrongful release. In reaching a decision, the Head of Profession will also take into consideration the detailed procedural guidance given in the "National Statistics Protocol on Release Practices". The Head of Profession has published a statement describing how the Department's release practices comply with the Release Practice Protocol. This can be accessed at http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/compliance06.pdf The code and its 12 supporting protocols are available in the Library of the House, and can also be accessed using the following address: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/about/national_statistics/cop/default.asp

There have been only 27 occasions from a total of 322 publications in the last five years when the Head of Profession has changed a pre-announced publication date. The details are as follows:

Subject of the statistics	*The original publication date*	*Final date of publication*	*Reason for the delay*	*Who took the decision to delay*
SFR: GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/AS Level Performance of Candidates Attempting two or more GCE A Levels or AS Equivalents: 2000/01	27 March 2002	25 April 2002	Due to the time taken to quality assure the charts and tables	Head of Profession for Statistics

Subject of the statistics	The original publication date	Final date of publication	Reason for the delay	Who took the decision to delay
Bulletin: Pupil Progress in Secondary Schools by School Type in England: 2001	March 2002	17 June 2002	Discussions with users about the proposed content of the publication took longer than expected	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: Adult Education Enrolments in England: November 2001	22 May 2002	4 July 2002	Record of reason is no longer available	Head of Profession for Statistics
Volume: Statistics of Education Schools in England 2002 Edition	September 2002	28 October 2002	Due to quality assurance of the tables taking longer than expected	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England: January 2002	October 2002	17 December 2002	Due to our own quality assurance processes revealing discrepancies with the data	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: GCSE/GNVQ and GCE/VCE A/AS Results for Young People in England (Provisional Statistics)	December 2002	January 2003 for the GCSE/GNVQ element and March 2003 for the GCE/VCE A/AS element	This publication was based on the data that underpins the Secondary School Performance Tables. As a result of the delay to the 2002 Performance Tables, the SFR had to be delayed until early 2003	Head of Profession for Statistics
Volume: Statistics of Education: Teachers in England 2002 Edition (including teachers pay in England and Wales)	December 2002	30 January 2003	The preparation of the publication was delayed because of other work priorities, and staff shortages	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: Class Sizes and Pupil: Teacher Ratios in England 2002	January 2003	20 February 2003	The preparation of the publication was delayed because of other work priorities, and staff shortages	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: Adult Education Enrolments in England: November 2002	March 2003	15 May 2003	The release was delayed because of the lateness of returns from some local education authorities and the need for further quality assurance of the dataset to be completed	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: GCSE/GNVQ and GCE A/AS/VCEs level performance of candidates attempting two or more GCE A levels/VCEs or AS Equivalents in 2001/02	April 2003	29 May 2003	Due to the delay in publication of the post-16 performance tables. The final performance tables dataset was not available week beginning 17 March 2003; therefore the Bulletin followed at a later date	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: Statistics of Education: Vocational Qualifications in the UK: 2001/02	29 May 2003	26 June 2003	Due to problems with data from one Awarding Body on the National Information System for Vocational Qualifications (NISVQ)	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: National Curriculum Assessments of 7 and 11 year olds in England 2002 (This publication is only available on the internet)	June 2003	October 2003 However, instead of being published as a separate bulletin, extra tables were added to the provisional SFRs	Delayed in order to incorporate final information on pupil performance in 2002 taken from the National Pupil Database in June 2003	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 3, GCSE/GNVQ Examination Results and Associated Value Added Measures in England 2001/02 (This publication is only available on the internet)	June 2003	October 2003 However, instead of being published as a separate bulletin, extra tables were added to the provisional SFRs	Delayed in order to incorporate final information on pupil performance in 2002 taken from the National Pupil Database in June 2003	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: Participation in Education, Training and Employment by 16-18 Year Olds in England: 2001 and 2002	June 2003	20 November 2003	The publication was delayed to allow further quality assurance of the underlying data	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: School Workforce in England (including pupil teacher ratios and pupil adults ratios) January 2003 (Revised)	August 2003	9 September 2003	Due to a change in priorities, this statistical first release was released in September	Head of Profession for Statistics
Bulletin: Information and Communications Technology in Schools in England: 2003	September 2003	30 October 2003	Delayed until October 2003 because of other work priorities and staff shortages	Head of Profession for Statistics
Volume: Higher Education Statistics for the United Kingdom 2001/02 (Prepared and published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency in consultation with DfES statisticians)	25 September 2003	23 October 2003	Delayed due to printing difficulties	Head of Profession for Statistics

Subject of the statistics	*The original publication date*	*Final date of publication*	*Reason for the delay*	*Who took the decision to delay*
Bulletin: Participation in Education and Training by 16 and 17 Year Olds in Each Local Area in England: 2004 (internet only)	December 2003	26 February 2004	Delayed to allow further quality assurance of the underlying data. The delay was also due to the knock-on effect of the delay to the publication of the national participation estimates	Head of Profession for Statistics
Volume: Statistics of Education: School Workforce in England 2003 Edition	December 2003	20 January 2004	Delayed because of other work priorities and to allow for the inclusion of up-to-date figures on initial teaching training	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: National Curriculum Assessments and GCSE/GNVQ attainment by pupil characteristics, in England 2002 (Final) and 2003 (Provisional)	January 2004	24 February 2004	Delayed in order to incorporate a later version of the 2003 data.	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: Qualification and Participation in learning at a local level: England 2002/03	April 2004	11 May 2004	The original publication date was dependent on receiving the dataset for the Local Labour Force Survey from ONS in February. ONS were unable to provide the dataset for analysis until the end of March	Head of Profession for Statistics
Volume: Statistics of Education: School Workforce in England 2004 Edition	September 2004	27 January 2005	As an interim measure, an update to SFR 09/2004 was released in September. This included revised national and regional tables together with LEA level tables	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: Children looked after in England (including adoptions and care leavers): 2003-04	October 2004	17 November 2004	Delayed due to problems related with the implementation of a new data collection system	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: Provision for Children Under Five Years of Age in England: January 2005 (Final)	August 2005	28 September 2005	The date of publication was deferred until September to allow further quality assurance of the sub-national data to be carried out	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 Value Added Measures in England 2004/05 (Revised)	November 2005	1 December 2005	The slight delay was due to the additional time needed to finalise the SFR that included some new features. For example, confidence intervals quoted alongside the key stage 1 to key stage 2 Value Added (VA) measures	Head of Profession for Statistics
Volume: Statistics of Education: School Workforce in England 2005 Edition (including teachers' pay for England and Wales)	December 2005	26 January 2006	The volume had been rescheduled to January from December. The slight delay was due to a combination of other competing work pressures and the need to incorporate the latest data from external sources	Head of Profession for Statistics
SFR: National Curriculum Assessment, GCSE and Equivalent Attainment and Post-16 Attainment by Pupil Characteristics in England 2005	February 2006	1 March 2006	This SFR was originally planned for publication in late February 2006. However, its release was delayed until early March to allow for additional quality assurance	Head of Profession for Statistics

Students: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the expected cost is of fee *(a)* loans and *(b)* grants for full-time students on undergraduate degrees linked to Higher Education Funding Council for England and Training and Development Agency-funded provision for EU students studying in English institutions in 2007-08; what the planned cash cost is of maintenance income contingent loans for full-time higher education students in England in 2007-08 and for EU students studying in English institutions; and what the planned cash cost is of grants for (i) full-time and (ii) part-time undergraduate students from EU member states studying in English institutions in England in 2007-08. [137579]

Bill Rammell: We expect the cost of full-time EU students studying in English HE Institutions in 2007-08 to be as shown in the following table.

	Amount (£ million)
Fee Loans	
Cash outlay	[1]70
Resource cost[2]	[1]120

	Amount (£ million)
Fee Grants	[1]10
Maintenance Loans	
Cash outlay	[1]20
Resource cost[3]	<5
Other Grants	<5

[1] Rounded to the nearest £10 million.
[2] The resource cost of providing fee loans is based on a RAB charge of 33 per cent. which reflects the true cost of loans to the Government over the lifetime of the loan.
[3] The resource cost of providing maintenance loans is based on a RAB charge of 21 per cent. which reflects the true cost of loans to the Government over the lifetime of the loan.

Part-time EU students studying in English HE institutions are expected to cost around £1 million in grants. The estimated cost of loans and grants for EU students represents about 2 per cent. of the total resource cost to the Government of student support provision of approx £1.9 billion. Under the terms of the EC treaty, UK students may attend universities in other European States and benefit from whatever fee support that country offers.

EU loan repayments will be collected by the Student Loans Company (SLC), which already has experience of recovering loans from UK borrowers who go overseas and from EEA migrant workers who are entitled to loans. All borrowers from September 2006 enter a contract with the SLC enforceable in UK law which, under EC regulation 44/2001, can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

Supply Teachers

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on supply teachers in each of the last five years, broken down by local education authority. [138493]

Jim Knight: The available information relating to supply teaching staff is contained in the following table. The Department is due to collect the section 52 Outturn data relating to the 2006-07 financial year from August 2007.

Total gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers: 2002-06

£

Local Authority Name:	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
England	846,053,000	833,390,000	820,780,000	886,783,000
Barking and Dagenham	6,841,000	6,114,000	4,735,000	5,935,000
Barnet	5,839,000	5,891,000	6,771,000	7,287,000
Barnsley	3,108,000	3,994,000	4,514,000	5,078,000
Bath and North East Somerset	2,730,000	2,708,000	2,688,000	2,679,000
Bedfordshire	5,682,000	5,058,000	4,995,000	5,614,000
Bexley	6,901,000	5,949,000	5,609,000	6,011,000
Birmingham	24,545,000	24,272,000	23,876,000	26,215,000
Blackburn with Darwen	2,732,000	2,609,000	2,842,000	3,484,000
Blackpool	2,463,000	2,724,000	2,532,000	1,923,000
Bolton	4,607,000	4,272,000	4,119,000	4,890,000
Bournemouth	2,162,000	1,759,000	1,681,000	1,981,000
Bracknell Forest	1,401,000	1,342,000	1,265,000	1,609,000
Bradford	10,909,000	11,409,000	11,313,000	11,236,000
Brent	5,570,000	5,878,000	6,116,000	6,329,000
Brighton and Hove	3,027,000	3,080,000	2,964,000	3,837,000
Bristol City of	6,772,000	6,663,000	7,184,000	7,657,000
Bromley	4,323,000	3,798,000	3,619,000	4,471,000
Buckinghamshire	6,978,000	6,802,000	6,397,000	6,915,000
Bury	1,091,000	3,593,000	3,430,000	2,092,000
Calderdale	3,865,000	4,055,000	3,861,000	4,022,000
Cambridgeshire	6,288,000	6,162,000	6,699,000	7,885,000
Camden	3,640,000	3,065,000	3,226,000	4,188,000
Cheshire	7,908,000	8,896,000	9,029,000	10,393,000
City of London	196,000	155,000	58,000	85,000
Cornwall	6,478,000	6,866,000	7,235,000	7,830,000
Coventry	5,727,000	5,457,000	5,374,000	6,920,000
Croydon	6,234,000	5,517,000	4,999,000	5,489,000
Cumbria	4,490,000	8,905,000	6,068,000	7,256,000
Darlington	1,736,000	1,721,000	1,649,000	1,855,000
Derby	4,071,000	4,968,000	4,495,000	4,771,000
Derbyshire	12,059,000	11,792,000	11,642,000	13,415,000
Devon	7,989,000	8,852,000	9,099,000	9,777,000
Doncaster	5,053,000	5,016,000	5,246,000	5,378,000
Dorset	3,925,000	3,777,000	4,888,000	5,041,000
Dudley	4,380,000	4,414,000	5,005,000	5,532,000
Durham	7,695,000	8,036,000	7,356,000	7,957,000

Total gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers: 2002-06

£

Local Authority Name:	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Ealing	5,849,000	6,164,000	5,135,000	6,815,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	5,610,000	4,636,000	4,672,000	5,007,000
East Sussex	6,434,000	6,185,000	6,529,000	7,043,000
Enfield	7,450,000	6,639,000	6,238,000	6,992,000
Essex	19,065,000	17,929,000	17,555,000	19,632,000
Gateshead	3,024,000	2,997,000	3,261,000	3,853,000
Gloucestershire	6,202,000	7,109,000	7,302,000	7,606,000
Greenwich	7,807,000	6,851,000	6,208,000	7,354,000
Hackney	11,208,000	6,898,000	6,258,000	6,427,000
Halton	1,799,000	1,908,000	1,283,000	1,525,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,105,000	2,755,000	2,772,000	3,024,000
Hampshire	14,028,000	14,957,000	14,872,000	15,071,000
Haringey	5,840,000	6,173,000	6,464,000	8,276,000
Harrow	4,773,000	4,495,000	4,468,000	4,495,000
Hartlepool	1,635,000	1,935,000	1,454,000	1,908,000
Havering	5,180,000	4,421,000	4,010,000	4,622,000
Herefordshire	2,004,000	2,038,000	2,283,000	2,745,000
Hertfordshire	18,245,000	17,220,000	16,298,000	17,293,000
Hillingdon	5,995,000	6,429,000	5,467,000	5,652,000
Hounslow	6,892,000	5,823,000	5,217,000	5,780,000
Isle of Wight	1,759,000	1,688,000	1,405,000	1,809,000
Isles of Scilly	28,000	55,000	27,000	30,000
Islington	6,229,000	5,315,000	5,192,000	5,987,000
Kensington and Chelsea	2,229,000	1,937,000	1,909,000	2,278,000
Kent	19,523,000	18,726,000	18,044,000	19,800,000
Kingston upon Hull City of	5,209,000	4,918,000	4,390,000	4,914,000
Kingston upon Thames	2,006,000	1,893,000	1,923,000	2,132,000
Kirklees	5,456,000	5,586,000	5,683,000	6,473,000
Knowsley	3,241,000	3,545,000	2,680,000	3,157,000
Lambeth	6,126,000	6,089,000	5,829,000	6,917,000
Lancashire	18,304,000	19,099,000	19,702,000	20,038,000
Leeds	12,381,000	12,276,000	12,101,000	12,954,000
Leicester	6,746,000	6,138,000	6,245,000	6,705,000
Leicestershire	10,537,000	9,575,000	9,323,000	10,702,000
Lewisham	6,374,000	5,225,000	6,054,000	6,705,000
Lincolnshire	10,135,000	11,018,000	11,256,000	11,945,000
Liverpool	18,815,000	8,848,000	7,803,000	8,310,000
Luton	4,276,000	4,248,000	3,908,000	4,185,000
Manchester	7,188,000	7,226,000	6,742,000	7,646,000
Medway	4,291,000	4,162,000	4,417,000	4,486,000
Merton	4,724,000	3,923,000	3,634,000	3,852,000
Middlesbrough	2,566,000	2,360,000	1,797,000	1,982,000
Milton Keynes	2,574,000	2,594,000	3,008,000	2,963,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,695,000	4,311,000	4,464,000	4,121,000
Newham	13,791,000	11,166,000	10,029,000	10,840,000
Norfolk	9,887,000	9,997,000	9,719,000	11,291,000
North East Lincolnshire	3,105,000	2,923,000	2,862,000	2,688,000
North Lincolnshire	2,580,000	2,709,000	2,549,000	2,865,000
North Somerset	2,925,000	3,279,000	3,114,000	3,487,000
North Tyneside	3,642,000	3,130,000	2,996,000	2,976,000
North Yorkshire	9,713,000	9,888,000	9,851,000	10,914,000
Northamptonshire	8,456,000	8,278,000	9,045,000	9,686,000
Northumberland	3,878,000	4,010,000	4,686,000	4,506,000
Nottingham	6,115,000	6,155,000	4,776,000	4,857,000
Nottinghamshire	14,066,000	14,117,000	14,450,000	16,096,000
Oldham	3,843,000	3,970,000	3,629,000	3,799,000
Oxfordshire	5,269,000	5,237,000	7,143,000	6,599,000
Peterborough	2,194,000	2,233,000	2,450,000	2,452,000
Plymouth	3,228,000	3,340,000	3,380,000	3,356,000

Total gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers: 2002-06

£

Local Authority Name:	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Poole	1,592,000	1,432,000	1,602,000	1,778,000
Portsmouth	2,559,000	2,808,000	2,652,000	3,039,000
Reading	1,727,000	1,590,000	1,549,000	1,684,000
Redbridge	4,404,000	5,144,000	4,788,000	5,089,000
Redcar and Cleveland	2,532,000	2,673,000	2,434,000	2,448,000
Richmond upon Thames	2,755,000	2,791,000	2,897,000	3,063,000
Rochdale	3,798,000	3,973,000	4,035,000	4,204,000
Rotherham	5,705,000	6,298,000	5,938,000	5,110,000
Rutland	369,000	405,000	348,000	344,000
Salford	3,558,000	4,064,000	4,164,000	4,096,000
Sandwell	6,783,000	7,255,000	7,484,000	7,386,000
Sefton	4,769,000	3,153,000	3,253,000	3,186,000
Sheffield	9,243,000	9,447,000	9,673,000	10,059,000
Shropshire	3,932,000	4,665,000	4,159,000	4,438,000
Slough	2,445,000	2,336,000	2,400,000	2,214,000
Solihull	2,945,000	3,447,000	3,776,000	3,955,000
Somerset	6,631,000	6,338,000	7,020,000	6,910,000
South Gloucestershire	4,310,000	4,055,000	4,654,000	4,921,000
South Tyneside	2,697,000	3,343,000	2,850,000	2,892,000
Southampton	3,112,000	2,892,000	3,132,000	3,227,000
Southend-on-Sea	2,021,000	2,002,000	2,069,000	2,356,000
Southwark	7,869,000	7,920,000	7,365,000	9,487,000
St. Helens	2,872,000	2,975,000	3,259,000	3,358,000
Staffordshire	10,906,000	11,142,000	11,371,000	12,178,000
Stockport	3,175,000	3,423,000	4,029,000	4,726,000
Stockton-on-Tees	3,164,000	3,083,000	3,108,000	3,556,000
Stoke-on-Trent	3,756,000	4,694,000	4,196,000	4,195,000
Suffolk	9,349,000	9,241,000	9,463,000	9,362,000
Sunderland	4,365,000	5,001,000	5,640,000	6,114,000
Surrey	9,093,000	10,409,000	10,750,000	11,261,000
Sutton	3,358,000	3,456,000	3,389,000	3,698,000
Swindon	2,235,000	2,558,000	2,796,000	2,912,000
Tameside	3,574,000	3,366,000	3,205,000	3,069,000
Telford and Wrekin	2,969,000	3,025,000	2,684,000	2,720,000
Thurrock	2,887,000	2,606,000	2,561,000	2,703,000
Torbay	1,636,000	1,826,000	1,886,000	1,814,000
Tower Hamlets	10,578,000	9,975,000	8,903,000	8,859,000
Trafford	3,000,000	2,756,000	2,560,000	2,730,000
Wakefield	3,338,000	3,622,000	4,223,000	4,369,000
Walsall	6,385,000	5,672,000	5,916,000	6,564,000
Waltham Forest	7,170,000	7,314,000	7,046,000	8,011,000
Wandsworth	4,398,000	4,111,000	4,288,000	5,073,000
Warrington	4,991,000	3,524,000	2,924,000	3,126,000
Warwickshire	8,563,000	8,882,000	7,816,000	8,804,000
West Berkshire	2,172,000	2,576,000	2,452,000	2,400,000
West Sussex	10,454,000	9,970,000	8,975,000	10,247,000
Westminster	4,696,000	4,402,000	4,703,000	4,127,000
Wigan	5,623,000	6,070,000	6,195,000	6,057,000
Wiltshire	5,309,000	5,372,000	5,351,000	5,867,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	1,896,000	1,837,000	1,873,000	1,755,000
Wirral	7,384,000	7,144,000	7,030,000	7,770,000
Wokingham	2,126,000	1,833,000	1,826,000	1,842,000
Wolverhampton	3,202,000	3,599,000	3,813,000	4,322,000

Total gross expenditure by local authority maintained schools on supply teachers: 2002-06

£

Local Authority Name	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Worcestershire	6,629,000	7,164,000	7,204,000	7,601,000
York	2,378,000	2,418,000	2,566,000	2,949,000

Notes:
1. Includes only expenditure by maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools with delegated budgets. Central local authority expenditure on supply teachers is not recorded separately and is therefore excluded from this table. Expenditure by local authority maintained nursery schools was not recorded in 2002-03 and is therefore also excluded for that year.
2. Includes both the salaries and wages of all supply teaching staff employed directly by the school who are covering curriculum release, long term absence, sickness absence and training absence as well as the cost paid to an agency for supply teaching staff that have been brought in to cover teacher absence. Expenditure on salaries and wages consists of expenditure on gross pay, including bonuses and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation.
3. Figures do not include any expenditure on supply teacher insurance nor do they net off any receipts from supply teacher insurance claims.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000 and may not sum due to rounding. 5. Figures are drawn from local authorities' Section 52 Outturn Statements submitted to the DFES and reported in cash terms as at 17 May 2007.

Teachers: Pay

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher's wage was in the last 12 months in each local education authority. [137897]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the average salaries of full-time regular qualified teachers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools by local authority, in March 2005, the latest information available.

Average salaries of full-time teachers[1] employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools by local authority in England and Wales, March 2005

£

		Nursery/primary	Secondary
	North East		
841	Darlington	32,090	33,940
840	Durham	31,430	33,160
390	Gateshead	30,750	32,930
805	Hartlepool	30,940	34,060
806	Middlesbrough	31,340	33,600
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	31,840	33,540
392	North Tyneside	30,910	32,350
929	Northumberland	31,450	32,470
807	Redcar and Cleveland	31,150	32,960
393	South Tyneside	32,170	33,620
808	Stockton-on-Tees	31,300	33,260
394	Sunderland	31,350	32,980
	North West		
889	Blackburn with Darwen	31,570	33,730
890	Blackpool	30,220	33,030
350	Bolton	31,300	33,100
351	Bury	31,930	33,500
875	Cheshire	31,310	32,930
909	Cumbria	31,590	33,660
876	Halton	31,720	32,040
340	Knowsley	31,750	33,740
888	Lancashire	31,670	33,360
341	Liverpool	n/a	n/a
352	Manchester	31,080	33,220
353	Oldham	30,780	32,380
354	Rochdale	31,710	33,140
355	Salford	31,260	33,790
343	Sefton	31,960	34,240
342	St. Helens	31,890	33,430
356	Stockport	31,860	32,850
357	Tameside	31,330	32,760
358	Trafford	31,300	32,900
877	Warrington	30,930	32,170
359	Wigan	31,430	32,910
344	Wirral	n/a	n/a
	Yorkshire and the Humber		
370	Barnsley	31,280	32,670
380	Bradford	31,660	33,620
381	Calderdale	30,920	33,240
371	Doncaster	31,300	33,710
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	31,310	32,940
810	Kingston Upon Hull, City of	30,910	33,660
382	Kirklees	31,720	33,410
383	Leeds	n/a	33,110
812	North East Lincolnshire	31,550	33,010
813	North Lincolnshire	31,350	33,750
815	North Yorkshire	31,770	32,880
372	Rotherham	31,420	32,870
373	Sheffield	30,780	32,440
384	Wakefield	31,180	31,930
816	York	31,260	32,730
	East Midlands		
831	Derby	30,020	31,690
830	Derbyshire	31,150	33,460
856	Leicester	30,600	33,320
855	Leicestershire	31,070	33,090
925	Lincolnshire	30,320	n/a
928	Northamptonshire	30,350	32,820
892	Nottingham	31,690	33,400
891	Nottinghamshire	31,430	33,050
857	Rutland	29,810	34,130

Average salaries of full-time teachers[1] employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools by local authority in England and Wales, March 2005

		£	
		Nursery/primary	*Secondary*
	West Midlands		
330	Birmingham	31,480	34,270
331	Coventry	31,450	33,890
332	Dudley	31,350	33,350
884	Herefordshire	30,990	32,850
333	Sandwell	30,680	33,270
893	Shropshire	31,760	33,370
334	Solihull	31,070	33,430
860	Staffordshire	31,140	33,050
861	Stoke-on-Trent	30,350	32,320
894	Telford and Wrekin	30,970	33,600
335	Walsall	31,830	33,170
937	Warwickshire	30,720	32,700
336	Wolverhampton	31,360	33,780
885	Worcestershire	30,960	32,740
	East of England		
820	Bedfordshire	30,970	33,020
873	Cambridgeshire	30,360	n/a
881	Essex	31,610	34,180
919	Hertfordshire	31,420	34,300
821	Luton	30,770	34,100
926	Norfolk	31,040	33,550
874	Peterborough	29,830	33,630
882	Southend-on-Sea	31,000	34,540
935	Suffolk	31,040	33,070
883	Thurrock	32,790	35,680
	London		
	Inner London		
202	Camden	37,280	40,440
201	City of London	n/a	n/a
204	Hackney	n/a	39,710
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	35,360	41,180
309	Haringey	36,270	38,990
206	Islington	36,550	n/a
207	Kensington and Chelsea	35,360	38,360
208	Lambeth	n/a	n/a
209	Lewisham	36,880	40,420
316	Newham	35,490	39,530
210	Southwark	n/a	n/a
211	Tower Hamlets	36,840	40,200
212	Wandsworth	35,470	39,330
213	Westminster	34,740	35,990
	Outer London		
301	Barking and Dagenham	36,810	39,420
302	Barnet	33,210	35,530
303	Bexley	n/a	n/a
304	Brent	n/a	n/a
305	Bromley	n/a	n/a
306	Croydon	n/a	n/a
307	Ealing	36,050	38,330
308	Enfield	34,100	36,160
203	Greenwich	36,220	38,640
310	Harrow	33,660	37,400
311	Havering	33,760	36,830
312	Hillingdon	32,660	35,800
313	Hounslow	33,420	35,470
314	Kingston upon Thames	32,950	35,670
315	Merton	35,250	39,160
317	Redbridge	33,330	36,030
318	Richmond upon Thames	32,610	35,290
319	Sutton	n/a	n/a
320	Waltham Forest	n/a	n/a
	South East		
867	Bracknell Forest	31,180	34,450
846	Brighton and Hove	30,670	32,910
825	Buckinghamshire	30,770	34,490
845	East Sussex	30,180	32,940
850	Hampshire	30,930	33,070
921	Isle of Wight	30,670	32,210
886	Kent	30,880	34,000
887	Medway	31,320	33,550
826	Milton Keynes	30,300	32,630
931	Oxfordshire	30,330	33,130
851	Portsmouth	30,790	33,450
870	Reading	29,760	34,850
871	Slough	31,420	35,430
852	Southampton	30,050	32,430
936	Surrey	29,790	32,390
869	West Berkshire	30,660	32,220
938	West Sussex	30,680	33,250
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	31,450	34,590
872	Wokingham	30,700	33,450
	South West		
800	Bath and North East Somerset	30,520	32,860
837	Bournemouth	30,800	33,660
801	Bristol, City of	30,050	32,790
908	Cornwall	31,370	33,230
878	Devon	31,100	33,260
835	Dorset	30,960	32,950
916	Gloucestershire	31,360	32,730
420	Isles of Scilly	32,540	n/a
802	North Somerset	31,190	32,560
879	Plymouth	31,270	33,390
836	Poole	30,900	32,910
933	Somerset	31,460	33,140
803	South Gloucestershire	30,150	32,630
866	Swindon	29,870	32,470
880	Torbay	n/a	n/a
865	Wiltshire	30,660	32,470

Average salaries of full-time teachers[1] employed in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools by local authority in England and Wales, March 2005

£

	Nursery/primary	Secondary
England	31,650	33,770
Wales	32,140	33,070

n/a = Not available includes local authorities where there are less than 100 records or where less than 80 per cent. of records have been received.
[1] All grades including the leadership group.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Teachers: Sick Leave

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teaching staff have been on sick leave *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a result of stress-related illness in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [138974]

Jim Knight: The following table gives information for teacher sickness absence including numbers in local authority maintained schools for calendar years 2000 to 2006.

The reasons teachers take sickness absence, including stress related illnesses are not collected centrally.

Table 13: Full-time and part-time teacher sickness absence[1] in England, calendar years 2000 to 2006, LA maintained sector

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[2]
Percentage of teachers taking sickness absence[3]	55	55	57	57	55	55	57
Days sick per teacher[3]	5.4	5.4	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.3
Days sick per teacher taking sickness absence	9.9	10.0	9.3	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.3
Number of teachers taking sickness absence	273,300	279,200	293,400	298,100	292,800	300,700	309,000
Total days sickness absence taken	2,694,400	2,782,100	2,739,300	2,853,600	2,796,100	2,796,000	2,880,400

[1] Provisional.
[2] Includes estimated figures for those local authorities that did not provide complete data or provided potentially inaccurate data.
[3] Based on an estimate of the number of teachers that have worked in the maintained sector during the calendar year.
Source:
618g survey

Teaching Methods

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1868W, on teaching methods, what proportion of *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* science and *(d)* all lessons (excluding PE lessons) inspected by Ofsted were recorded as setted and banded in each year since 2002-03. [137060]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 22 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what proportion of *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* English, *(c)* science and *(d)* all lessons (excluding PE lessons) inspected by Ofsted were recorded as setted and banded in each year since 2002-03.

The proportions shown in the tables overleaf are broken down by year groups 7 to 11, for academic years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

The proportion of English, Maths, Science and All lessons (excluding PE) inspected by Ofsted that were recorded as setted and banded in each year since 2002-03

	English			Maths		
2002/03	Total lessons	% Banded	% Setted	Total lessons	% Banded	% Setted
Year 7	1,619	5	38	1,306	3	74
Year 8	1,215	6	51	1,099	3	85
Year 9	1,589	7	51	1,401	2	90
Year 10	1,301	6	57	1,243	1	90
Year 11	1,494	6	59	1,422	1	90
Total 7-11	7,218	6	51	6,473	2	86

	Science			All (excluding PE)		
	Total lessons	% Banded	% Setted	Total lessons	% Banded	% Setted
Year 7	1,121	4	40	10,406	5	29
Year 8	1,013	6	62	9,482	6	41
Year 9	1,345	5	74	12,259	6	45
Year 10	1,359	4	80	11,064	3	40
Year 11	1,528	3	83	12,060	3	42
Total 7-11	6,366	4	70	55,271	4	40

The proportion of English, Maths, Science and All lessons (excluding PE) inspected by Ofsted that were recorded as setted and banded in each year since 2002-03

	English				Maths			
2003/04	*Total lessons*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*	*Total lessons*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*
Year 7	1,668	9	18	11	1,519	17	30	26
Year 8	1,359	11	20	18	1,325	23	32	30
Year 9	1,776	14	20	21	1,650	23	30	36
Year 10	1,363	13	23	21	1,389	27	30	35
Year 11	1,675	15	21	23	1,634	24	27	41
Total 7-11	7,841	13	20	19	7,517	23	30	34

	Science				All (excluding PE)			
	Total lessons	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*	*Total lessons*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*
Year 7	1,269	9	14	15	12,371	7	11	10
Year 8	1,121	20	22	24	11,136	10	15	14
Year 9	1,584	20	23	34	14,747	11	15	18
Year 10	1,509	21	27	31	12,874	9	13	14
Year 11	1,799	21	27	34	14,756	9	13	17
Total 7-11	7,282	18	23	29	65,884	9	13	15

	English				Maths			
2004/05	*Total lessons*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*	*Total lessons*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*
Year 7	1,284	8	19	9	1,065	19	27	26
Year 8	1,038	12	20	18	986	23	31	34
Year 9	1,360	13	19	21	1,293	25	29	38
Year 10	1,032	13	22	25	1,102	25	30	36
Year 11	1,312	14	20	25	1,253	24	28	38
Total 7-11	6,026	12	20	19	5,699	23	29	34

	Science				All (excluding PE)			
	Total lessons	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*	*Total lessons*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school*	*Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school*
Year 7	904	9	13	14	9,351	6	10	9
Year 8	794	19	22	25	8,320	10	14	15
Year 9	1,187	20	23	35	11,572	11	15	18
Year 10	1,145	21	28	32	10,125	8	12	14
Year 11	1,362	19	29	34	11,877	9	12	15
Total 7-11	5,392	18	24	29	51,245	9	13	14

	English				Maths			
2005/06	Total lessons	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school	Total lessons	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school
Year 7	700	8	15	13	604	17	25	23
Year 8	617	11	20	21	590	19	25	29
Year 9	776	14	21	20	638	25	24	30
Year 10	780	15	22	26	659	22	27	30
Year 11	617	19	19	24	571	23	23	31
Total 7-11	3,490	13	20	21	3,062	21	25	29

	Science				All (excluding PE)			
	Total lessons	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school	Total lessons	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Average ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Lower ability range within the school	Class Setted or streamed by ability where pupils are within the Upper ability range within the school
Year 7	488	9	14	15	3,794	8	13	12
Year 8	414	15	19	21	3,679	11	15	16
Year 9	571	18	21	29	4,304	13	17	19
Year 10	626	20	25	29	4,387	11	16	18
Year 11	550	18	24	30	3,528	13	15	18
Total 7-11	2,649	16	21	26	19,692	11	15	17

Vocational Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of the consortia which have been approved to offer diploma courses from September 2008 include at least *(a)* one further education college, *(b)* one school and *(c)* one private training provider; and if he will make a statement. [136674]

Jim Knight: On 28 March I announced the first 145 consortia across 97 local authorities that have been given approval to offer one or more of the first five 14-19 diplomas from September 2008. There are a variety of different partnerships, based on local circumstances, but in most cases consortia are collaborates of more than one school, the local further education college and work-based training providers. Only those consortia who demonstrated they were able to provide high quality delivery across all the criteria from September 2008 were included in the first group.

Pupils: Eating Disorders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* support is available in schools for children suffering from eating disorders; [139119]

(2) what materials her Department provides for schools and youth groups to help teachers and staff talk to pupils about eating disorders. [139120]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1918W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Apache AH-64 Helicopter

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what technical problems have delayed the deployment of Apache helicopters to Afghanistan. [138521]

Des Browne: There has been no delay in the deployment of Apache helicopters to Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Desert Hawk mini-unmanned aerial vehicles have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* damaged beyond repair in Afghanistan. [134196]

Des Browne: A total of 15 Desert Hawk (1+ variant) air vehicles have been lost on operations in Afghanistan in the period up to 24 April 2007. In the same period, one Desert Hawk air vehicle has been damaged beyond economic repair.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces are located outside the United Kingdom. [137079]

Derek Twigg *[pursuant to the reply, 21 May 2007, Official Report, c. 1047W]:* The figure of 15,220 armed

forces personnel deployed on operations outside the UK was incorrect for which I apologise. The correct answer should read;

As at 30 April 2007, 15,010 armed forces personnel were deployed on operations outside the UK.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval is of *(a)* 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh, *(b)* 1st Battalion the Scots Guards, *(c)* 19th Regiment Royal Artillery, *(d)* 5th Regiment Royal Artillery and *(e)* 39th Regiment Royal Artillery. [137348]

Mr. Ingram *[pursuant to the reply, 18 May 2007, Official Report, c. 981-82W]:* The table provided was incorrect and should have read as follows:

The recent average tour intervals for the Army units listed are provided in the following table:

Regiment	*Operational deployments*	*Tour interval (months)*	*Date*	*Average (months)*
1st Battalion the Royal Welsh	Unit deployed to:			
	Northern Ireland (June to November 2001)	29	December 2001 to April 2004	18
	Iraq (May to October 2004)	10	November 2004 to August 2005	
	Northern Ireland (September 2005 to January 2006) Theatre Reserve Battalion (May 2007 to May 2008)	15	February 2006 to April 2007	
1st Battalion the Scots Guards	Unit deployed to:			
	Northern Ireland (May to November 2001)	35	December 2001 to October 2004	30
	Iraq (November 2004 to April 2005)	[1]24	May 2005 to May 2007	
19th Regiment Royal Artillery	Unit deployed to:			
	Iraq (May to November 2005) Afghanistan (May to October 2007)	17	December 2005 to April 2007	17
39th Regiment Royal Artillery	Unit deployed to:			
	Northern Ireland (November 2002 to May 2003) Cyprus (October 2006 to April 2007)	40	June 2003 to September 2006	40
	Now deploying as subunits in support of operations			
5th Regiment Royal Artillery	Deployed as subunits in support of operations to Operation Telic, Operation Herrick and Northern Ireland	n/a	n/a	n/a

[1] To date

All tour intervals are calculated by units rather than subunits. We are unable to calculate tour intervals for 5th Regiment Royal Artillery.

Armed Forces: Expenditure

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the budget is for the up keep of the garden at the residence of *(a)* the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Commander in Chief Land. [134232]

Derek Twigg: The main element of expenditure in relation to garden maintenance at official service residences relates to salary costs, and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 629W.

Any additional expenditure on garden maintenance is usually very modest and is not identified separately in forward budgets.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* availability and *(b)* adequacy of accommodation for phase 3 of the Army Recruiting and Training Division draft Management Plan 2007; and if he will make a statement. [138745]

Derek Twigg: The Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD) maintains a running assessment of the volume, standard and availability of its accommodation. Based on current, predicted patterns of attendance, this is assessed to be sufficient to deliver phase 3 training in financial year 2007-08. Army accommodation, including that in ARTD, is subject to ongoing upgrade programmes.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was charged for damages to occupants of Modern Housing Solutions housing in each financial year since 1997. [139769]

Derek Twigg: Modern Housing Solutions has been responsible for maintenance of service families accommodation in England and Wales only since 2006.

Relevant records of charges since 1997 are not held centrally and service housing has been subject to

changes of organisation. It will take a little time to determine what details are available and in what form. Once our inquiries are complete, I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Occupant's Handbook will be made available to occupants of Modern Housing Solutions housing. [139770]

Derek Twigg: It is planned that the Occupant's Handbook will be issued to occupants of Service Families Accommodation (SFA) worldwide during the summer. It applies to all occupants of SFA and is not limited to those properties maintained in England and Wales by Modern Housing Solutions.

Armed Forces: Officers

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* name and *(b)* rank was of each senior British military representative to CENTCOM of the United States between 2001 and 2006; how long each person served in that capacity; what subsequent positions in the British military establishment each has taken up; and if he will make a statement. [139083]

Des Browne: The following table shows the name and rank of the officers who have undertaken the role of senior British representative to CENTCOM of the United States between 2001 and 2006, and how long each person served in that capacity:

(a) Name	*(b) Rank as Senior British Representative to CENTCOM*	*(c) Period of Service*	*(d) Length of Tenure (months)*
Sir Jock Stirrup GCB AFC ADC FRAeS FCMI	Air Marshal	September 2001 to May 2002	9
Sir Cedric Delves KBE DSO	Lieutenant General	May 2002 to October 2002	6
David Wilson CB CBE	Major General	October 2002 to October 2003	12
Mike Heath CBE FRAeS	Air Vice-Marshal	October 2003 to August 2005	22
Jonathon Riley DSO	Major General	August 2005 to August 2007	24

The following table shows the subsequent positions in the British military establishment that senior British representatives to CENTCOM of the United States between 2001 and 2006 have taken up:

(a) Name	*(b) Subsequent military positions*
Sir Jock Stirrup GCB AFC ADC FRAes FCMI	Deputy Chief of Defence Staff (Equipment Capability) (May 2002 to July 2003) Chief of The Air Staff (July 2003 to April 2006) Chief of Defence Staff (April 2006 to present)
Sir Cedric Delves KBE DSO	Commander Field Army (October 2002 to September 2003) Deputy Commander in Chief NATO Headquarters Armed Forces North (September 2003 to December 2003). Medically discharged following a serious road traffic accident December 2003
David Wilson CB CBE	Commander United Kingdom Amphibious Forces (October 2003 to August 2004) Commandant General Royal Marines (Titular Role) (February 2004 to August 2004) Retired August 2004
Mike Heath CBE FRAeS	Special Adviser to CENTCOM (August 2005 to Present)

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints from *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army personnel the Armed Forces Joint Personnel Administration Agency's internal complaints system received in each month in 2007 on mispayment under the system; and how many (i) are still outstanding and (ii) have been resolved. [139618]

Derek Twigg: As at 24 May 2007, the number of complaints received from service personnel via the centralised JPA complaints process about mispayments, and other apparent problems with pay or the handling of a query, were as follows:

Royal Air Force

	Received	*Outstanding*	*Resolved*
January	67	2	65
February	61	3	58
March	60	4	56
April	38	4	34
May	30	22	8

Royal Navy

	Received	*Outstanding*	*Resolved*
January	37	1	36
February	25	3	22
March	35	4	31
April	20	6	14
May	31	23	8

Army

	Received	*Outstanding*	*Resolved*
January	3	0	3
February	3	0	3
March	3	0	3
April	15	4	11
May	31	22	9

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department holds on *(a)* the number of personnel (i) serving and (ii) serving less than 22 years in the (A) Army, (B) Royal Navy and (C) Royal Air Force between 1949 and 1975 and *(b)* the amount of the gratuity paid to ex-service personnel who did not serve 22 years during that period. [138422]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the policy on the payment of a pension to a former spouse of a retired member of the armed forces under 65 years. [138606]

Derek Twigg: Pension sharing was introduced by the Welfare Reform and Pensions Act 1999. The legislation is the responsibility of the Department for Work and Pensions. Under the provisions of the Act, it is possible to share the value of a pension between both parties as part of a financial settlement on divorce. The Act stipulates pension credit benefit (the income from the share of the value of the member's pension awarded to the former spouse) is not payable in an occupational pension scheme before 'normal benefit age'. The legislation prescribes that normal benefit age under a scheme must be between 60 and 65.

The MOD applies this principle to the Armed Forces Pension Schemes and under a Pension Sharing Order the ex-spouse is generally treated in the same way as a member who leaves with a preserved pension. Prior to 6 April 2006, personnel in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) who left before the immediate pension point, having completed at least two years reckonable service, had their benefits preserved to age 60. From April 2006, the preserved pension age was changed to 65 to take account of the impact of longevity and the age at which an ex-spouse could receive their pension share also rose to age 65.

For the Armed Forces Pension Scheme 2005 (AFPS 05) the preserved pension age and the age at which pension shares become payable has been 65 since the scheme's introduction on 6 April 2005.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were recruited to *(a)* Phase One, *(b)* Phase Two and *(c)* Phase Three under the Army Recruiting and Training Division Statement of Training Requirement draft Man Plan in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [138744]

Derek Twigg: The available information is set out in the following table.

	Input to phase 1	*Input to phase 2*	*Output from phase 3*
2002-03	15,180	9,190	n/a
2003-04	13,940	8,610	45,350
2004-05	10,300	6,410	43,840
2005-06	8,950	6,540	45,860
2006-07	13,080	6,520	50,690

n/a = Not available.

Data is not held centrally on those entering phase 3 training, only on those completing phase 3 training.

Statistics have been rounded to the nearest 10, the numbers ending in five have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of those due to report for Army Recruiting and Training Division courses at the Infantry Battle School in Brecon failed to do so in the last period for which figures are available; for what reasons officers failed to report for this training; and if he will make a statement. [138746]

Derek Twigg: The information is provided in the following table:

Course attendance at the Infantry Battle School, Brecon in 2006-07

Course	*Course capacity*	*Number loaded on to course*	*Number of non-attendees*	*Non-attendees as percentage of those loaded*	*Attendance as percentage of capacity*
Section Commander's Battle Course	960	990	126	13	90
Platoon Sergeant's Battle Course	540	603	55	10	101
Platoon Commander's Battle Course	240	220	10	4	88

Notes:
1. The number loaded onto any course may be higher than the course capacity to allow for circumstances that might prevent an individual attending. These reasons will include such things as illness, injury and operational deployments.
2. Courses are run in two phases, and the numbers shown are the total for both phases.

Information on the reasons for non-attendance is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Resignations

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel in the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force have served less than (a) nine years as an officer and (b) 12 years at any other rank. [138059]

Derek Twigg: The information is provided in the following table:

UK regular forces only[1]	Army	Royal Navy[2]	Royal Air Force
		At 1 October 2006	
Officers with less than nine years service	8,390	3,500	4,410
Other ranks with less than 12 years service	66,680	19,450	20,110

[1] UK regular forces exclude full-time reserve service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment, mobilised reservists and naval activated reservists. It includes both trained and untrained personnel.
[2] Royal Navy includes Royal Marines.

Note:
The figures above are calculated by taking the difference between 1 October 2006 and date of intake and may therefore not account for periods of former service. This could include service prior to re-enlistment, service prior to transfer between services or service prior to transferring from non-commissioned to commissioned.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of armoured vehicle breakdown there have been in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in the last six months, broken down by vehicle type. [137421]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* Information is not recorded in this format. Records of vehicle availability are collated to allow for more efficient fleet management. This provides a clearer picture for commanders on the ground of the assets at their disposal. I am withholding further details as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Army Costs

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1851W, on army costs, for what purpose the chicken wire was erected at the residence of the Adjutant General. [136646]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The chicken wire was used to reinforce existing fencing to prevent persistent damage to the garden by local wildlife, including the consumption of vegetable crops.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1851W, on army costs, for what purpose the supa-stadia pitch marker was purchased for the residence of the Adjutant General. [136647]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The pitch marker paint was purchased, at a cost of £17, to mark the white lines on the tennis court at the residence occupied by the Adjutant General. It is only the second purchase of pitch marker paint in the last 14 years.

Army: Greater London

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* members of the armed forces and *(b)* non-armed forces staff are assigned to the household of the General Officer Commanding London District. [137443]

Derek Twigg: The staff assigned to the household of the General Officer Commanding London District are listed in the following able.

Number	Role	Rank
1	House Sergeant	Sergeant
1	Catering/Chef	Civilian
2	Cleaning Assistant	Civilian

The above figures do not include drivers or any other position related staff.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 843W, on Army: Greater London, how much the General Officer Commanding London District is required to contribute to the running costs of the house provided to him. [138943]

Derek Twigg: The General Office Commanding London District, in common with all military personnel living in service accommodation, is charged a daily rate for his accommodation. This is a scaled rate, which is reviewed annually by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body, and is based on the type and grade of accommodation and whether it is fully, partially, or unfurnished.

The MOD paid £15,443 in rent during financial year 2005-06 for the property which the General Office Commanding London District currently occupies. During that period the General Officer Commanding's accommodation charge amounted to a total of £5,726.

BAE Systems

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when Alan Garwood notified his Department that he was joining BAE Systems on leaving the Defence Export Services Organisation. [138930]

Mr. Ingram: Alan Garwood has been on secondment with the Ministry of Defence from BAE Systems and it was always expected that he would return to his employer on leaving the post of Head of Defence Export Services.

Defence Equipment: Training

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints were registered in each of the last five years about equipment during training exercises. [137422]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The MOD greatly values and actively encourages feedback from personnel on how equipment is performing, so that lessons can be learnt and improvements made where a need is identified. There are a number of ways available for members of the armed forces to raise issues, faults and suggestions for improvement to equipment, but there is no requirement to collate and hold such information centrally.

Data are, however, held on equipment failure reports (EFRs) and this, for equipment on training exercises in each of the last five years, is shown in the following table. EFRs are however not technically complaints;

they are the reporting mechanism used by units for routine equipment support issues. The data do not account for the results of subsequent investigations and therefore do not differentiate what has subsequently been found to be an equipment failure and operator error or damage sustained as a result of an accident. Nor do those data give the severity of any such failures, which in many cases have no discernable impact on operational capability or safety.

Moreover, these figures cover almost 800 different types of equipment, ranging from Challenger2 tanks down to wrist watches, and need to be viewed in the context of the huge volume of equipment used annually on training exercises.

	Number of EFRs
2002	2,369
2003	1,342
2004	2,749
2005	1,989
2006	1,952

Defence Export Services: Public Appointments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the post of Head of Defence Export Services was advertised; and in what publications. [138931]

Mr. Ingram: The post of Head of Defence Export Services has yet to be advertised, but when it is, it will feature in at least one national newspaper and appear on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is on the selection panel that will appoint the new Head of Defence Export Services. [138932]

Mr. Ingram: Membership of the selection panel has not yet been settled, but it is likely to be chaired by a Civil Service Commissioner.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to be able to announce the appointment of the new Head of Defence Export Services. [138933]

Mr. Ingram: The process to find a successor to Alan Garwood as Head of Defence Export Services is expected to take between three and six months. The outcome will be announced as soon as it has been concluded.

Departments: Computers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* instructions are issued to staff in his Department and *(b)* technical procedures are in place to shut down computers at night. [136092]

Derek Twigg: Like all central Government Departments, the Ministry of Defence is focusing on meeting the targets on sustainable operations on the Government Estate (SOGE), including reducing carbon emissions; improving energy efficiency; and specifying minimum standards for energy efficient computers and monitors.

Since June 2006 in MOD main building users have been instructed to shut down their workstations at the end of work, rather than logging off, and a facility has been added to workstations which allows them to be powered up remotely, out-of-hours, for software upgrades, if required. These procedures are being extended across all MOD sites as hardware and software improvements are implemented.

Departments: ICT

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14th May 2007, *Official Report*, column 514W, on Departments: ICT, whether the identified overseas design solution for the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) system has been *(a)* accredited and *(b)* implemented overseas; and if he will make a statement. [139489]

Mr. Ingram: The security requirements for DII(F) have been defined and DII(F) complies with them. Accreditation of DII(F) at overseas locations will be confirmed on a site-by-site basis. The roll-out of the DII(F) programme is progressing satisfactorily, and the provision to overseas locations is part of that programme.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139406]

Derek Twigg: Specific data on the total expenditure by the MOD on legal fees in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137703]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally and could be provided at only disproportionate cost.

Departments: Property

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* RFA Oakleaf, *(b)* RFA Brambleleaf and *(c)* RFA Fort Victoria are to be disposed of before the end of 2007. [138334]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* Current plans are to dispose of RFA Oakleaf and RFA Brambleleaf before the end of 2007, and to dispose of RFA Fort Victoria in 2019.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139411]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence engages in a range of public relations activities in order that the work of the MOD and armed forces is communicated to the general public. While the MOD, its agencies and the services employ full-time and part-time communications staff, and on occasion engage external PR consultancies to assist them, the Department does not centrally record overall expenditure on public relations. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Rating (Empty Properties) Bill 2006-07

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the financial and other consequences of the likely effect of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill on his Department; and if he will make a statement. [138401]

Derek Twigg: Without knowledge of the detailed regulations that are to follow, it is too early to say what effect the legislation will have.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140033]

Derek Twigg: Summaries of the Department's spend on external assistance are available in the Library of the House. Recruitment consultancy, an element of external assistance, is broken out separately in these reports for the years 2000-01 to 2005-06.

Although the Department collected external assistance expenditure figures before 2000, recruitment consultancy was not reported as a separate category. The requested information for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Council Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice his Department gives to members of HM Armed Forces who resign on their right to apply for local authority housing accommodation. [138446]

Derek Twigg: All regular service leavers, not just those who resign, are provided with information on sources of housing help in their leaving information packs which are usually issued nine months before discharge. A Life Skills Guide which is available on the internet also advises how to apply for local authority housing, and provides details of useful websites and agencies.

Early service leavers attend a mandatory briefing on resettlement issues and an interview in which their personal resettlement plan is developed and their accommodation arrangements reviewed. The resettlement officer makes an assessment of the leaver's vulnerability to social exclusion and, if appropriate, offers to arrange extra specialist help or advice.

The Joint Services Housing Advice Office (JSHAO) provides a dedicated MOD focal point for housing information and advice for those about to return to civilian life. The JSHAO gives regular nationwide briefings advising personnel of their housing options. Each service also has resettlement specialist officers who are available to give advice to service personnel at any time during their careers.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1853W, on ex-servicemen: health services, how many cases the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency is currently monitoring. [140106]

Derek Twigg: Regular reminders about priority treatment for war pensioners are circulated by the health services to senior NHS managers who are tasked to ensure that relevant clinical staff are aware. The provision is subject to the NHS complaints procedure but there is no formal system of audit. From April 2007, the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) will keep a record of cases where war pensioners raise priority treatment issues with MOD or SPVA. No cases are currently being monitored.

Gulf War Syndrome

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on Gulf war syndrome and its effects on Gulf war veterans; and if he will make a statement. [137774]

Derek Twigg: We are open to undertaking new research where, in the opinion of the independent experts at the Medical Research Council (MRC), it is justified. A research proposal to develop and prove rehabilitative therapies designed to improve the long-term health of Gulf veterans with persistent symptoms is with the MRC for initial assessment. In addition, we are working with the MRC on the possibility of research into paraoxanase—the enzyme involved in metabolising organophosphates. If work in either area produces a viable proposal which the MRC considers would have merit then we will fund this.

There are many research studies into the illnesses affecting veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict; most of these are published in scientific or medical journals to allow peer-review and they are usually available on the world wide web. We monitor research undertaken in the UK and by other countries, in particular the United States where we have a British liaison officer based permanently in Washington DC; he is tasked both with ensuring that the UK has full visibility of US research into Gulf veterans illnesses and with providing a channel for communicating our own work to interested US parties.

Gurkhas: Pensions

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has in respect of the provision of *(a)* pension entitlements and *(b)* other benefits entitlements to Gurkha soldiers who retired from active service in the UK armed forces more than 10 years ago. [139775]

Derek Twigg: It is not planned to review the position of those ex-Gurkha service pensioners who retired before 1 July 1997. They were discharged with an expectation of retirement in Nepal and will continue to receive benefits under the Gurkha pension scheme. These are uplifted annually for inflation in Nepal and are periodically reviewed in line with the Indian Pay Commission.

Iran

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the UK's military position on Iran. [137683]

Des Browne: As this House is aware, we have been reviewing our overall bilateral policy towards Iran in the light of the recent detention of naval personnel and given the continued concerns that the international community has over the behaviour of the Iranian regime. We continue to stand by the principles which underpin our policy: we are committed to engagement, through diplomacy and dialogue, to encourage Iran to play a constructive role on the international stage; at the same time, we will work with international partners to maintain a strong line against unacceptable Iranian behaviour, including its nuclear ambitions and its support for terrorism and violence in the region.

Iraq Conflict

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of the production of aide memoire cards on combat identification for Operation Telic. [136038]

Mr. Ingram: The aide memoire cards produced for Operation Telic in early 2003 were produced using an in-house printing facility at an estimated cost of between £150 and £200.

Iraq: Basra Airport

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the Main Estimates 2007-08 (HC 438), if he will place in the Library a copy of the undertakings given to the Iraqi Ministry of Transport in relation to the provision of his Department's support services for the opening of Basra airport. [137418]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* The UK contingent of the Multinational Force in Iraq signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Iraqi Ministry of Transport in December 2006, covering the services to be provided by each party towards the ongoing commercial operation of Basra international airport.

We will make public the text of this MOU subject to obtaining the consent of the Iraqi Government as the co-signatory. I will write to the hon. Member to inform him of their decision and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice Ministers, military personnel and civil servants in his Department gave to their counterparts in the United States prior to the disbandment of the Iraqi army and the de-Ba'athification programme in May 2003. [137128]

Des Browne: I have nothing further to add to the answer my hon. Friend the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Dr. Howells) gave on 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 973W.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 63-64W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, if he will break down the number of attacks in each province by month. [139097]

Des Browne: The number of attacks in each province by month is provided in the following table:

Province	*Month*	*Attacks on MNF*
Al Muthanna	June 2006	3
	July 2006	10
	August 2006	7
	September 2006	1
	October 2006	3
	November 2006	1
	December 2006	0
	January 2007	0
	February 2007	0
	March 2007	0
	April 2007	0
Basra	June 2006	41
	July 2006	92
	August 2006	80
	September 2006	121
	October 2006	172
	November 2006	177
	December 2006	257
	January 2007	227
	February 2007	334
	March 2007	243
	April 2007	93
Dhi Qar	June 2006	2
	July 2006	2
	August 2006	8
	September 2006	4
	October 2006	3
	November 2006	3
	December 2006	2
	January 2007	1
	February 2007	2
	March 2007	4
	April 2007	5
Maysan	June 2006	18

Province	Month	Attacks on MNF
	July 2006	18
	August 2006	21
	September 2006	2
	October 2006	4
	November 2006	3
	December 2006	1
	January 2007	3
	February 2007	4
	March 2007	1
	April 2007	1

The figures for the period between 1 June 2006 and 14 April 2007 includes incidents that involved some use of improvised explosive devices, rockets, mortars, rocket propelled grenades, grenades, small arms or other weapons such as petrol bombs or knives, but not the throwing of stones. Each record is not specifically verified and so cannot be guaranteed to be completely accurate.

The table does not convey the significance of each individual incident, which may range from a single shot fired at safe range through to complex improvised explosive device attacks.

The overall level of attacks in Basra province increased up until February 2007; this reflects the increased operational tempo which included Operation SINBAD and targeted search and detention operations. The increased MNF presence in and around the city and direct confrontation with militia contributed to the higher levels of attack.

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice and assistance is planned to be made available for soldiers of the 2nd Battalion the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment on their return from their tour of duty in Iraq. [139146]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The 2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment (King's, Lancashire and Borders) (2 LANCS) have had a demanding tour of duty in Iraq. The support that members of the Battalion will receive will reflect this, and will be in line with that which is available to all units returning from operations. This support is designed specifically to help individuals deal with their experiences and to enable them to make the transition back to a normal pattern of life as smoothly as possible.

Immediately prior to their return to the United Kingdom, members of the Battalion will undergo a "decompression" period. This will be a time for relaxation with comrades in a controlled and monitored environment. Briefings on coping with stress and dealing with issues that might arise on homecoming will also be available. A community psychiatric nurse and Padre will also be available throughout this period.

On return to the United Kingdom, there will be a period of normalisation within barracks and with families. This will include events such as social functions, sports events, health awareness briefings, Commander's Welfare Seminar and a medals parade. The Battalion will then depart on Post Operational Tour Leave (POTL). On return from POTL further briefings on the effects of stress, how to recognise them and how to deal with them will be provided.

It is the chain of command's responsibility to identify and monitor those vulnerable to any form of post-operational stress, or stress related condition. Individuals who appear to be suffering from stress related conditions will be referred to the Army medical services for assessment and support where necessary. Army welfare support will also be available.

Iraq-Kuwait Conflict: Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the number of British Gulf War I veterans who have been tested for contamination by depleted uranium; and if he will make a statement. [137529]

Derek Twigg: Under the screening programme overseen by the Depleted Uranium Oversight Board (DUOB), a total of 362 veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf Conflict were tested for the presence of depleted uranium in their urine. Under the separate and ongoing Ministry of Defence biological monitoring programme for service personnel during the current Iraq deployment (Operation Telic), five of the 390 service personnel tested are also veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict. No evidence of the excretion of depleted uranium was found in the urine of tested UK personnel apart from a small number who were involved in blue-on-blue incidents (during Operation Telic) and have embedded depleted uranium shrapnel. I announced in my written ministerial statement on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 64WS, that the final report of the DUOB was available. It can be accessed on the DUOB website at:

www.duob.org.uk.

Ministry of Defence and Department of Health Partnership Board

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Ministry of Defence and Department of Health Partnership Board was set up; how many times it has met; and if he will place in the Library the minutes of its meetings. [139860]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence and Department of Health Partnership Board first met on 8 April 2003. It convenes approximately three times a year, and to date, there have been a total of 12 meetings. We intend to publish the minutes of all Partnership Board meetings under the MOD's freedom of information publication scheme.

Navy: Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the budget was for the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997; [139074]

(2) how many personnel there were in the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997; and how many vessels were used by the Squadron in each year, broken down by type of vessel; [139075]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Fishery Protection Squadron; and if he will make a statement; [139076]

(4) how many patrol days were provided by the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997; [139077]

(5) how many boardings were conducted by the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997 of *(a)* UK vessels and *(b)* non-UK vessels, broken down by country; and if he will make a statement; [139078]

(6) how many written warnings were issued by the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997 to *(a)* UK vessels and *(b)* non-UK vessels, broken down by country; and if he will make a statement; [139079]

(7) how many verbal re-briefs were issued by the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997 to *(a)* UK vessels and *(b)* non-UK vessels, broken down by country; and if he will make a statement; [139089]

(8) how many fishing vessels were detained by the Fishery Protection Squadron in each year since 1997; how many such vessels were *(a)* UK vessels and *(b)* non-UK vessels, broken down by country; and if he will make a statement. [139090]

Mr. Ingram: The information requested is not held centrally and will take time to collate. When this has been completed I will write the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

RAF St Athan

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent progress has been made on agreements between his Department, Metrix and the National Assembly for Wales in relation to *(a)* the final package of proposals for the St. Athan site and *(b)* a date for the submission of a planning application for the Defence Training Establishment; and if he will make a statement. [139020]

Derek Twigg: An announcement was made in January this year by the Secretary-of State that the Metrix consortium had been selected as preferred bidder for package one and provisional preferred bidder for package two for the Defence Training Review Programme. Since the announcement work has focused on developing a whole programme solution (WPS). Good progress has been made and negotiations with Metrix are ongoing. As part of this work the Department is working with officials of the Welsh Assembly Government to confirm the most suitable master plan for the St. Athan site. However, until this work is concluded a date for submission of a planning application for the Defence Training Establishment cannot be finalised. An announcement on a WPS, however, is expected to be made later this year.

RFA Fort Victoria

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when RFA Fort Victoria will be rejoining the fleet. [138335]

Mr. Ingram: *[holding answer 24 May 2007]*: RFA Fort Victoria has not left the fleet. She remains within the fleet operational cycle.

Territorial Waters: Iran

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the two inquiries he initiated on 16 April following the seizure of Royal Navy and Royal Marine personnel by the Iranian authorities on 23 March have been completed. [138010]

Des Browne: Lieutenant-General Fulton has completed his report into the operational issues and has presented it to the Chief of the Defence Staff, who is considering it. The review into media access being led by Tony Hall is due to be completed shortly.

I expect an announcement on both to be made to Parliament later this month.

War Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to estimate the cost of re-linking war pensions with earnings. [139085]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 8 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 113W. Historically, the MOD has applied the same uprating principle for war pensions as used by the Department for Work and Pensions to increase state pensions. Since 1979 this has been to use the retail price index (RPI). On current plans we intend to follow the position set out in the White Paper 'Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system', which states that the earnings link will be restored to the basic state pension. The objective is that this will be done, subject to affordability and the fiscal position, in 2012 but in any event at the latest by the end of the next parliament.

Written Questions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to question 136394, on Land Rovers, tabled by the hon. Member for Cotswold on 2 May. [140353]

Des Browne: I replied to the hon. Member on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1375W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arson

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of total insured fire losses arson accounted for in each of the last five years. [139495]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is not available centrally. The Department's economic cost of fire model uses information on total insured fire losses provided by the Association of British Insurers (ABI). ABI data distinguish between domestic and commercial fire losses, but do not differentiate between arson and

non-arson fires. The cost of fire model uses the proportion of fires that are due to arson to estimate the percentage of insured losses that are due to arson.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of how much arson cost the economy in each of the last five years. [139502]

Angela E. Smith: Estimates for the cost of arson to the economy for the five years to 2004 are shown as follows. 2004 is the last year for which estimates are available. Around 40 per cent. of the estimated costs are due to measures taken in anticipation of arson fires, such as installing fire prevention measures.

Total cost of deliberate fires, England and Wales, 2000-04

£ million

	Total cost (including costs in anticipation)	Total cost (excluding costs in anticipation)
2000	2,155	1,289
2001	2,442	1,513
2002	2,581	1,587
2003	2,768	1,694
2004	2,445	1,366

Source:
Communities and Local Government Economic cost of fire model

Arson: Death

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of arson in each of the last five years. [139501]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is provided as follows.

Fatal and non-fatal casualties as a result of deliberate fires, England, 2001-05

	Fatalities	Non-fatal casualties
2001	67	2,763
2002	90	2,626
2003	98	2,514
2004	78	2,196
2005	93	2,186

Note:
Excludes casualties not recorded during periods of industrial action in 2002 and 2003.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to Communities and Local Government.

Arson: Motor Vehicles

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many car fires were started maliciously in each of the last five years. [139496]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Deliberate primary car fires, England, 2001-05

	Number
2001	59,154
2002	58,180
2003	52,841
2004	39,582
2005	33,090

Note:
Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals and exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to Communities and Local Government.

Arson: Schools

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many school fires were started maliciously in Cornwall in each of the last five years. [139494]

Angela E. Smith: The information requested is as follows.

Deliberate primary fires in schools, Cornwall, 2001-05

	Number
2001	0
2002	0
2003	6
2004	7
2005	1

Notes:
Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals and exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Service returns to Communities and Local Government.

Combined Heat and Power: Schools

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 365-6W, on schools: combined heat and power, if she will take steps to encourage more local planning authorities to require the installation of renewable energy facilities in new schools to supply a proportion of the building's energy load. [138370]

Yvette Cooper: The written ministerial statement of 8 June 2006 about the Government's planning policies for renewable energy (PPS22) encouraged local planning authorities to take a positive approach to securing on-site renewables in new developments. In doing so, it was made clear that all planning authorities are expected to include policies in their development plans that require a percentage of the energy in new developments to come from on-site renewables where it is viable. Officials sent a copy of the written ministerial statement to all English planning authorities.

We have also recently consulted on a draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) "Planning and Climate Change". This sets out our proposals on how planning should make a full contribution to reducing emissions and stabilising climate change. These include giving greater emphasis to local renewable and low carbon sources for supplying the energy needs of new developments, including new schools.

Council Housing: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland and *(b)* (i) Middlesbrough and (ii) Redcar and Cleveland council areas are on waiting lists for council housing. [139735]

Yvette Cooper: The constituency of Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland covers a large proportion of the Redcar and Cleveland and Middlesbrough council areas. Information is not collected at the constituency level, only at local authority level and includes households rather than people.

The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in *(b)* (i) Middlesbrough and (ii) Redcar and Cleveland, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600. The links for this table is given as follows, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Council Housing: Sales

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of the sale price of council houses in *(a)* Swindon and *(b)* England was spent on social housing in each of the last five years. [131085]

Yvette Cooper: On disposal of a council house, for instance through the right to buy, 75 per cent. of the capital receipt is recycled for investment and the local authority is free to use the remaining 25 per cent. for any capital purpose it sees fit.

Capital investment in social housing for the last five years has been greater than the value of recycled capital receipts generated by the sale of council housing, in Swindon and nationally. Since 1997 the Government have consistently invested more in housing than they have received in receipts.

Until 2004-05 the mechanism for recycling of housing capital receipts for with-debt authorities (such as Swindon) was for the authority to set-aside 75 per cent. of the capital receipt for repayment of debt. Less debt meant less debt for Government to subsidise, allowing that saved resource to be directed to support new investment where the need was greatest. On 1 April 2004 the introduction of the 'Prudential regime' abolished set-aside and pooling became the mechanism for the recycling of housing receipts for investment.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the total administrative cost of the council tax revaluation in England, including valuations and appeals. [127052]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government (Mr. Woolas) to the hon. Member for Hazel Grove (Andrew Stunell) on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1729W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic properties in *(a)* Solihull, *(b)* Birmingham and *(c)* England are classified by the Valuation Office Agency with the Value Significance feature code of OS. [129756]

Mr. Woolas: As at 3 March 2007 the numbers were 0 in Solihull, six in Birmingham and 3,944 in England.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139408]

Angela E. Smith: Expenditure on external legal advice commissioned through the legal directorate of the Department for Communities and Local Government, and the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, is set out in the following table. Records of any other expenditure on legal fees, including those incurred by other predecessor departments, are not held centrally and to provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Legal Fees

	£
2006-07	108,000
2005-06	85,000
2004-05	108,000
2003-04	102,000
2002-03	87,000

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140118]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government's special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House. No special adviser took leave on 16 May 2007.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139429]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006. Under the terms of the Department's framework agreement for the supply of advertising services, Communities and Local Government does not commission consultancy services from advertising agencies.

Wider consulting projects with other organisations may influence some advertising campaigns, but it is not possible to separate out the costs which apply to advertising. COI Strategic Consultancy is the only organisation to have directly provided consultancy services to the Department for advertising campaigns. The cost of these services in the Financial Year 2006-07 was £47,298. COI Strategic Consultancy has not done any work for the Department this financial year.

Figures for the Department's agencies are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Disadvantaged: ICT

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what criteria she uses to determine membership of the Digital Challenge Inclusion network; [139987]

(2) what funding will be available for the Digital Challenge Inclusion network in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; [139988]

(3) what further projects are planned by councils to increase digital inclusion by those councils who were runners up in the Digital Challenge bid; [139989]

(4) whether she plans a further round of Digital Challenge funding. [139990]

Angela E. Smith: A £2 million Digital Inclusion Fund was announced to support the Digital Challenge 10 finalists, in addition to the award to the Digital Challenge winner. There is no separate funding to support the Digital Challenge Inclusion Network and there are no specific criteria to determine the membership of the Digital Inclusion Network. It is established as an open forum for dialogue and discussion to all sectors and individuals interested in tackling social exclusion through digital inclusion.

The Digital Challenge runners-up are developing a range of themed projects to increase digital inclusion in their authorities and regions. The current draft themes include Flexible Working for Social Inclusion around the Homeshoring concept; the Digital Environment focussing specifically on ICT, climate change and inclusion; Independent Living and Healthy Living; Digital TV and Digital Switchover; and Community engagement and delivery of LSP targets. There are no current plans for a further round of Digital Challenge funding.

Electric Cables: Planning Permission

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to issue planning guidance on *(a)* the building of new homes and schools within 60 metres of high voltage power lines and *(b)* the building of new power lines within 60 metres of homes. [139882]

Meg Munn: Government have sought advice from the Health Protection Agency on the recently published report by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields. Government are considering the implications of the report's conclusions and recommendations and will respond in due course.

European Regional Development Fund

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects will be affected by the suspension by the European Commission of payments under the European Regional Development Fund to *(a)* London, *(b)* the North West, *(c)* the North East, *(d)* the West Midlands, *(e)* Humberside, Yorkshire and *(f)* the East of England. [135781]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* No projects should be affected by the EC decision to postpone reimbursement of expenditure on the ERDF 2000-06 programmes because the Government will continue to honour commitments to projects and they will continue to be paid where they make claims for eligible expenditure.

Homebuy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social tenants have access to the Social Homebuy scheme. [129271]

Yvette Cooper: The Social Homebuy pilot enables tenants of participating local authorities and housing associations to purchase a share in their rented home at a discount. Four housing associations and one local authority began offering Social Homebuy initially and a further 74 housing associations and five local authorities are now joining the pilot. Some landlords are offering the scheme widely across their stock. Others are targeting specific estates, locations or local authority areas. We estimate that the pilot scheme will be available this year across 5 per cent. of social stock.

Homelessness

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were classified as falling into the category used in the Answer of 13 December 2002, *Official Report*, column 702W, homeless households accepted as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need by local authorities in each of the last five years. [136740]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed the main homelessness duty, is published in our quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, which is placed in the Library each quarter, and is also available on our website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2369

The number of homeless acceptances for the last five years can be found in Table 1 (note that the acceptance figures provided in the Answer of 13 December 2002 have since been revised).

The duty owed to a household accepted as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

Homelessness: Ex-servicemen

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to local authorities on the homeless status of members of HM Armed Forces who resign; and if she will make a statement. [138447]

Yvette Cooper: The Homelessness Code of Guidance for local authorities (published in July 2006) contains guidance on the circumstances in which people leaving the armed forces would have a priority need for accommodation.

Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new *(a)* local authority and *(b)* housing association properties were (i) started and (ii) completed in 2005-06, broken down by local authority. [112111]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of local authority and registered social landlord affordable homes completed in 2005-06 by local authority have been tabulated and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. This includes new build and acquisitions. Information on the number of affordable homes started in 2005-06 is not held centrally.

Information on starts and completions is limited to social rent only and can be found on the Communities and Local Government web site:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/66/Table253Excel860Kb_id1156066.xls

This information comes from building control inspections and may underestimate the number of social rent dwellings provided since tenure may be unknown at that time.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* social rented and *(b)* shared ownership houses were built in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1990; what each figure represents (A) per 1,000 population and (B) per 1,000 households; and if she will make a statement. [118684]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of additional social rent and low cost home ownership homes provided in local authorities classified as either urban or rural are shown in the following table. For 2006-07 provisional figures indicate that around 25,000 social rented homes were provided and 19,500 low cost home ownership homes. For 2007-08 we are currently estimating that 30,000 social rented homes will be provided and around 25,000 low cost home ownership. The table includes homes provided through both new build and acquisitions.

Social rent and low cost home ownership homes provided in urban and rural local authority areas[1]: England

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Social rent homes provided[2]									
Urban	13,106	36,881	31,598	34,464	37,172	27,940	23,040	21,825	18,458
Rural	4,364	15,620	14,120	14,927	16,817	13,463	11,970	11,547	10,170
Unknown local authority[4]	8,235	4,522	3,223	2,799	2,960	1,062	770	188	64
Total	25,705	57,023	48,941	52,190	56,949	42,465	35,780	33,560	28,692
Social rent homes provided per 1,000 population[3]									
Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.70	0.59
Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.65	0.57
Total	0.54	1.19	1.02	1.08	1.18	0.88	0.74	0.69	0.59
Social rent homes provided per 1,000 households[3]									
Urban	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.72	1.45
Rural	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.59	1.39
Total	1.34	2.96	2.52	2.68	2.90	2.15	1.81	1.68	1.43
Low cost home ownership homes provided									
Urban	3,256	6,662	10,877	11,526	12,588	10,155	8,245	6,638	3,712
Rural	574	1,711	3,080	3,660	4,462	3,730	3,103	2,114	1,302
Unknown local authority	139	325	838	3,014	531	156	141	0	12
Total	3,969	8,698	14,795	18,200	17,581	14,041	11,489	8,752	5,026

Social rent and low cost home ownership homes provided in urban and rural local authority areas[1]: England

Low cost home ownership homes provided per 1,000 population[3]									
Urban	—	—	—	—	—	0.33	0.27	0.21	0.12
Rural	—	—	—	—	—	0.21	0.18	0.12	0.07
Total	0.08	0.18	0.31	0.38	0.36	0.29	0.24	0.18	0.10
Low cost home ownership homes provided per 1,000 households[3]									
Urban	—	—	—	—	—	0.81	0.65	0.52	0.29
Rural	—	—	—	—	—	0.52	0.43	0.29	0.18
Total	0.21	0.45	0.76	0.93	0.90	0.71	0.58	0.44	0.25

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Social rent homes provided[2]						
Urban	17,547	17,739	15,694	14,295	13,438	15,309
Rural	9,491	9,027	8,235	7,979	7,544	8,027
Unknown local authority[4]	32	7	0	387	35	13
Total	27,070	26,773	23,929	22,661	21,017	23,349
Social rent homes provided per 1,000 population[3]						
Urban	0.56	0.56	0.50	—	0.42	0.48
Rural	0.53	0.50	0.46	—	0.41	0.44
Total	0.55	0.54	0.48	0.45	0.42	0.46
Social rent homes provided per 1,000 households[3]						
Urban	1.37	1.36	1.19	—	1.01	1.14
Rural	1.28	1.21	1.09	—	0.98	1.03
Total	1.34	1.30	1.15	1.08	1.00	1.10
Low cost home ownership homes provided						
Urban	3,677	3,598	5,734	10,513	9,442	13,626
Rural	1,409	1,682	2,400	3,606	4,028	6,211
Unknown local authority	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,086	5,280	8,134	14,119	13,470	19,837
Low cost home ownership homes provided per 1,000 population[3]						
Urban	0.12	0.11	0.18	0.33	0.30	0.43
Rural	0.08	0.09	0.13	0.20	0.22	0.34
Total	0.10	0.11	0.16	0.28	0.27	0.39
Low cost home ownership homes provided per 1,000 households[3]						
Urban	0.29	0.28	0.44	0.79	0.71	1.01
Rural	0.19	0.23	0.32	0.47	0.52	0.80
Total	0.25	0.26	0.39	0.68	0.64	0.93

[1] Based on the DEFRA Rural Definition (2004)
[2] Includes new build and acquisitions.
[3] Communities and Local Government 2003 based household and population estimates.
[4] Where there are a significant number of homes provided but their exact location is unknown it is not possible to determine supply per 1,000 population or households.
Source:
Housing Corporation, statistical returns from local authorities

Housing: Construction

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to issue guidance on red ash testing. [139026]

Angela E. Smith: The Department is expecting to issue guidance on sulphate bearing hardcores, which includes references to red ash, at the end of October 2007.

Housing: Eltham

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties in Eltham have been improved as a result of the Government's Decent Homes programme; and how much she estimates will have been spent when it is completed. [126683]

Yvette Cooper: We do not hold decency figures by parliamentary constituency but by local authority area and local authorities started reporting on decent homes in 2002.

The council housing stock owned by the royal borough of Greenwich in 2006 was 25,007. Between 2002 and 2006 the number of non-decent council homes was reduced by 11,043.

The cost per house of meeting the decent homes standard varies across the country and the Department does not collect those figures separately. Some local authorities are refurbishing the houses in their area significantly above the decent homes standard. What the improved standard is and how it will be achieved will be determined by local circumstances and the level of resources that can be brought to the programme locally. The Government expect over £40 billion to be spent on refurbishing social homes by 2010, this includes raising houses above the decent homes standard.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many units of affordable housing for *(a)* rent and *(b)* sale were built with funding generated by recycled capital grant in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; [133525]

(2) how much recycled capital grant was spent by registered social landlords to fund investment in refurbishment of existing stock in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [133526]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* The following table shows the number of homes provided for rent and sale through recycled capital grant funding without additional social housing grant in 2005-06. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Homes provided through RCGF

	2005-06
Social Rent	349
Low Cost Home Ownership	487

Source:
Housing Corporation.

Registered social landlords spent a total of £50.5 million of their recycled capital grant fund on re-improvements and major repairs of existing stock in 2005-06. Figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

Housing: Multiple Occupation

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the work of local authorities' co-ordinators of regulatory services in relation to their role in monitoring the licensing of houses in multiple occupation. [139685]

Yvette Cooper: The Department agreed a programme of work for the local authorities' co-ordinators of regulatory services (LACORS) for 2005-06. The programme has been delivered as agreed. It did not specifically include any remit to monitor individual local authorities' performance in implementation of the licensing regime. Communities and Local Government is presently working with LACORS to agree a programme of work in 2007-08.

Housing: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by how much average house prices have increased *(a)* in the Tees Valley and *(b)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough and South East Cleveland over the last 10 years. [139811]

Mr. Woolas: The statistics which are readily available for these specific geographic areas cover house sales since April 2000 and therefore represent six financial years from 2000-01 to 2005-06. In Tees Valley, the overall percentage increase in house prices over this period was 100.3 per cent. The corresponding percentage increase figure for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland was 114.7 per cent.

Housing: North West Region

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to increase the number of shared equity family homes in *(a)* Warrington South and *(b)* other North West housing hot spots. [138766]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Government are committed to tackling affordability. We aim to increase the supply of new homes in England to 200,000 per annum by 2016.

The Government are expanding the Low Cost Home Ownership programme to help more people into partial ownership on a shared equity basis. The main driver for this will be the flagship, Homebuy programme. The Housing Corporation has allocated £9.7 million to help households buy a home on the open market in the North West, of which over £1.3 million should be spent in Cheshire, and a further £1.8 million to help existing tenants buy a share of their existing home.

The Government are also supporting affordable housing provision through the Housing Corporation's National Affordable Housing programme. Overall, the Corporation hopes to complete 3,782 houses for rent and 1,137 houses for sale in its 2006-08 North West programme worth £224 million.

Housing: Public Service

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the availability of housing for *(a)* nurses, *(b)* teachers, *(c)* police officers, *(d)* firefighters and *(e)* paramedics. [134193]

Yvette Cooper: We do not hold data on the availability of housing for these key worker groups. Any such assessment would be for key worker employers to carry out. However, we do know that the housing market has not responded sufficiently to meet the needs of the country's ageing and growing population and one of the consequences of this has been recruitment and retention problems in front-line public services.

We have made it clear that our ambition is to increase the supply of new homes in England to at least

200,000 per annum by 2016; but, in the meantime, we are doing all we can to help people on modest incomes into housing. Since 2001 key workers have been one of our priority groups for housing assistance and we have now helped nearly 25,000 key workers into a home through our key worker housing programmes, the Starter Home Initiative and Key Worker Living.

For the purposes of Key Worker Living, a key worker is defined as someone employed by the public sector in a front-line role in health, education or community safety delivering an essential public service where there are serious recruitment and retention problems. Within this broad definition sponsor Government Departments and police and fire authorities specify the groups at which help should be targeted based on recruitment and retention issues in critical front-line services. Nurses, teachers, police officers, firefighters and paramedics are all eligible roles under the scheme which operates in London, south-east and east of England. So far we have helped 3,143 nurses, 5,129 teachers, 1,677 police officers, 109 firefighters and 209 paramedics under the Key Worker Living scheme. We are unable to provide this detailed breakdown of the key workers helped through the Starter Home Initiative but know that at least 3,895 health sector workers, 3,196 teachers and 1,321 police staff received assistance.

Key Worker Living is one element of the Government's HomeBuy scheme which will expand the opportunity for home ownership to over a 120,000 households by 2010. We expect 30,000 of those helped through HomeBuy to be key workers.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of the Decent Homes Standard on leasehold charges on owners of former right to buy flats; and if she will make a statement. [129205]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written statement given on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 118WS.

Housing: Yorkshire and Humberside

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she proposes to make land available for affordable housing in the North Yorkshire National Park. [136718]

Yvette Cooper: Government policy is to improve affordability across the housing market. Local planning authorities have the key role in the delivery of affordable housing using all the tools available to them, including having an appropriate policy framework in a Development Plan.

In providing for affordable housing in rural communities, where opportunities for delivering affordable housing are more limited, the aim should be to deliver high quality housing that contributes to the creation and maintenance of sustainable rural communities in market towns and villages.

In line with Government guidance, the current North York Moors Local Plan includes an exceptions policy that enables the development of affordable housing on sites in villages which would not otherwise receive planning consent.

The emerging North York Moors Local Development Framework, in particular, the Core Strategy and Development Policies DPD that is currently at pre-submission stage, contains draft policies for improving the supply of affordable homes for local needs, including an exceptions policy.

Local Authorities: Land

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will extend the policy of allowing local authorities to sell land to local communities for £1 and receive extra funding to allow the Government to sell land to the local community for £1 on sites of local interest; and if she will consider the sale of Darwin House in Shrewsbury under such a policy. [140131]

Angela E. Smith: Central Government Departments may dispose of surplus assets on the open market at less than the best price reasonably obtainable. The procedure for this is set out in chapter 25 of Government Accounting, which states that parliamentary approval must be sought for gifts (that is, the difference between the price agreed and the best price reasonably obtainable) where the value exceeds £250,000.

Local authorities' power to dispose of surplus assets at less than best consideration is governed by the General Disposal Consent 2003 under the Local Government Act 1972. This provides that they will not be required to seek specific consent from the Secretary of State for the disposal of land where the difference between the unrestricted value of the interest and the consideration accepted is less than £2 million, subject to specific circumstances.

In all cases both central and local government will need to demonstrate that the additional community benefits accruing from the disposal at less than best consideration outweigh the opportunity costs of not pursuing other options, including the capital receipt that would be obtained from open market sale.

In the case of Darwin House, the Valuation Office Agency is leasing the property in order to deliver a valuable public service so it is currently not surplus to requirements.

Local Government Finance: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to provide for the additional social costs of higher than average aged populations of the larger coastal urban areas. [139666]

Mr. Woolas: Older peoples' social services are funded by general formula grant and from councils' own revenues raised from council tax or fees and charges. We take account of the relative needs of different areas to provide older people's social services during the calculation of formula grant.

Within the calculation of formula grant, there is a relative needs formula for older people's social services. The resident population are the main driver of the

formula with additional elements to take into account other factors related to need, including the number of very elderly people in each area.

The formula is calculated using data on the number of people aged 65 and over resident in each area, and pensioners living alone, over 65s in receipt of pension credit and attendance allowance, pensioners who live in rented accommodation and those aged 90 and over in each area.

We expect to update the data we use in the relative needs formulae for the 2008-09 settlement, where possible. This will ensure that the calculations reflect changes in demographic and other trends in each local authority.

Non-Domestic Rates

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to take forward the recommendations in the Lyons Review of Local Government on exemptions and relief in relation to business rates. [139716]

Mr. Woolas: We are considering how best to take forward the review of exemptions and reliefs in light of Sir Michael's recommendations and will make an announcement in due course.

Non-Domestic Rates: Nurseries

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1189W, if she will assess the effect of the level of the business rates incurred by *(a)* private day nurseries, *(b)* voluntary day nurseries, *(c)* nurseries located in schools and *(d)* Sure Start children's centres on their operation over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139715]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not held centrally.

Ordnance Survey

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what communication her Department had with the Chair of the Advisory Panel for Public Sector Information between 10 July 2006 and 20 February 2007 on the appeal made by Ordnance Survey against the findings of the Office of Public Sector Information in connection with the complaint made against them by Intelligent Addressing Limited. [139050]

Angela E. Smith: There was no communication between the Department and the Chair of the Advisory Panel for Public Sector Information (APPSI) on the complaint made between those dates.

Planning

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislation will be required to establish *(a)* the new Infrastructure Planning Commission and *(b)* the other proposed reforms to the planning system following the White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future. [139131]

Yvette Cooper: Primary and secondary legislation will be needed to establish an infrastructure planning commission, including its powers, functions and procedures, a single consent regime for nationally significant infrastructure, statutory requirements for national policy statements including consultation, for consultation during the development of a project and for other aspects considered in the White Paper (CM 7120). Primary and secondary legislation will also be needed to implement some aspects of the proposals for reform of the Town and Country Planning system, subject to the outcome of consultation.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what remuneration she expects to allocate to the proposed planning commissioners; and when the template for the specific areas of expertise to be embodied in the proposed planning commission will be published. [139154]

Yvette Cooper: Remuneration for commissioners of the infrastructure planning commission will need to be commensurate with their standing, experience, expertise and time spent on commission business.

Paragraph 5.58 of the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (Cmd 7120) sets out an illustrative range of fields of expertise on which we are currently consulting. We will listen to responses to the consultation and do not expect to publish more details until we have fully considered those responses.

Planning: Environment Protection

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the consistency of the environmental standards for new homes set by local planning authorities. [138592]

Yvette Cooper: Local planning authority policies on environmental standards for new homes vary in terms of their scope, specific requirement and degree of prescription. There is also variation as to when, and how, local planning authorities seek to apply such policies. Some local planning authorities have identifiable policies on environmental standards in their adopted development plan, or are proposing such policies in draft plans. Others rely on supplementary planning guidance which does not form part of the plan.

In October 2006 Arup's, on behalf of English Partnerships, undertook a survey of 61 authorities in England (including regional planning bodies) in order to identify the prevalence of policies relating to the use of on-site renewable energy, waste recycling, use of sustainable materials or the use of specific standards like EcoHomes. This identified a wide variation of approaches across the sample. The report is available on English Partnerships' website.

Public Buildings: Renewable Energy

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the installation in *(a)* new and *(b)* existing local authority public buildings of energy-producing technology; and if she will make a statement. [139175]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The Local Government White Paper published in October 2006 makes clear that all local authorities can and should be taking action to combat climate change, taking account of local circumstances and priorities. It sets out areas where local authorities can have an impact, for example on their own estate, which could include installing renewable energy and energy-producing technologies on new and existing local authority public buildings.

Public Lavatories: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether guidelines are included in building regulations on the design of grab rails in disabled access toilets. [139778]

Angela E. Smith: Yes, Approved Document M (Access to and use of buildings) includes in Section 5 (Sanitary accommodation in buildings other than dwellings) detailed guidance on the design of grab rails in accessible toilets for both wheelchair using and ambulant disabled people. The guidance is based on the recommendations of British Standard BS 8300 'Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people—Code of Practice'. This standard was based on research and user trials funded by this Department's predecessors.

Regeneration

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what input her Department has made to the joint departmental review of sub-national economic development and regeneration; and what the terms of reference are of the review. [139665]

Yvette Cooper: The review of sub-national economic development and regeneration is being carried out jointly by Communities and Local Government, HM Treasury and the Department for Trade and Industry. Officials have been working closely with their counterparts in those Departments to make progress across the review's remit. Communities and Local Government has, and continues to be, fully engaged with the review.

The review is focused on exploring the opportunities for releasing further the economic potential of English regions, cities and localities; and for responding more effectively to the ongoing challenge of tackling pockets of deprivation. Its terms of reference are available on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/63A/96/csr07_subnatecon_tor.pdf.

The Budget (pages 46 and 47) provided an update on the review's progress, including highlighting the areas for potential reform that it is considering. The Budget can be found on the HM Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/73B/5B/bud07_chapter3_302.pdf.

Copies are available in the Library of the House. The review will report to Ministers in advance of the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how her Department plans to assess the effectiveness of the South East England regional development agency in its new lead role on a regional development agency network on sharing best practice in the regeneration of coastal towns including tourism development. [139674]

Mr. Woolas: Communities and Local Government and SEEDA will work together to share best practice on promoting the economic development of coastal towns and will monitor progress through regular dialogue with regional development agencies to inform the development of regional economic strategies.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will undertake research to further the understanding of the common characteristics of factors affecting coastal towns. [139683]

Mr. Woolas: Officials from the Department took part in a conference on coastal towns hosted by the Department of Trade and Industry on 8 May. This looked at whether there are issues common to coastal towns that need to be addressed, and what is the best policy approach, if any, for tackling the perceived problems.

In the light of this, the Government will consider the need to examine further the evidence on the characteristics of coastal towns to help inform policy making. This position is set out in the Government response to the Communities and Local Government Committee report on coastal towns laid before the House on 18 May.

Revenue Support Grant

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made in her Department's review of day visitor indicators with reference to their future inclusion in the relative needs formula aspect of revenue support grant calculations. [139700]

Mr. Woolas: An indicator on the number of day visitors to a local authority's area is currently used in the Highways Maintenance and Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) blocks of the formula grant calculations. The indicators used in the grant formulae are currently being reviewed ahead of calculating the first three-year settlement for 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Communities and Local Government are currently exploring, in discussion with the Settlement Working Group (SWG), an alternative approach to give an

indication of the attractiveness to day visitors of an area. The papers and minutes of SWG meetings can be found on the Department's web site at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/grant.htm

Following SWG discussions, there will be a period of public consultation on options for formula changes, which may include an option for this alternative indicator.

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes the Government have made to the regulations and guidance to local authorities on how to handle the proceeds from right to buy sales since 1997. [129212]

Yvette Cooper: On 1 April 2004 legislation changing the treatment of capital receipts arising from right to buy (RTB) disposals came into force. Prior to that date, local authorities with debt were required to set-aside 75 per cent. of the capital receipt generated by an RTB disposal for repayment of that debt, and were able to use the remaining 25 per cent. of the receipt for any capital purpose. Debt-free authorities were not required to set-aside and were able to use their entire receipt for any capital purpose.

Since 1 April 2004, all local authorities have been required to pay the same proportion of RTB receipts to the Secretary of State. This process is known as "pooling". The Government, however, have consistently invested more in housing than they have received in receipts. In 2004-05 the amount paid to government from all housing receipts (not just right to buy) was £1.7 billion. The amount invested in housing was £4.1 billion ie almost 2.5 times the amount received in receipts.

Second Homes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans *(a)* to require planning permission for second homes, *(b)* to impose quotas on the number of second homes in specific areas and *(c)* to charge second home owners an impact fee; and if she will make a statement. [129100]

Yvette Cooper: The Affordable Rural Housing Commission identified certain problems associated with high levels of second home ownership in particular communities. The Commission concluded that across rural England as a whole, the impact of second homes was modest. It did however recommend that we consider measures to offset any detrimental effects in those localised areas where they occur.

We have no plans to alter the use class order to require planning permission for second homes.

We have already given local authorities flexibility to reduce the council tax discount offered on second homes to 10 per cent. In 2005-06 that raised an additional £92 million to spend on local priorities. We have no plans to make further changes.

Social Rented Housing

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority homes were sold under right to buy in each of the last five years; and how many new homes were built by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords in each of the last five years. [136381]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of local authority homes sold through the right to buy scheme in each of the last five years are shown in the following table 1:

Table 1: Local authority dwellings sold through the right to buy scheme: England

	Right to buy sales
2001-02	51,968
2002-03	63,394
2003-04	69,577
2004-05	49,983
2005-06	26,654

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities (P1B)

The numbers of affordable homes delivered by local authorities and registered social landlords in each of the last five years are shown in the following table 2. Affordable housing includes both social rent and intermediate housing. Intermediate housing includes low cost homeownership and intermediate rent.

Table 2: Affordable homes delivered[1]: England

	Local authorities	*Registered social landlords*
2001-02	63	32,143
2002-03	199	31,881
2003-04	191	36,910
2004-05	100	35,942
2005-06	299	44,640

[1] Includes both acquisitions and new build.

Source:
Statistical returns from local authorities (P2), Housing Corporation

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will revise the system of consultations between public sector long leaseholders and registered social landlords under the 1985 Landlord and Tenant Act to require full consultation between the two parties in each case. [139051]

Yvette Cooper: Section 20 of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 (as amended by section 151 of the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002) requires that leaseholders must be consulted before the landlord carries out works above a certain value (currently where the amount exceeds £250 for any individual leaseholder) or enters into a long-term agreement (currently where the amount exceeds £100 for any individual leaseholder per year) for the provision of services.

We have no current plans to amend these consultation requirements.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administrative costs were of the 10 *(a)* largest and *(b)* smallest registered social landlords in England in 2006-07. [139982]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Thames Gateway: Parks

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on her plans for the proposed Thames Gateway Parkland. [139123]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* On 22 November 2006 the Government published its Interim Plan for the Thames Gateway, which, among other things, set out the Government's intention to develop the Thames Gateway Parklands.

The parklands will establish a unifying green vision for the Gateway's natural, built and historic landscapes. It will promote well designed, sustainable and high quality places with the Thames estuary at its heart.

A framework for delivery will be published later in the year.

Travelling People

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what legislation allows the immediate moving on of travellers trespassing on local authority land in circumstances where there is a local authority traveller site available. [139752]

Meg Munn: Sections 62A-E of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 enable the police to move on Gypsies and Travellers trespassing on any land where a suitable pitch is available on a publicly owned site in the area.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what action may be taken against local authorities which do not provide adequate traveller sites. [139753]

Meg Munn: Under section 15(4) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, the Secretary of State may direct a local planning authority to amend its Local Development Scheme to include a Development Plan Document for the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites and the timetable within such a plan must be prepared.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which tier of authority has legal responsibility for provision of traveller sites in two tier authority areas. [139784]

Meg Munn: District and unitary councils are required to undertake accommodation needs assessments for Gypsies and Travellers in their areas, and to identify land in their Development Plan Documents to deliver the pitch numbers allocated to them by the Regional Assembly in the Regional Spatial Strategy. However, sites may be provided by any type of local authority, registered social landlords or private organisations and individuals.

Travelling People: East Midlands

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the required number is of traveller site spaces in each local authority in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* South Yorkshire. [139751]

Meg Munn: Local authorities are now required to undertake an assessment of the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers in their area. The South Yorkshire authorities jointly and all authorities in the East Midlands are currently undertaking this work and we expect caravan site pitch numbers to be identified and published as part of their assessments later this year.

Travelling People: South Yorkshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authority travellers sites there are in each local authority area in *(a)* South Yorkshire and *(b)* the East Midlands; and what the size is of each site. [139750]

Meg Munn: The Department for Communities and Local Government publishes data on the number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans on authorised public and private sites, and unauthorised encampments and developments twice yearly. This contains a list of publicly owned sites with information on the number of pitches that each accommodates. Copies of the latest publication "Count of Gypsy Caravans on 18 January 2007: Last Five Counts" have been distributed to the Libraries of the House. An electronic version is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1153575.

Travelling People: Trespass

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many convictions of travellers there were in 2006 for trespass on *(a)* Government and *(b)* local authority-owned land. [139033]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* Criminal sanctions are available under sections 61, 62A-E, 77 and 78 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. Communities and Local Government does not hold any information on the number of convictions for trespass on Government or local authority owned land.

Unitary Councils: Higher Civil Servants

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* name and *(b)* grade is of the most senior civil servant working on unitary authority bids; how long that person worked in her Department; and how much he or she is paid per annum. [138101]

Mr. Woolas: It has not been the practice of successive Governments to name officials in public responses. Peter Housden is the Permanent Secretary and is the Department's Principal Accounting Officer and Principal Policy Adviser to the Secretary of State. He has been in his post at this Department and previously at the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister since 24 October 2005.

Urban Areas: Tree Planting

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to encourage the planting of trees in *(a)* urban streets and *(b)* other urban locations; and if she will make funds available to local authorities for the planting of trees in urban areas. [139153]

Yvette Cooper: We have funded Trees for Cities, through the Special Grants Programme, to develop guidance to enable local authorities, communities and other local groups to work in partnership to plant new trees. Pilot programmes have been established in Bristol, Kettering, Leeds, London, Manchester and Reading.

Funding is provided through revenue support to local authorities for the planting and maintenance of trees. We have made more money available for urban parks over the past five years though the Liveability Fund, and the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. We also provide continued support to local authorities to improve the quality of their parks through the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment Space enabling scheme and our How To Programme.

The quality of urban parks has improved since 2000, as recognised by the recent National Audit Office report, "Enhancing Urban Green Spaces". We remain committed to supporting local authorities deliver quality parks and green spaces through our Cleaner, Safer, Greener Communities programme.

Urban Areas: Trees

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research she has commissioned into the amenity value of trees in *(a)* urban streets and *(b)* other urban locations. [139167]

Yvette Cooper: We have not commissioned any research into the amenity value of trees.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on the planting and maintenance of trees in *(a)* urban streets and *(b)* other urban locations; and if she will make a statement. [139168]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's policy, stated in the England Forestry Strategy, recognises the value of trees within the urban environment and encourages their planting and maintenance. We have been in discussion with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs regarding the development of a new strategy for England's trees, woods and forests. The strategy will be published in the summer.

The planting and maintenance of trees is a matter for each local and highway authority to consider in the light of local circumstances and taking account of the needs of the local environment. Local authorities are encouraged to produce tree strategies to promote the management and enhancement of the tree population in their areas, including street trees and to use current best practice.

Written Questions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to question 136345, on home information packs, tabled by the hon. Member for Cotswold on 2 May. [140352]

Yvette Cooper: I answered the hon. Member's question on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1528W.

JUSTICE

Acquittals

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people who were jailed in the United Kingdom for *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter have been subsequently found innocent by the Court of Criminal Appeal and released from prison since 1987. [139767]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of people whose conviction for *(a)* murder and *(b)* manslaughter was quashed by the Court of Appeal Criminal Division between 1996 (the first year for which reliable figures are available) and 2007. For cases which involved an order for retrial, the final result is not known.

	Conviction quashed; no order for retrial		*Conviction quashed; retrial ordered*		*Total convictions quashed*
	Murder[1]	*Manslaughter*[1]	*Murder*[1]	*Manslaughter*[1]	
1996	1	—	4	—	5
1997	9	4	6	1	20
1998	20	5	21	4	50
1999	12	5	4	—	21
2000	8	2	7	2	19
2001	11	1	6	—	18
2002	14	4	6	1	23
2003	22	1	9	2	34
2004	14	4	14	1	33
2005	12	4	8	1	25
2006	15	7	5	4	31
2007[2]	1	—	3	—	4

[1] Also includes inchoate offences
[2] 1 January 2007 to 30 April 2007

Age of Majority

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will consider introducing a pilot scheme for lowering the voting age to 16 years to ascertain the effects on *(a)* political engagement and *(b)* electoral turnout. [139574]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have no immediate plans to introduce pilot schemes to ascertain the effects of lowering the voting age to 16.

Care Proceedings

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the financial implications of the planned changes are to the way in which care proceedings are dealt with in court. [140268]

Ms Harman: Details about the financial implications of implementation of the recommendations of the 'Review of the Child Care Proceedings System in England Wales' are contained in the regulatory impact assessment laid before Parliament on 18 May 2006. A copy has been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and is available electronically through the former Department of Constitutional Affairs website http://www.dca.gov.uk/laid/childcare.htm.

Cemeteries

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many cases of *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful litigation there have been related to injuries and deaths caused by falling gravestones and memorials in council graveyards in the last 20 years; [140511]

(2) how many complaints there have been of unsafe gravestones and memorials in council graveyards in the last 20 years; [140512]

(3) how many church graveyards were safety inspected in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; [140514]

(4) how many deaths there were in council graveyards in each of the last 20 years *(a)* in total and *(b)* from falling gravestones and memorials; [140515]

(5) how many council graveyards had areas closed for safety reasons during *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007; [140516]

(6) how many non-members of the National Association of Memorial Masons are authorised to test and repair gravestones in council graveyards. [140517]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not held or collated centrally. Responsibility for the management and safety of council burial grounds, including the competence of those authorised to test and repair gravestones, lies with individual burial authorities.

Recent advice to burial authorities has stressed the need for great sensitivity and careful planning in the way any memorials are tested or made safe.

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what involvement the National Association of Memorial Masons had in determining standards of health and safety in council graveyards; [140518]

(2) which external bodies were consulted over the system of gravestone testing now operated by local authorities. [140519]

Ms Harman: I understand that the National Association of Memorial Masons were one of the bodies represented on the Technical Committee responsible for the preparation of the relevant British Standards Institution specifications published in 2005.

It is for individual local authorities to determine what testing of gravestones should be undertaken. Detailed advice and guidance on memorial and safety standards has been issued by various professional and representative bodies, including the National Association of Memorial Masons.

Children's Panel Solicitors

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many children's panel solicitors are registered in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* England; and how many were so registered in each case in each of the last five years. [138994]

Bridget Prentice: The Law Society's Children Panel is maintained by the Law Society and is independent of Government. I understand that there are 1,617 solicitors currently registered on the Children's Panel in England and Wales.

The number of solicitors registered on the Children's Panel for England and Wales in each of the last five years is as follows.

	Number
2006	1,796
2005	1,752
2004	1,917
2003	2,245
2002	2,424

There are 36 solicitors currently registered on the Children's Panel in Nottinghamshire. However historical data on the different regions are not held.

Crime: Sentencing

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which offences fall under the definition of 'acquisitive crime' as referred to by the Secretary of State for Justice in his recent speech on sentencing. [138908]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The term 'Acquisitive Crime' is used to describe crime where items are stolen from persons or property, or acquired fraudulently. This encompasses such offences as theft, burglary, vehicle crime, fraud and counterfeiting.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work

commissioned by her Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138465]

Ms Harman: Since the Ministry of Justice was only formed on 9 May 2007, my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and those bodies which were formerly part of the Home Office which are now part of the new Department.

DCA

(a) A framework contract exists with Kelly Services for the supply of temporary agency workers to cover administrative posts. In the financial year ending 31 March 2007, expenditure with them was £8.08 million. DCA did use other agencies, but information relating to them is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(b) Annex 1 lists those consultancy contracts that were in place on 1 April 2007.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform (PCJR)

(a) Knight Employment Limited and Manpower are used to cover temporary administrative posts. In April 2007, expenditure with Knight Employment Limited was £30,000 and in the financial year ending 31 March 2008, expenditure with Manpower is expected to be £90,000. Information relating to the use of other agencies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

(b) Annex 2 lists consultancy contracts in place on 1 April 2007.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

(a) In the financial year ending 31 March 2007, £2,298,876 was spent with employment agencies to cover temporary administrative posts. The top five employment agencies used, in terms of expenditure, were Adecco, Hays, Manpower, Reed Personnel and Brook Street.

(b) Information on current consultancy contracts is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, Annex 3 lists consultancy contracts in place from 1 February 2006 to 28 February 2007.

HM Prison Service (HMPS)

(a) In the financial year ending 31 March 2007, the following companies, together with expenditure details, were used to supply agency workers to cover temporary administrative posts:

Adecco UK Limited—£964,993

Brook Street (UK) Limited—£1.2 million

Hays Specialist Recruitment Limited—£840,784

Manpower UK Limited—£279,909

Reed Employment plc—£914,190.

(b) Information on current consultancy contracts is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, Annex 4 lists consultancy contracts in place during the financial year ending 31 March 2007.

DCA consultancy expenditure as at 1 April 2007—Annex 1

Consultancy	*Project*	*Approximate value (£)*
PA Consulting	Business change management consultancy	100,000
Penna	Business change management consultancy	35,000
CMAS	Consultancy services connected with Charter Mark	46,000
IPSOS Mori	Three-year HM Courts Service customer user survey	1.08 million
PA Consulting	Business change management consultancy	972,000
John Garnett	Specialist estates advice	52,000
PA Consulting	Business change management consultancy	54,000
Parity	Public Guardianship Office customer satisfaction survey	39,000
Logica CMG	Provision of management information and business planning services to Tribunals Service	302,000
Matrix Research Consultancy	Evaluation of the dedicated Drug Court pilots.	250,000

OCJR consultancy expenditure as at 1 April 2007—Annex 2

Consultancy	*Project*	*Approximate value (£)*
PA Consulting	To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS, to aid the development/ management of both the business case and the change processes.	50,435
Qi Consulting	To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS, to aid the development/ management of both the business case and the change processes.	37,128
CapGemini	To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CJS, to aid the development/ management of both the business case and the change processes.	20,566
Matrix	To develop the minimum dataset to improve data on Race across the CJS	50,000

NOMS consultancy expenditure: February 2006 to February 2007—Annex 3

Consultant	*Project*	*Approximate value*
KPMG	Delivery of operating model to define NOMS's future organisational structure	95,000
HR Data Warehouse	Proof of Concept of development of NPD HR Data Warehouse	90,000
KPMG	Support for Performance Management Project Team	46,000
KPMG	Development of Offender Management Standards	39,150
NESCO	Revised Offender Assessment System Training arrangements	88,200
OGC	Market Readiness of Potential Suppliers for Commissioning and Contestability Unit	50,000
Vice Versa Projects	Vice Versa Projects—Provision of NOMS Roadshows	30,000
KPMG	Review of HQ Structure	346,600
NESCO	Data migration and harmonisation for C-NOMIS Project	143,000
OGC	Confidence in Delivery Assessment on C-NOMIS	25,000

NOMS consultancy expenditure: February 2006 to February 2007—Annex 3

Consultant	*Project*	*Approximate value*
KPMG	Programme Management	40,800
Bath Consultancy Group	Pathways to Reducing Re-Offending: Mapping the Services in the East of England	13,000
KPMG	Headcount Reduction Project	60,000
McKinsey	NOMS Change Programme	340,000
OGC	Compile business case for revised governance procedures	7,500
McKinsey	West of Midlands and Families of Offenders Project Specification	250,000
OGC	Consultancy support for managing multiple Refresh Workstreams	126,000
OGC	Martin Connor—to produce business case for Violent Offender and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) Project.	16,000
DeMontfort University	Risk of Harm Guidance and Training Manual	87,420
KPMG	Development of Estates Strategy	113,200
OGC	Commercial and Operational Advisor for contestability programme	249,696
Simon Merrington	Offender Assessment System Chapter 2 review and rewrite	5,000
Concerto Consulting	Review of Commercial and Competitions Unit	59,000
KPMG	Support for the development of a new NOMS performance management system	700,000
OGC	Compile business case commissioning programme	4,314
ASE	C-NOMIS Contracts and Live Services Manager	189,900
McKinsey	NOMS Business Design	300,000
KPMG	Portfolio management support to NOMS Programme Directorate	80,000
Shepherd Consulting	Stock take of the first stage of commissioning	40,000
Dr. Nigel Young	Investigation of production of lists of prisoners for Random Mandatory Drug Testing by two new systems	1,000
McKinsey	NOMS Business Design	250,000
Hartley McMaster Ltd.	Performance planning and diagnostic data	32,000
Avril Consulting	Electronic Monitoring Team Review	37,875
PA Consulting	Electronic Data Systems—Wide Area Network Review	63,000
KPMG	Development of Operating Model for NOMS HQ	74,000
SJC Howard	To provide advice on NOMS system design and other strategic advice	16,000
PUK	To provide support for the delivery of the Commercial and Operational Assurance Project (COAP)	30,000
Bilkis Malik	Diversity Consultant for Independent Monitoring Board	45,000
Deloittes	Commercial and Operational Assurance Project	40,000
Deloittes	To advise on the sale of equity for Serco PFI Contracts	10,000
CPI	Support to hold three seminars on co-commissioning framework between the Home Office and DoH	46,700
TWP Merseyside	Mersey Consortium	20,000
Diverse Solutions 2005 Ltd.	Equality and Diversity Quality Assurance and Support	20,000
MITP	To develop a scoring system for the Community Adapted Sex Offender Treatment Programme (C.ASOTP)	10,000
MITP	Scoring System for Psychometric Assessments	10,000
Nigel Spencer Consultants	Consultancy re foreign national prisoners	10,000
Catalyst IS Ltd.	Support the delivery of PECS Risk Management Workshop	2,850
Partnerships UK	Refinancing Advice	15,000
Eversheds	Refinancing/Legal Advice	15,000
CPI	Outcome-based regional commissioning plan	14,900
Mason Communications	Appointment of technical adviser for Videolinks	36,000
Ionann Management Consultants	Support to equality impact assess the strategy for delivering effective services for women offenders in the community	8,000
Ionann Management Consultants	Support to equality impact assess the use or non-use of interpreters in interventions programmes for offenders	13,000
PWC	To identify providers of offender management and interventions services in Wales	34,780
McKinsey	Facilitation of a Programme Delivery Board away day	10,000
OGC	To carry out review of e-Offender Assessment System application and IAPS	26,100
Sand Resources Ltd.	To represent the Home Office on security matters	8,000
Catalyst Ltd.	To run risk workshop for senior management team	1,900
Dr. Dorothy Newbury-Birch	Analysis of alcohol needs of newly sentenced offenders	8,000
Henley Software	Public Protection and License Release Unit	66,125
Finnamore Consultants	Facilitate planning workshop	20,000
Ad Esse Consulting	Offender employment performance target and measures	90,000

NOMS consultancy expenditure: February 2006 to February 2007—Annex 3

Consultant	*Project*	*Approximate value*
Churchill, Minty & Friend	Consultancy support to develop a framework for auditing purposes for the Disability Equality Scheme and evaluate	20,000
Mouchel Parkman Consultants	Electronic model for drug treatment	20,000
Hartley McMaster Ltd.	Development of new NOMS performance management system—Performance Management Rating System	45,000
PWC	Probation Resource Model	93,650
Professor Barry Goldson	Review of Immigration Removal Centre survey methodology	3,500
Stanton Marris	NOMS Top Team Away day	5,200
CPI	Design and develop operational specification for new prisons	10,000
CPI	Workshop analysis: Isle of Sheppey Cluster proposals	7,375
Navigant	Bidders Forum Workshop	6,800
Greater Manchester Probation Area	Reconfigure IT systems in NW Probation	10,000
Ionann Management Consultants	Consultancy services to support legal and good practice of NOMS delivery of Equality/Diversity	32,300
Trevor Cobley	Commissioned for a leak enquiry and security review	30,000
PUK	Design, Construct, Manage, Finance prisons	29,400
Jenny Rayner	Facilitate NOMS Board Risk workshop	7,000
COI	Consultant from COI to support work of the Change Strategy Review Team	31,625
OGC	CIDA	40,000
Bird & Bird	Legal adviser service	50,000

HMPS Consultancy Expenditure 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007—Annex 4

Consultancy	*Project*	*Approximate value (£)*
Hudsons	Software Design Consultant	18,000
Morgan Hunt	Statistician	33,480
IES	Independent Review of Job Evaluation System	10,000
IES	Impact Analysis for Movement to Pay and Grading System	41,400
University of Cambridge	Extension of grant to University of Cambridge PRC	668,000
PWC	Benchmarking Services	100,000
Udakka Ltd.	Exit Survey	25,000
Helen Sandwell	Nutrition, the Drug Strategy Support Unit	30,000
University of Cambridge	Prison Research Centre—Extension to Cambridge	12,478
Ian Charters	Review of Business Continuity Plans	10,000
University of Cambridge	Assurance and management research (Phd)	38,400
Cardiff University	European Social Fund Grant Evaluation	19,015
Institute of Employment Studies	Extension for IES	10,000
Hudson	Software Design Consultant	9,000
Manchester University	Review of Deaths in Segregation	22,000

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Francois: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the cost was of designing, procuring and installing new signage for her Department in all buildings; [140021]

(2) how much her Department has spent on stationery featuring her new Department's name and logo; [140023]

(3) how much her Department has spent on business cards featuring her new Department's name and logo; [140024]

(4) if she will list all items in her Department branded with 'Ministry of Justice'; and what the total cost has been of producing these items. [140025]

Mr. Hanson: Costs incurred by the Department for Constitutional Affairs up to 9 May 2007 in relation to the setting up of the Ministry of Justice are estimated at £1.5 million. These costs mainly relate to IT and estate changes to ensure the new Ministry can operate effectively. Additional costs arising from the integration of the various activities that constitute the new Ministry will be incurred after 9 May.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost of setting up her Department's new website was. [140022]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of setting up www.justice.gov.uk was £21,458. These costs exclude ongoing web hosting arrangements and staffing costs. Most of the work was completed in house by the existing Ministry of Justice web team.

Departments: Statistics

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will take steps to collect statistics on erroneous data collections by her Department. [140210]

Ms Harman: Much of the data used in the Ministry of Justice is drawn from the administrative systems of the prison and probation services, or the courts. Although care is taken when analysing and publishing the resulting statistics, they are subject to the data quality constraints inherent in all large-scale administrative recording systems. Our statistical publications contain explanatory notes to this effect.

We are currently undertaking a programme of work to audit the quality of our data, and to identify priorities for improvement. This work aims to reduce the overall number of data collections, and remove or improve any which are of insufficient quality.

As part of the ongoing statistical analysis process, data collections are subject to a range of checks and controls that aim to detect errors and minimise their future occurrence. These will vary according to the operational setting, but can include:

Automated checks to ensure that data are arithmetically and logically valid.

Verification using existing trend data and other relevant sources.

Formal and informal dialogue with data suppliers.

It is possible to calculate periodic estimates of the "error rate" for certain specific Ministry of Justice data collections. However, where no alternative data sources exist, such estimates typically rely on labour-intensive manual checking, and therefore to produce them across all our data collections as a matter of routine would be disproportionately costly.

Divorce

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* pension sharing orders and *(b)* divorces were granted in each month since December 2000. [140449]

Ms Harman: The following table contains data taken from the Family Man computer system in the county courts of England and Wales between January 2001 and December 2006. The data show the number of pension sharing orders and the number of decrees of dissolution of marriage recorded as having been made in that period. The significant increase in the number of pension sharing orders recorded from April 2004 onwards is the result of a change in the way the information was recorded. Prior to this, a certain category of ancillary relief orders was recorded in such a way that pension sharing orders could not be separately identified.

Number of pension sharing and divorces

	Total sharing orders	Total divorces		
		Divorce petitions	Decrees nisi	Decrees absolute
2001				
January	3	14,187	13,057	13,682
February	5	15,016	13,077	9,716
March	8	16,066	13,955	11,998
April	3	13,282	13,109	11,343
May	6	14,341	13,162	12,176
June	16	14,831	13,206	11,938
July	21	14,853	14,623	11,775
August	15	14,988	14,294	12,025
September	24	12,929	13,767	11,449
October	41	16,176	14,730	13,197
November	32	15,342	14,392	12,945
December	26	10,330	11,771	9,991
2002				
January	43	14,550	14,717	14,176
February	40	15,373	13,519	10,005
March	77	15,385	14,141	11,365
April	106	15,309	13,477	13,191
May	130	16,449	15,509	13,189
June	77	12,418	12,298	10,904
July	183	16,041	15,461	13,015
August	123	14,759	13,769	12,188
September	134	14,485	13,896	12,738
October	226	16,553	15,751	13,308
November	214	14,996	15,013	12,436
December	196	10,906	13,429	10,947
2003				
January	177	14,627	14,621	15,605
February	213	15,421	13,227	11,133
March	234	16,164	14,504	12,817
April	210	13,401	14,824	12,507
May	287	13,712	13,303	13,189
June	214	14,991	14,241	12,944
July	264	15,475	15,150	13,667
August	189	13,314	13,544	11,452
September	232	14,740	13,873	13,081
October	303	16,414	15,055	13,740
November	311	13,417	13,177	12,078
December	272	11,589	12,518	12,079
2004				
January	280	12,912	14,045	14,077
February	257	15,319	12,943	11,564
March	377	17,185	15,647	13,902
April	890	13,576	13,973	12,577
May	980	12,869	13,043	12,102
June	1,055	14,567	14,493	13,352
July	979	14,335	14,290	13,395
August	1,020	13,604	14,971	12,206
September	988	14,024	14,301	13,568
October	949	13,712	12,746	12,685
November	1,030	14,392	14,760	13,012
December	913	10,845	11,122	11,347
2005				
January	911	10,988	13,374	13,558
February	963	13,327	12,160	10,646
March	975	13,568	13,605	12,206
April	874	13,531	12,252	12,674
May	924	12,147	12,731	11,055
June	1,052	13,766	13,688	12,871
July	981	12,247	12,802	11,726

	Number of pension sharing and divorces			
	Total sharing orders	Total divorces		
		Divorce petitions	Decrees nisi	Decrees absolute
August	971	13,053	13,192	12,028
September	877	13,170	12,410	12,194
October	884	12,926	11,768	11,319
November	1,012	13,588	12,788	11,908
December	801	9,513	10,147	10,327
2006				
January	833	11,399	12,974	11,783
February	880	12,615	11,773	10,142
March	988	14,694	13,467	12,514
April	724	10,775	11,757	10,143
May	783	12,666	11,897	11,564
June	916	13,228	12,105	11,452
July	805	11,974	11,889	10,678
August	804	12,922	12,155	11,413
September	844	12,568	11,780	10,999
October	841	13,112	12,565	11,275
November	927	13,394	11,985	11,807
December	750	9,217	10,895	9,387
	35,693	990,558	964,653	873,445

Dovegate Prison

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff were deployed to HM Prison Dovegate from other establishments during the disturbance on 2 February; and from what establishments they were deployed. [139704]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no record of an incident occurring at Dovegate prison on 2 February. There is a record of a concerted indiscipline there on 29 January. The information requested from this incident is provided in the following table.

Sending establishment	Amount of staff deployed
Leicester	15
Blakenhurst	15
Stoke Heath	15
Lowdham Grange	15
Whatton	15
Swinfen Hall	15
Stafford	15
Nottingham	15
Birmingham	15
Gartree	15
Total	150

Elections: Internet

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the merits of introducing internet voting for *(a)* general and *(b)* council elections. [139810]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are firmly committed to increasing participation in the electoral process. Since 2000 we have supported 23 internet voting pilot schemes at selected local authority elections, which have allowed us to consider the benefits of new voting channels.

The independent Electoral Commission is responsible for evaluating each scheme, and the Government have considered the Commission's findings in the development of their policy on electronic voting. We have not reached a firm decision on whether or not to roll out electronic voting beyond local election pilot schemes, but the evaluation of this year's pilot schemes will inform my Department's ongoing assessment.

Evidence

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the merits of filming evidence given by witnesses *(a)* to the police and *(b)* during a trial for use in appeal cases. [139745]

Ms Harman: For some years video recorded statements have been admitted in court in the place of evidence-in-chief for children and vulnerable adult witnesses with the aim of assisting them to give their best evidence. Independent research commissioned by the Home Office and published in 2004 found that 91 per cent. of witnesses who gave evidence by means of a video recorded statement found this beneficial because: they did not have to appear in court, it made it easier to give their evidence, they were less scared, it helped them to remember information and it was given in a comfortable environment. (Hamlyn, Phelps, Turtle and Sattar: "Are Special Measures Working? Evidence from surveys of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses"—London: Home Office Research Study No. 283 (June 2004), available at

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs04/hors283.pdf.

No separate assessment has been made of the merits of filming witnesses giving evidence during trial, including the resource implications, although a limited investigation has been undertaken into the technology required.

Family Courts: Sexual Offences

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the Government plan to introduce independent advocacy for children in family court cases where sexual abuse allegations have been made. [140565]

Ms Harman: There are a number of provisions which allow a child to be separately represented in family proceedings.

Research published in 2003 noted that 15 per cent. of care applications had allegations that the child is likely to suffer ill treatment by way of sexual abuse.[1] 12 per cent. of care applications showed that the child was suffering ill treatment by way of sexual abuse.

Children involved in all public law proceedings, including care and supervision applications, are made a party to proceedings and are represented by an officer of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and an independent solicitor.

In private law proceedings where it appears to the court that a child ought to be separately represented, it can appoint a CAFCASS guardian, the official solicitor, or some other person. Section 37 of the Children Act 1989 provides for the court, in any family proceedings, to direct the local authority to investigate the child's circumstances where a question over the child's welfare has arisen, and the court feels a care or supervision order may be appropriate. This applies to any questions about the child's welfare.

[1] Table 4.4, Significant Harm: Child Protection Litigation in a Multi-cultural setting. Dr. Julia Brophy, Charlie Owen and Dr. Jagbir Jhutti-Johal.

Judiciary: Retirement

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the mandatory retirement age is for *(a)* judges and *(b)* Law Lords. [139492]

Ms Harman: For all judges first appointed to judicial office on or after 31 March 1995 the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Act 1993 provides that the normal retirement age is 70. The Act also contains transitional provisions for those judges first appointed to a judicial office before that date which provide for them to retain their pre-existing retirement age. That age depends upon the office held, generally being either age 70, the completed year of service after the 72nd birthday or age 75. For Law Lords, the retirement age under these transitional provisions is 75.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what procedures are in place for magistrates who wish to continue to work over the age of 70-years-old. [139493]

Ms Harman: There are no procedures for former magistrates to continue to serve beyond their statutory retirement at 70.

Juries: Welsh Language

Hywel Williams: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which *(a)* persons and *(b)* institutions have been consulted on the consultation paper The Use of Bilingual (English and Welsh Speaking) Jurors in certain Criminal Trials in Wales. [140483]

Ms Harman: Copies of the consultation paper were sent to the following:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges
Criminal Bar Association
Crown Prosecution Service
Cymdeithas yr laith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Society)
Department for Constitutional Affairs
Electoral Commission
General Council of the Bar
Justice
Law Society of England and Wales
Liberty
Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales
Lord Chancellor's Standing Committee for the Welsh Language
Police Federation of England and Wales
Police Superintendents' Association of England and Wales
Wales and Chester Circuit of the Bar
Wales Criminal Law Association
Welsh Assembly Government
Welsh Language Board
Whitehall Prosecutors Group
Victim Support

The consultation paper was also placed on the Home Office website and comments invited from the general public.

The following individuals and organisations responded to the consultation:

Council of Her Majesty's Circuit Judges
Criminal Bar Association
Crown Prosecution Service
Cymdeithas yr laith Gymraeg (Welsh Language Society)
Electoral Commission
Heini Gruffudd
Hon. Mr. Justice Roderick Evans
HH Judge John Rogers QC
HH Judge Dafydd Hughes
HH Judge Merfyn Hughes QC
HH Judge Philip Richards
HH Judge Roger Dutton
HH Dewi Watkin Powell
Dr. Catrin Fflur Huws
Law Society's Wales Committee
Lord Chancellor's Standing Committee for the Welsh Language
Mr. Gwynedd Parry
Plaid Cymru
SOLACE Wales (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers)
Standing Committee for Legal Wales
Wales and Chester Circuit of the Bar
Welsh Assembly Government
Welsh Language Board
Whitehall Prosecutors Group

Legal Advice and Assistance: Armed Forces

Mr. Gale: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will bring forward proposals to improve the legal advice and service available to bereaved service families; and if she will make a statement. [139623]

Ms Harman: Funding for representation at most inquests is out of the usual scope of legal aid because of the inquisitorial nature and greater informality of the process in the coroner's courts. Legal help is, however, available subject to financial eligibility (and other usual tests set out in the Legal Services Commission's funding code) and this would cover all preparatory work, which may include drafting written submissions to the coroner. I met my right hon. Friend the Minister for the armed forces on 18 April to discuss a range of ways in which bereaved military families could be supported. Details of the support to families will be set out in a written ministerial statement to be issued shortly.

Magistrates: Recruitment

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many magistrates are expected to be recruited in 2007. [139281]

Ms Harman: For the financial year 2007-08, the cumulative total of magistrates Advisory Committees are planning to recruit is 1,603. This is based on predicted business need.

Magistrates: Retirement

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether she has any plans to review the statutory retirement age for magistrates. [139279]

Ms Harman: The Government have no plans to review the statutory retirement age of magistrates.

Mr. Ian Austin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many magistrates are expected to retire in 2007. [139282]

Ms Harman: 710 magistrates are expected to retire during the financial year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Offenders: Custodial Treatment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offenders on *(a)* parole and *(b)* licence were recalled to prison in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [137483]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures showing the numbers of offenders recalled from *(a)* licence in respect of a determinate sentence, including parole and *(b)* life licence to prison in the years between 1996-97 and 2005 can be found in the following table.

Recalls of determinate sentences[1], taken from table 10.8 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005 and from table 10.5 in Prison Statistics England and Wales 1999

Number of recalls/percentage

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Parole cases 4 years or more										
Recalled	233	190	233	250	267	329	420	601	712	993
As percentage of number on parole	*12*	*8*	*11*	*10*	*10*	*11*	*13*	*17*	*17*	*21*
Non-parole cases 4 years or more										
Recalled	—	—	189	358	433	526	712	1,087	1,172	[2]—
All cases 1 to 4 years[3]	—	—	—	38	1,637	3,439	4,950	6,415	6,378	[2]—
All cases 1 year plus[3]	—	—	—	—	2,457	4,369	6,323	8,133	8,262	8,678

[1] Excluding home detention curfew recalls.
[2] From 2005 ACR and OCR no longer collated separately.
[3] Data supplied by Public Protection and Licensed Release Unit of the Home Office.

Recalls from life licence[1], taken from table 10.9 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005 England and Wales

Number of recalls

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Life licence[1]	34	34	30	26	44	71	111

[1] Inmates whose licences have been revoked and were recalled to custody excluding abscondees.

Home detention curfew recalls 1999 to 2005, taken from table 10.7 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics[1], England and Wales

Number of recalls

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Males and females	700	769	673	1,479	2,716	3,003	2,627

[1] Statistics found at:
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls

Offenders: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offences were committed by tagged offenders in the London Borough of Bexley in each of last five years. [137617]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of offences committed by offenders who were subject to the home detention curfew scheme is not broken down according to local government boundaries. To do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Pentonville Prison: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure that investigations into professional standards issues among staff at HM Prison Pentonville are conducted according to Prison Service Orders; if she will ensure that all relevant evidence is made available to staff facing disciplinary action for the preparation of their responses; and if she will make a statement. [139565]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Commissioning Authority is responsible for monitoring compliance with the relevant PSO in the first instance. Oversight of service

wide arrangements for dealing with investigations is provided by a committee chaired by the director of personnel.

There is a general presumption that all relevant evidence is disclosed but the person conducting the hearing may withhold any piece of evidence if justified. In the event that it is judged necessary to withhold any evidence, grounds for doing so will be presented at the hearing.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when Lord Carter's review of short term prison place building plans and longer term issues affecting the prison estate will be completed; and when his report will be published. [137480]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lord Carter of Coles has been asked to provide an assessment of the current plans for 8,000 new prison places and of the longer-term strategic issues affecting the custodial estate. Terms of reference for the review are in the process of being finalised. The review is expected to report in three months time.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners absconded from HMP *(a)* East Sutton Park and *(b)* Askham Grange in each year since 1997; and how many remain at large. [139011]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation. Currently there is no central record of absconders who are subsequently returned to custody. Recaptures reflect police rather than Prison Service performance and the data have not been held centrally for this reason.

Number of absconds from East Sutton Park prison and Askham Grange prison between 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007

	East Sutton Park	Askham Grange
1997-98	5	35
1998-99	3	17
1999-2000	3	20
2000-01	3	21
2001-02	3	19
2002-03	0	12
2003-04	1	31
2004-05	2	12
2005-06	4	14
2006-07	2	7

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners absconded from HMP *(a)* Ford and *(b)* Hewell Grange in each year since 1997; and how many of those remain at large. [139222]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation. Currently there is no central record of absconders who are subsequently returned to custody. Recaptures reflect police rather than Prison Service performance and the data have not been held centrally for this reason.

Number of absconds from Ford prison and Hewell Grange prison between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2007

	Ford	Hewell Grange
1997-98	53	40
1998-99	40	17
1999-2000	68	32
2000-01	57	20
2001-02	57	15
2002-03	91	23
2003-04	142	31
2004-05	110	24
2005-06	96	24
2006-07	62	13

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners absconded from *(a)* HM Prison Hollesley Bay and *(b)* HM Prison Kirkham in each year since 1997; and how many of those in each case remain at large. [139922]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation. Currently there is no central record of absconders who are subsequently returned to custody. Recaptures reflect police rather than Prison Service performance and the data have not been held centrally for this reason.

Number of absconds from Hollesley Bay prison and Kirkham prison between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2007

	Hollesley Bay	Kirkham
1997-98	13	234
1998-99	25	202
1999-2000	11	171
2000-01	24	169
2001-02	8	163
2002-03	14	208
2003-04	36	213
2004-05	32	120
2005-06	16	74
2006-07	21	54

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners absconded from *(a)* HMP North Sea Camp and *(b)* HMP Leyhill in each year since 1997; and how many of those remain at large. [140598]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation.

Currently there is no central record of absconders who are subsequently returned to custody. Recaptures reflect police rather than Prison Service performance and the data have not been held centrally for this reason.

	North Sea Camp	Leyhill
1997-98	25	20
1998-99	32	25
1999-2000	27	34
2000-01	24	25
2001-02	36	19
2002-03	34	33
2003-04	79	114
2004-05	33	102
2005-06	49	66
2006-07	48	37

Prisoners' Release

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 249W, on prisoners' release, how many and what percentage of prisoners released under the Home Detention Curfew scheme *(a)* breached the rules of their curfew and *(b)* were recalled to prison in each year since 1999. [137402]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures requested can be found in the following table:

Prisoners released on home detention curfew 1999 to 2005, with recalls

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total number released on HDC	14,847	15,510	13,649	20,456	21,188	19,294	17,296
Total recalls, males and females	700	769	673	1,479	2,716	3,003	2,627
Breach of HDC conditions	—	—	364	814	1,460	1,710	1,722
Answer to part *(a)* of question (breach of HDC conditions—percentage)	—	—	3.0	4.0	7.0	9.0	10.0
Answer to part *(b)* of question (total recalls—percentage)	5.0	5.0	5.0	7.0	13.0	16.0	15.0

Note:
Some of those recalled may have been released in a previous year.
Source:
Figures taken from tables 10.3 and 10.7 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005 at:
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section10.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Assessments

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what guidance is provided to *(a)* publicly and *(b)* privately run prisons on procedures for making assessments of prisoners on entry to prison. [138468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prisons, whether managed by the public sector or contracted out, are required to conduct initial assessments of prisoners on their entry to the prison, as set out in the Prison Service Order on Reception (PSO 0500). These include assessments of the prisoner's physical and mental health, the risk of harm (including self-harm) to the prisoner and others, his or her security status, and any immediate personal needs.

Prison and Healthcare staff on reception in closed establishments use the cell-sharing risk assessment (CSRA) to assess the risk a prisoner could pose to another prisoner in shared accommodation, based on the information that accompanies the prisoner and through a prisoner interview. Guidance is incorporated into the CSRA form and in the guidance packs available to staff on the Prison Service intranet.

Prisoners: Costs

Mr. Jack: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the *(a)* energy cost and *(b)* average number of prisoners per annum was in each prison for which her Department has responsibility in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [139048]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures on energy costs in each prison establishment within England and Wales and the average numbers of prisoners within prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table.

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Annual average population of prison establishments in England and Wales 2004-06

	2004	2005	2006
Acklington	862	869	838
Albany	514	522	524
Altcourse[1]	984	937	1,002
Ashfield[1]	286	314	363
Ashwell	529	541	539
Askham Grange	122	99	113
Aylesbury	355	406	438
Bedford	484	477	478
Belmarsh[1]	907	906	918
Birmingham	1,384	1,400	1,440
Blakenhurst[1]	869	1,012	1,054
Blantyre House	117	117	120
Blundestone	457	457	460
Brinsford[1]	451	452	469
Bristol[1]	587	597	600
Britton	821	804	804
Brockhill[1]	136	124	124
Bronzefield[1]	176	421	423
Buckley Hall	319	254	350
Bullingdon[1]	950	962	958
Bullwood Hall[1]	151	145	144

Annual average population of prison establishments in England and Wales 2004-06

	2004	2005	2006
Camp Hill	568	582	584
Canterbury	302	296	285
Cardiff	685	743	744
Castington[1]	343	367	374
Channings Wood	648	654	655
Chelmsford[1]	572	580	579
Coldingley	384	386	388
Cookham Wood[1]	142	167	181
Dartmoor	606	613	614
Deerbolt	455	407	416
Doncaster[1]	1,104	1,076	1,105
Dorchester[1]	226	240	250
Dovegate	845	799	831
Dover	270	283	278
Downview[1]	210	249	340
Drake Hall[1]	283	284	269
Durham*	691	717	872
East Sutton Park[1]	96	96	91
Eastwood Park[1]	292	288	326
Edmunds Hill[1]	173	181	351
Elmley[1]	959	979	983
Erlestoke	417	420	424
Everthorpe	459	544	660
Exeter	516	515	506
Featherstone	607	606	608
Feltham[1]	654	605	612
Ford	513	520	445
Forest Bank[1]	1,017	1,029	1,036
Foston Hall[1]	226	219	232
Frankland	668	707	705
Full Sutton	601	595	576
Garth	653	649	612
Gartree	407	448	521
Glen Parva[1]	733	772	783
Gloucester	300	283	297
Grendon/ Spring Hill[1]	528	526	536
Guys Marsh[1]	544	557	567
Haslar	119	132	144
Haverigg	553	549	561
Hewell Grange	163	161	160
Highdown[1]	741	735	742
Highpoint	804	799	810
Hindley[1]	482	399	424
Hollesley Bay[1]	276	273	272
Holloway[1]	427	436	444
Holme House[1]	957	970	977
Hull[1]	1,060	1,020	986
Huntercombe	353	348	349
Kingston (Portsmouth)	137	173	192
Kirkham	522	495	451
Kirklevington	220	219	221
Lancaster	210	238	236

Annual average population of prison establishments in England and Wales 2004-06

	2004	2005	2006
Lancaster Farms[1]	495	505	514
Latchmere House	196	201	184
Leeds	1,235	1,221	1,135
Leicester	364	348	339
Lewes[1]	499	523	534
Leyhill	489	480	366
Lincoln	453	467	471
Lindholme[1]	693	782	883
Littlehey	691	696	692
Liverpool	1,405	1,351	1,311
Long Lartin	429	438	437
Low Newton[1]	303	254	258
Lowdham Grange	517	505	535
Maidstone	543	546	576
Manchester	1,227	1,235	1,237
Moorland Open[1]	237	231	237
Moorland[1]	753	755	766
Morton Hall	333	293	330
New Hall[1]	353	343	348
North Sea Camp	277	284	265
Northallerton	216	177	219
Norwich[1]	735	778	746
Nottingham	504	503	509
Onley[1]	474	510	579
Parc[1]	1,001	987	1,032
Parkhurst[1]	485	503	504
Pentonville	1,201	1,179	1,084
Peterborough	—	477	830
Portland[1]	454	409	479
Preston	641	595	641
Ranby	842	981	1,025
Reading[1]	261	275	278
Risley	1,055	1,059	1,072
Rochester	324	381	386
Rye Hill	655	591	594
Send	213	212	209
Shepton Mallet	185	182	185
Shrewsbury	315	285	332
Stafford	658	673	672
Standford Hill	436	445	420
Stocken	616	612	614
Stoke Heath[1]	636	633	644
Styal[1]	402	392	435
Sudbury	543	545	542
Swaleside	773	775	776
Swansea	328	410	414
Swinfen Hall[1]	377	542	607
The Mount	742	700	717
The Verne	576	582	581
The Weare	364	171	—
The Wolds	352	301	319
Thorn Cross[1]	257	241	238
Usk/ Prescoed[1]	406	413	403
Wakefield	554	553	708

Annual average population of prison establishments in England and Wales 2004-06

	2004	2005	2006
Wandsworth	1,451	1,435	1,466
Warren Hill[1]	204	202	210
Wayland	693	697	697
Wealstun[1]	642	783	794
Wellingborough	516	550	607
Werrington	138	130	145
Wetherby[1]	306	334	339
Whatton	354	354	636
Whitemoor	425	438	444
Winchester[1]	628	674	700
Woodhill[1]	770	762	767
Wormwood Scrubs	1,239	1,234	1,243
Wymott	975	1,041	1,043
Total	74,657	75,979	78,127
Police cells			22

[1] denotes establishments used for more than one purpose

Note:
Components will not add up to totals because they have been compiled and rounded independently.
Energy costs tables will be placed in the Library.

Prisoners: Iran

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many Iranian nationals were detained in UK prisons *(a)* on remand and *(b)* as serving prisoners in each of the last five years. [140162]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The requested figures are in the following table.

Iranian national prisoners held within prison establishments in England and Wales, 2002 to 2006

As at 30 June each year	Non-criminal or fine defaulter	Untried or convicted unsentenced	Sentenced	Total
2002	10	18	31	59
2003	10	16	50	76
2004	17	19	45	81
2005	27	28	73	128
2006	27	48	97	172

Note:
Non-criminal prisoners would include those held in contempt of courts and those held under the 1971 Immigration Act.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: ICT

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what problems were incurred by prison establishments as a consequence of difficulties in implementing the i-procurement IT system; how long these problems took to resolve; which prison establishments were affected; and if she will make a statement. [137720]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There were no problems implementing iProcurement. Three software faults developed in November 2006 and the system was suspended to enable them to be rectified. iProcurement was unavailable for the period 8-20 November 2006. Prison establishments encountered no difficulties in placing orders as contingency plans were implemented to provide continuity.

The establishments affected are detailed as follows:

Prison establishments without iProcurement between 8 and 20 November 2006

HMP Belmarsh
HMP Swansea
HMP Frankland
HMP Usk
HMP Full Sutton
HMP Frescoed
HMP Long Latin
HMP Bristol
HMP Manchester
HMP Channings Wood
HMP Wakefield
HMP Dartmoor
HMP Whitemoor
HMP Dorchester
HMP Woodhill
HMP Cardiff
HMP Everthorpe
HMP Norwich
HMP Wealstun
HMP Pentonville
HMP Highpoint
HMP Lindholme
HMP Brixton
HMP Blundeston
HMP Albany
HMP The Mount
HMP Grendon
HMP Maidstone
HMP Blantyre House
HMP Coldingley
HMP Huntercombe
HMP Swaleside
HMP East Sutton Park
HMP Elmley
HMP Lewes
HMP Ashwell
HMP Earlstoke
HMP Foston Hall
HMP Exeter
HMP Gartree
HMP Gloucester
HMP Glen Parva
HMP Guy Marsh
HMP Leicester
HMP Leyhill
HMP Lincoln
HMP Portland
HMP Morton Hall
HMP Shepton Mallet
HMP North Sea Camp
HMP Eastwood Park
HMP Northallerton
HMP Latchmere House

HMP Edmunds Hill
HMP Leeds
HMP Wayland
HMP Bedford
HMP Wormwood Scrubs
HMP Littlehey
HMP New Hall
HMP Holloway
HMP Reading
HMP Spring Hill
HMP Rochester
HMP Canterbury
HMP Downview
HMP Kingston
HMP Parkhurst
HMP Nottingham
HMP Durham
HMP Onley
HMP Acklington
HMP Ranby
HMP Castington
HMP Stocken
HMP Deerbolt
HMP Sudbury
HMP Holme House
HMP Wellingborough
HMP Kirklevington
HMP Whatton
HMP Low Newton
HMP Askham Grange
HMP The Verne
HMP Chelmsford
HMP Hull
HMP Warren Hill
HMP Wetherby
HMP Wandsworth
HMP Hollesley Bay
HMP Moorland
HMP Feltham
HMP Bullwood Hall
HMP Camp Hill
HMP Send
HMP Winchester
HMP Haslar
HMP Standford Hill
HMP Cookham Wood
HMP High Down

Prisons: Smuggling

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the maximum penalty is for trafficking unauthorised articles into prison establishments; how many people were convicted of this offence in each of the last five years; what average sentence was imposed; and if she will make a statement. [137307]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Trafficking unauthorised articles into prison establishments is not listed as a separate offence on the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The data provided in the following table give total number of defendants found guilty of selected offences under the Prison Act 1952, a sentence breakdown, the average custodial sentence length and average fine for both sets of offences as set out in the note of the table. Maximum penalties are also shown with this note.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts, sentence breakdown, average custodial sentence lengths, and average fines for selected offences under the 1952 Prison Act, England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1,2]

		Sentence breakdown								
	Found guilty	*Sentenced*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*	*Average custodial sentence (months)*	*Average fine (£)*
2001	23	23	—	2	20	—	1	—	3.0	117
2002	20	20	—	1	14	1	4	—	9.0	100
2003	18	17	1	5	9	1	1	—	4.0	161
2004	8	8	—	1	6	1	—	—	n/a	259
2005	17	17	—	3	9	2	2	1	18.0	116

n/a = not applicable.

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Note:

The above table shows data for the following two offences;

The summary offence (195/46) comprises; Conveying spirits into prison, Conveying tobacco into prison, Attempting to convey spirits into prison, Attempting to convey tobacco into prison, Placing liquor/tobacco outside prison with intent, Office allowing liquor/tobacco to be sold, Office allowing liquor/tobacco to be used, Placing letter/thing outside prison with intent, Conveying an article to a prisoner and Attempting to convey an article to a prisoner. The maximum penalty for this offence is six months in prison and or a £1,000 fine.

The indictable offence (099/99) comprises Aiding a prisoner to escape, Aiding a prisoner to attempt to escape, Conveying article to prisoner to facilitate escape, Placing article outside prison to facilitate escape and Sending article into prison or prisoner to facilitate escape. The maximum penalty for this offence is 10 years in prison.

Probation

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many community probation projects have been visited by Ministers from her Department in the last 12 months. [138996]

Mr. Hanson: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May, Justice Ministers have made two

visits to such projects. Before this, my right hon. and learned Friend the Lord Chancellor made three such visits in the course of DCA business and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice, my hon. Friend the Member for Bradford, South (Mr. Sutcliffe) made four such visits in the course of Home Office business.

Repossession Orders: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many orders for repossessions were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted to Warrington Borough Council or Golden Gates Housing in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [139929]

Ms Harman: The following table shows the number of orders for landlord possession applied for and granted to Warrington Borough Council for each year since 2002. Golden Gates Housing has managed homes on behalf of Warrington Borough Council since 2004. It acts as the representative in possession orders applied for and granted in the name of Warrington Borough Council.

Number of possession orders[1] applied for and granted to Warrington Borough Council, 2002-2006

	Applied for	*Granted to*
2002	495	291
2003	314	287
2004	239	210
2005	263	185
2006	274	237

[1] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have been repossessed through the courts, since not all orders result in the properties actually being repossessed.

Voting Behaviour

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she is taking to encourage voter participation in *(a)* general and *(b)* council elections. [139808]

Bridget Prentice: Section 69 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 gives new powers to electoral officers, enabling them to promote participation in the electoral process, through registering and voting. The Government have provided additional funding for this purpose, which can be claimed by electoral officers.

In addition, the Government have also introduced a new duty on electoral registration officers to ensure that electors in their local area are registered, and we have extended the registration deadline to 11 days before the day of poll at both national and local elections.

The Electoral Commission also has a role in promoting participation in the electoral process.

Young Offenders

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of the number of young offenders with *(a)* a drug dependency problem and *(b)* a mental health problem. [139796]

Bridget Prentice: A survey carried out in 2001[1] reported that 76 per cent. of young offenders (aged 18 to 21) were dependent on at least one drug, as defined by the severity of dependence scale (SDS).

Information about the prevalence of psychiatric morbidity among young offenders can be found in Psychiatric Morbidity among Young Offenders in England and Wales, Office for National Statistics, 2000. Copies are available in the Library and on the Office for National Statistics website at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/PyscMorbYoungOffenders97.pdf

Source:

[1] Borrill, J., Maden, A., Martin, A., Weaver, T., Stimson, G., Farrell, M. and Barnes, T. (2003) Differential substance misuse treatment needs of women, ethnic minorities and young offenders in prison: prevalence of substance misuse and treatment needs. Online report 33/03, Home Office.

Young Offenders: Counselling

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent on *(a)* routine assessment and *(b)* therapeutic interventions for young people with experiences of (i) abuse and neglect and (ii) witnessing domestic violence who were referred to youth offending teams by courts or police in the latest period for which figures are available. [139790]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested is not available. Youth offending teams are a multi-agency partnership whose statutory partners include health, education and social services. Youth offending teams are therefore equipped to identify and respond to the needs of young people with whom they have contact, including where specific vulnerabilities have been identified through the assessment process.

Young Offenders: Dyspraxia

David Heyes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what progress has been made in diagnosing dyspraxia and related conditions in young offender institutions since 1997. [139597]

Bridget Prentice: The commissioning responsibility for prison health services is now fully devolved to national health service primary care trusts. Referrals to specialist services, such as those for dyspraxia, are made on the basis of individual need as they are in the wider community.

Since April 2005, all prisons provide health screening for first time receptions into custody. This new triage-based screening procedure consists of an initial short screen by health care staff to identify any immediate health issues. If a prisoner screens positive for one of four categories—mental health; suicide and self-harm; physical health; substance misuse—a further assessment using evidence based protocols will be carried out by an appropriate member of the primary care team. All prisoners are offered a further general health assessment in the week following reception.

A health screen for specific use with children and young people is currently being piloted. One of the key

purposes of this is to identify physical health, substance misuse and mental health needs within five days of intake resulting in a comprehensive health care plan shared by all healthcare staff.

Dyspraxia can also be identified through the learning needs assessment screening all young offenders receive to assess their educational requirements.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Central Asia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on Central Asian foreign nationals fighting in Afghanistan. [139113]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friends the Defence Secretary and Foreign Secretary regularly hold meetings on the full range of issues relating to Afghanistan. The UK continues to promote regional stability, including in Afghanistan, with all the relevant Central Asian countries.

Alan Johnston

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department has taken to secure the release of the captured BBC correspondent Alan Johnston; and if she will make a statement. [136523]

Margaret Beckett: We remain actively engaged in efforts to secure the release of Alan Johnston. We are in close touch with the BBC and Alan's family. Our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.

We are working closely with the Palestinian Authority. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and I have spoken to Palestinian President Abbas, and the British Consul-General in Jerusalem has met President Abbas and Prime Minister Haniya.

We are extremely concerned by the kidnap of Alan Johnston. We have called for his unconditional release and continue to do so.

Alexander Litvinenko

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Crown Prosecution Service on the case of Alexander Litvinenko. [139267]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has been involved in a number of cross-Whitehall meetings on the case of Alexander Litvinenko. Some of these meetings included officials from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). But these meetings were not concerned with the decision-making on this case. This decision was made by the CPS after a careful review of the evidence presented to it by the police and in accordance with the evidential and public interest tests set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Russian authorities on the case of Alexander Litvinenko in the last three months. [139268]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has had a number of contacts with the Russian authorities at both ministerial and official level over the last three months, in which the Litvinenko case has been discussed. We have made it clear in these contacts that this is a judicial matter on which we expect satisfactory co-operation from the Russian authorities.

Burma: Human Rights

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to encourage improvement in Myanmar's record on human rights. [139061]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) identifies Burma as a country of concern in our 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights. The Government's policy is to promote full respect for human rights in Burma encouraging the rule of law, democracy and good governance, and the freedom of association and speech in accordance with international human rights law.

We have been at the forefront of international efforts over many years to bring pressure to bear on the military regime to re-establish democracy and to respect human rights. We take every opportunity to raise human rights issues with the regime and remind them of their obligations to adhere to international human rights law. Our embassy in Rangoon also delivers capacity building assistance through the FCO Global Opportunities Fund in support of these objectives.

I have raised the human rights situation regularly with the Burmese regime and other Governments in the region. On 16 June 2006, I called in the Burmese ambassador and on 5 July 2006 I wrote to the Burmese Foreign Minister, highlighting our many concerns. On 18 September 2006, I raised the serious human rights situation with Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) ambassadors, including the Burmese ambassador, and on 4 December 2006 with the ASEAN Secretary-General. I have also raised Burma with the Governments of China, India, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea. I have discussed the human rights abuses taking place in Burma with Juan Méndez, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide. I discussed Burma in detail with Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Under Secretary-General for Political Affairs, on 15 November 2006, following his visit to the country. I raised the human rights situation in Burma in my address to the Human Rights Council in Geneva on 13 March and at the EU/ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Nuremberg on 15 March, in the presence of the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister.

In addition, our ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises human rights with the regime, most recently when he met the Burmese Ministers for Planning and Immigration and the Burmese Deputy Foreign Minister on 5 January.

The UK also works closely with the EU and other international partners, including the UN and ASEAN, to promote human rights in Burma and fully supports the efforts of the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Burma, Professor Sergio Pinheiro. We supported the efforts to have Burma added to the UN Security Council agenda in September 2006 and co-sponsored with the US a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma. This was put to the vote on 12 January. Nine members of the Security Council supported the Resolution. However, three states, including two permanent members of the Council, voted against and as such the Resolution was not adopted. While the result was disappointing, it is important to note that all Security Council members agreed that there were serious issues of concern in Burma. This, and the positive votes from the majority of Security Council partners, reflected the international community's deep concern over the plight of Burma's people. Burma remains on the UN Security Council agenda.

Most recently, on 23 April, the EU Council of Ministers issued a statement expressing its deep concern about the Burmese regime's continuing violations of human rights and the lack of progress towards establishing a legitimate civilian government. In its statement, the Council also called for the Burmese Government to make progress towards national reconciliation and engage constructively with all political parties and ethnic groups.

Burma: Natural Gas

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government have had with the Governments of *(a)* India, *(b)* China and *(c)* South Korea on the Shwe gas project in Burma. [140108]

Mr. McCartney: We have not discussed the Shwe gas project with the Governments of India, China or South Korea.

However, we regularly raise Burma's appalling human rights record with its neighbours, including India, China and South Korea.

I discussed the human rights situation in Burma with the Chinese Government on 20 June 2006 and again during my visit to Beijing in July 2006. I raised my concerns with the South Korean Government on 20 July 2006 and on 4 September 2006. I spoke to the Indian Government about Burma on 20 June 2006 and 27 November 2006.

Most recently, I raised the human rights situation directly with the Burmese Foreign Minister at the Asia-Europe Meeting Foreign Ministers meeting in Hamburg on 28 May.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the building of a military bunker near the new capital of Burma. [140098]

Mr. McCartney: We have received no verifiable reports on the building of a military bunker near Burma's new administrative capital, Naypyitaw. Naypyitaw is located adjacent to a major military zone. It is one of many areas of the country to which access is tightly controlled.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the land in the Dhekelia sovereign base in Cyprus is owned *(a)* privately and *(b)* by the UK Government. [138561]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

The sovereign base area of Dhekelia covers 50.5 square miles. Figures from 2003, the latest available, show the composition of land ownership at that time was as follows:

	Percentage
Private land	63.6
UK Government land	36.4

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will place in the Library copies of the reports submitted by the *(a)* United Kingdom and *(b)* EU to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to the Resolution 1736 (2006) on the action required under Clause 18 (a) of UNSCR 1737 with a view to implementing that resolution effectively. [136494]

Margaret Beckett: The UK and EU reports on implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006) have been circulated as UN documents to members of the UN Sanctions Committee. The Committee's proceedings are closed and it is customary to respect the confidentiality of circulated documents. It would not therefore be appropriate to make the reports publicly available. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) informs Parliament annually of the domestic and EU legislative measures in force to implement sanctions. The next report is due in the autumn but a table showing these legislative measures is available on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/SANCTIONS%20REGIMES%20Oct%202006.pdf.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the current status is of the 2006 UN investigation into United Nations peacekeeping troops selling weapons to Congolese militia groups. [140186]

Mr. McCartney: The UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has said that the allegations that peacekeepers based in the Ituri district were engaging in gold and weapons trafficking was brought to its attention in 2006. Following this, the UN's Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS-Nairobi) initiated a full inquiry, independently from MONUC, in accordance with its mandate to investigate instances of serious misconduct.

The UN Secretary-General's spokesperson stated on 23 May that the investigation is almost complete and that the final report is going through a quality control procedure. Upon completion of its investigation, OIOS will pass its report and recommendations to the UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations, for appropriate action with the troop contributing countries of the concerned contingent personnel.

The allegations are of concern, and it is entirely proper that they should be investigated in line with UN procedures. Officials in our Mission in New York are pressing the UN to complete their investigations as soon as possible.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people with epilepsy are employed by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139100]

Mr. Hoon: We do not require staff who suffer from epilepsy to report their illness to us. We therefore have no record of the number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff with epilepsy. Staff who do inform either their managers or our trained welfare officers that they suffer from epilepsy are given advice and assistance in confidence. We also maintain a network of staff in each FCO building who are trained to give first aid in an emergency.

Departments: Languages

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will publish the new language teaching business model. [138899]

Mr. Hoon: The invitation to tender for the provision of language training for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff will set out explicitly the specifications for delivering language training and will be available through the FCO website:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1173560622480.

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in her Department she expects to be trained in a foreign language in each of the first three years of the new language teaching business model; in how many languages training will be available in each year; and what proportion of training will be carried out overseas in each year. [138905]

Mr. Hoon: At present the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has around 900 overseas jobs requiring specific levels of language skills, although this number will fluctuate to reflect business need.

The 22 languages identified as having the highest strategic importance are: French, Spanish (Latin American and European), German, Portuguese (Brazilian and European), Russian, Turkish, Italian, Arabic, Urdu, Dari, Farsi, Pashtu, Japanese, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Indonesian, Burmese, Thai and Vietnamese.

The proportion of language training carried out overseas varies between languages, but it is proposed that in-country training will increase from current levels for those requiring a high proficiency level.

Embassies: Telephone Services

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which non-premium rate telephone numbers are available to members of the public who wish to contact the British embassy in the United States. [139142]

Mr. McCartney: Our embassy in Washington has two non-premium rate telephone numbers that are advertised to the general public. The embassy's main number is 202 588 6500, and the number of the embassy's consular section is 202 588 7800. Both numbers are prefaced with recorded messages to help direct callers to the information that they need, including the website www.britainusa.com. The messages also point callers to the premium lines that have been established to deal with passport, visa and UK information inquiries. Callers with urgent consular inquiries, and those who wish to ask about UK nationality or registration, are asked to wait on the line and speak to a trained call-handler.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 389-90W, on entry clearance: overseas students, what the reasons were for the increase in the fees for student visas; and if she will make a statement. [139513]

Dr. Howells: UKvisas recovers its costs from visa fee income and receives no taxpayer subsidy for its operations. Costs have risen, the reasons including the implementation of extra checks abroad, the increased use of visas supported by biometric capture and improvements to customer service. These increased costs have been reflected in the increase in visa fees from 1 April 2007, including student visas. Fee increases have been underpinned by public consultation on the principles for charging and by extensive customer research. The student visa fee increase has been held down as far as possible.

Equatorial Guinea

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to open a mission in Equatorial Guinea; and what recent assessment she has made of relations between the UK Government and the Government of Equatorial Guinea. [139018]

Mr. McCartney: There are currently no plans to open a UK mission in Equatorial Guinea.

The UK has normal diplomatic relations with Equatorial Guinea. We are officially represented by the high commissioner in Nigeria who is the non-resident ambassador to Equatorial Guinea.

Ethiopia: Entry Clearances

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many appeals against refusal to grant entry clearance at the British embassy, Addis Ababa have been upheld in the last 12 months; and of these how many visas have not yet been issued by the embassy following such appeals. [138867]

Dr. Howells: The total number of appeals that were upheld in the financial year 2006-07 was 523. In 65 of these cases visas have not yet been issued by our embassy in Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia: Kidnapping

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to receive reports from those diplomats in the Ethiopian Embassy who were involved in the recent kidnapping. [138806]

Mr. McCartney: I was delighted with the news that the five officials from our Embassy in Addis Ababa and family members were released on 13 March. I was also pleased that the Ethiopians kidnapped at the same time were released on 22 April.

Upon their release, the five Embassy officials and family members made an internal report, but declared that they did not want to go public with their experiences. We will respect this. The Ethiopian authorities have not provided us with any further reports on the kidnapping and the release of their citizens.

European Satellite Centre

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proportion of the funding of the European Satellite Centre in Madrid came from the United Kingdom in 2006. [139590]

Mr. Hoon: In 2006, the United Kingdom's contribution to the European Satellite Centre amounted to 17.3 per cent. of the centre's total budget of €10.557 million.

Galileo Project

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to meet European foreign ministers to discuss the Galileo Global Positioning Satellite system. [139060]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport leads the Government's involvement in the Galileo programme. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport, is due to discuss Galileo with his counterparts at the next EU Transport Council in June.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the impact of the new air terminal in Gibraltar on its economy. [139071]

Mr. Hoon: While questions on the economy of Gibraltar are matters for the Government of Gibraltar, we hope that enhanced use of Gibraltar airport will benefit the social and economic development of both Gibraltar and the Campo de Gibraltar, and will lead to improved employment and commercial opportunities for both areas.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Spainish counterparts on Gibraltar in the past 12 months. [139073]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and myself have met Spanish counterparts on a number of occasions over the last 12 months. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary hosted a visit of the Spanish Foreign Minister to the UK in March. Ministers also routinely meet EU colleagues at General Affairs and External Relations Council meetings.

Discussions, including at official level, cover a range of issues, including Gibraltar. Discussions focussed on Gibraltar ahead of the Trilateral Ministerial in Cordoba in September 2006 at which agreement was met on a series of practical benefits for all people living in the region.

Global Opportunities Fund

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on each Global Opportunities Fund project in financial year 2006-07. [139947]

Mr. Hoon: Spend on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Global Opportunities Fund programmes in financial year 2006-07 was as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
Climate change and energy	4.6
Counter-terrorism	7.1
Drugs and crime	6.6
Economic governance	4.8
Engaging with the Islamic world	8.6
Human rights	3.4
Migration	1.9
Overseas territories	4.6
Reuniting Europe	5.6
Sustainable development	1.6

In addition, the Global Opportunities Fund contributed £16.3 million to the Afghan counter-narcotics programme.

Until the FCO accounts close in July, these figures are subject to further end-of-year adjustments.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had on future funding for the Global Opportunities Fund; and what the timetable is for allocation of funding for the next five years. [140247]

Mr. Hoon: Future funding for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Global Opportunities

Fund (GOF) will be considered as part of the FCO's Resource Allocation Round for 2008-09 to 2010-11 once the outcome of the comprehensive spending review is known. The GOF is an increasingly important tool for the delivery of the Government's strategic priorities, enabling us to fund projects that can help to transform a given debate or issue in priority countries.

Missile Defence Systems

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her US counterparts on the deployment of limited missile capabilities in Europe; what proposals are under discussion; and if she will make a statement. [136519]

Margaret Beckett: I have not discussed the extension of the US missile defence system to Europe with the US Secretary of State.

The US has proposed the siting of 10 interceptors in Poland and a surveillance radar in the Czech Republic. Details of these deployments are subject to bilateral negotiations between these countries and the US. However, the US has made clear that the siting of US assets in Europe could contribute to any future NATO system and the US regularly discusses its plans for missile defence with NATO.

The UK is discussing a number of ways in which we might participate further in the US missile defence system. We already contribute to the US missile defence system through the provision of the radar at RAF Fylingdales. Officials regularly discuss and review UK participation in the US system as it develops but discussions are at an early stage and there are no formal proposals.

The issue of when and how to develop a collective alliance territorial missile defence system has also been under discussion in NATO. At the NATO summit last year at Riga it was agreed that there should be further study into territorial missile defence for NATO.

Chagos Islanders

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to enable the Chagos Islanders to return to the British Indian Ocean Territories; and if she will make a statement. [140451]

Mr. Hoon: Ministers will consider the 23 May judgment of the Court of Appeal carefully and have in this regard asked officials for further advice. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reserves the right to petition the House of Lords to grant permission to appeal, as she is entitled to do within one month. The Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore remains the subject of possible ongoing legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

International Conferences: Robert Mugabe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK plans to oppose the invitation of President Mugabe of Zimbabwe to the EU-Africa summit in Lisbon in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [137472]

Margaret Beckett: We have made our views on Zimbabwean representation at the summit clear to our EU partners. We are looking to the presidency for a solution on Zimbabwean attendance that is consistent with the EU Common Position on Zimbabwe.

Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 84W, on Iran, whether any changes to the flexibility about the modalities for opening negotiations were proposed by *(a)* Mr. Javier Solana and *(b)* Mr. Ali Larijani during their meetings of 25 and 26 April 2007; and if she will make a statement. [136490]

Margaret Beckett: The UN Security Council has set out on behalf of the international community its requirements of Iran. These requirements are not negotiable. However, the UK, together with their partners in the "E3+3" (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United States and the High Representative of the European Union), remain willing to explore flexibly the modalities of how to begin discussions with Iran on the basis of the established position of "suspension for suspension". This would involve Iran suspending its enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, as required by the UN Security Council, while the Security Council would suspend implementation of measures adopted under Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747.

In their meeting on 25 April, Dr. Solana explored what flexibility might be available in terms of the process leading up to negotiations, but Dr. Larijani was not able to respond.

Iran: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures the Government have taken to prevent specialised teaching or training of Iranian nationals in disciplines which would contribute to Iran's sensitive nuclear activities and development of nuclear weapon delivery systems in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Council Common Position 2007/140/CFSP. [134861]

Margaret Beckett: A voluntary vetting scheme is currently in place which encourages universities to refer post-graduate students planning to study subjects of concern, including disciplines which could contribute to Iran's proliferation sensitive nuclear activities and development of nuclear weapon delivery systems, to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for counter-proliferation advice. In line with Article 6 of Common Position 2007/140 Common Foreign and Security Policy, we will take the necessary measures to prevent such teaching or training by introducing a mandatory vetting scheme in advance of the visa application stage. Technical work is continuing with a view to introducing this mandatory scheme at the earliest opportunity.

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by the European Union to implement the call by the UN Security Council in its Resolution 1747 on 24 March for all states and international financial institutions not to enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance and concessional loans to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran except for humanitarian and developmental purposes; and if she will make a statement. [136495]

Margaret Beckett: The EU introduced a prohibition on member states entering into new commitments for grants, financial assistance and concessional loans to the Government of Iran, including through their participation in international financial institutions, except for humanitarian and developmental purposes, in Common Position 2007/246/ Common Foreign and Security Policy adopted on 23 April.

Iran: Territorial Waters

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions officials from her Department have made representations to the government of Iran calling for the return of the Royal Navy boats and equipment seized by Iran; and what reasons have been given by the government of Iran for not doing so. [134863]

Margaret Beckett: Officials have raised the matter of Royal Navy boats and equipment illegally seized and retained by Iran with the Government of Iran on a number of occasions, most recently in May with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Iran has not provided a reasonable explanation of why they have not returned the boats and equipment taken in 2004 and 2007.

Iran: Travel Restrictions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the European Union is implementing a full travel ban on *(a)* the persons designated under UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 and 1747 and *(b)* the individuals designated under Council Decision 2007/242/EC of 23 April; and if she will make a statement. [134860]

Margaret Beckett: The EU is implementing a full travel ban on the individuals designated in UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2006), 1747 (2007) and the additional persons who meet the UN criteria listed in Council Decision 2007/242/EC. A series of limited exemptions to the travel ban are listed in Article IV of Common Position 2007/140/Common Foreign and Security Policy. These include permission to permit travel in cases of urgent humanitarian need or where there is a necessity to meet the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 1737 (2006), including where Article XV of the International Atomic Energy Agency Statute is engaged.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the proposed tripartite talks on Iraq refugees between the EU, Syria and Iraq are to take place; and what the UK involvement will be. [136496]

Margaret Beckett: We welcome Commissioner Michel's proposal to hold technical level tripartite talks on Iraqi refugees. We understand the proposed talks will be between the Commission and the Governments of Iraq and Syria, but the UK stands ready to assist if required. The date of the talks is still to be confirmed.

Israel: Political Prisoners

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Israel on the seizure of the Palestinian Education Minister and elected parliamentarians. [140570]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned by the arrest of the Hamas members on 23 May. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv raised our concerns with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 28 May. We have called for all those detained to be either released or subject to the due legal process.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the seizure by Israel of the Palestinian Education Minister and elected parliamentarians on the prospects for peace in the Middle East. [140571]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned by the arrest of the Hamas members on 23 May. Our ambassador in Tel Aviv raised our concerns with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 28 May. We have called for all those detained to be either released or subject to the due legal process.

We are very concerned by the on-going violence that is hindering current progress on the peace process. We are concerned by the situation inside Gaza for Palestinian civilians and the situation in Sderot. We welcome Palestinian President Abbas' efforts to restore calm and hope that both sides can exercise restraint. Continuing violence in Gaza and the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories underlines the need for the current on-going political processes. We welcome the fortnightly discussions between Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas as well as US Secretary of State Rice's recent efforts and those of the Arab League.

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the arrest by Israel and subsequent release of Nasser al Shaer in 2006; and if she will make a statement. [140572]

Dr. Howells: Nasser al Shaer was first arrested in June 2006 while serving as deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister in the Hamas Government. He was released later in September 2006. On 23 May, he was arrested with two Hamas Palestinian Legislative Council members. Our Ambassador in Tel Aviv raised

our concerns with Israeli Foreign Minister Livni on 28 May. We have called for all those detained to be either released or subject to the due legal process.

Italy

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings she has had with the Italian foreign minister in the last 12 months; and what the agenda was of each such meeting. [139063]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I meet Italian counterparts on a regular basis, including at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels, and at other international meetings. Discussions cover a wide range of international issues.

Japan: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether she discussed civil nuclear power during her recent visit to Japan; and what meetings she had during the visit. [140564]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary visited Japan on 22 May. She did not discuss civil nuclear power during her visit.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had bilaterals with Cabinet Secretary Shiozaki, Foreign Minister Aso, and Prime Minister Abe's climate change advisor Koike. She also had lunch with leading Japanese opinion formers, including politicians and representatives from the private sector, and gave a key-note speech at a climate change conference organised with Japanese business.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to answer the letter of 19 March from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms R. O'Brien. [137973]

Margaret Beckett: A reply was sent on 2 May. I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she will answer the letter to her dated 5 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr L. W. Gordon. [138723]

Margaret Beckett: I replied to my right hon. Friend on 16 May 2007.

Mercenaries

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the regulation of private military security companies. [139586]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 93W.

Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken in their role as an observer to the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force; and what assessment she has made of progress by the body in combating the financing of terrorism. [137094]

Margaret Beckett: The UK supports the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force's (MENAFATF) objective of raising standards in combating the financing of terrorism in the middle east/north Africa region. Government representatives have attended all five plenary meetings to date in an observer capacity. We are discussing with the MENAFATF Secretariat the possibility of UK technical assistance to the organisation and its member states in areas of common interest.

We assess that MENAFATF has made an encouraging start. It is continuing to develop. It has produced guidance papers for its members on the regulation of cash couriers and of charities. It is co-operating with other regional bodies such as the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering on the delivery of technical assistance to raise standards in countering the financing of terrorism. The UK welcomes this proactive approach and hopes that MENAFATF will continue to play a positive role in the international effort to tackle terrorist financing.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her assessment is of the recent US proposals for the middle east peace process which have been presented to the government of Israel and the Palestinian leadership; and what the role of the Government is in the next stage of the process. [137103]

Margaret Beckett: The US presented Israel and the Palestinians with a set of proposals according to which Israel would improve freedom of movement for Palestinians within and between the west bank and Gaza and the Palestinians would act to prevent attacks by militants against Israel. The proposal has so far been welcomed by Palestinian President Abbas and Palestine Liberation Organisation Chief Negotiator Saeb Erekat, but dismissed by the National Unity government. The Israeli government is considering the proposal.

It is essential that progress is made on movement and access in, and between, the west bank and Gaza and security sector transformation to ensure a viable future Palestinian state. This requires the active engagement of both parties. In the meantime, we will continue to call upon both parties to implement their commitments under the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access and support US Security Coordinator General Dayton's plans on security sector transformation.

National League for Democracy

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits *(a)* the British ambassador and *(b)* other representatives of the British Government made to the head office of the National League for Democracy in the last 12 months. [140163]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Rangoon and his staff have regular contact with the National League for Democracy (NLD), both at the NLD's headquarters and elsewhere.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to develop the UK's role within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. [139059]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is a leading member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and strongly supports its globally recognised programme of economic and structural work. This work is of major benefit to the OECD's 30 members, but also to a growing number of developing and emerging economies with which the organisation has outreach programmes. The OECD has a central role in promoting the benefits of globalisation—and sharing best practice in mitigating the downside risks—drawing on its policy analysis, statistics, peer review and international codes of conduct. This is consistent with UK efforts to engage with major emerging economies on global issues such as climate and energy security.

At the 15-16 May OECD Annual Ministerial Meeting in Paris, member states agreed to open accession talks with Chile, Estonia, Israel, Slovenia and Russia. The UK also welcomed a programme of enhanced engagement and possible future membership with emerging economies, particularly Brazil, India, Indonesia, China and South Africa. The UK has stressed that countries acceding to the OECD must meet strict criteria in order to safeguard the organisation's core values including market-based democracy, rule of law and good governance.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the Government of Pakistan on the proposed Apostasy Bill in that country. [139614]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan, including those pertaining to legislation affecting religious minorities in Pakistan. Officials from our high commission in Islamabad will continue to monitor the progress of the draft Apostasy Bill. Together with our EU partners, we will continue to encourage Pakistan to treat all citizens fairly in the interests of equality.

Palestine National Authority

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to resume full recognition of the Palestine National Authority; and if she will make a statement. [140450]

Dr. Howells: We will judge the Palestinian Government by their platform and actions and respond accordingly. We have always been willing to work with anyone who endorses the Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) principles: renunciation of violence; recognition of Israel; and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations. The US and EU also support this position. No Hamas members of the current Government have yet made clear that they have accepted these principles. We are working with those members of the Government who do.

Press: Finance

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding her Department provided to the Foreign Press Corps in the latest period for which figures are available; what conditions were attached to such funding; and what the purpose was of such funding. [138429]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funding for the Foreign Press Corps is channelled through the Foreign Press Association (FPA). The FPA is an independent professional body representing foreign journalists working in the UK. FCO funding is in support of the 2005 recommendation by Lord Carter of Cole that foreign correspondents require a better service from across Whitehall departments.

FCO funding is, therefore, aimed at assisting the FPA: to act as a central point through which the Government can efficiently disseminate news and information about Britain to a global audience; and to achieve financial self-sustainability. Funding is now solely project-based and in the last financial year (2006-07) the FCO contributed £124,875. In addition, in January 2006, the FCO and the FPA signed a memorandum of understanding in which the FPA agreed to implement a reform programme designed to make it financially independent, more responsive and focused on the working needs of its membership.

Sanctions: EC Action

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the membership and remit is of the sanctions formation of the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party; who represents the UK on this body; how often it meets to review EU restrictive measures; and if she will make a statement. [138570]

Margaret Beckett: All EU member states are represented on the sanctions formation of the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party which usually meets every six weeks to discuss best practice in the implementation and application of EU restrictive measures. The UK is represented by officials from the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, reinforced by experts from other Whitehall Departments as required. I have placed a copy of the Working Party's mandate in the Library of the House. Individual sanctions regimes are reviewed and evaluated by relevant geographical working groups.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in what form the EU Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party has reported on its work on the monitoring, implementation and evaluation of EU restrictive measures; and if she will place in the Library copies of its reports from the last two years. [13[illegible]73]

Margaret Beckett: The EU Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party makes an annual report on developments in Common Foreign and Security Policy to the European Council. The reports are classified and not intended for release into the public domain. The Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party has published a number of reports on the effective use and implementation of EU restrictive measures. We will place copies in the Library of the House and I will also arrange for copies of the reports to be sent to the right hon. Member.

Saudi Arabia

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 781W, on Saudi Arabia, whether any other Ministers in her Department have met Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Azziz al-Saud or his chief of staff since 1 January 2006; and if she will make a statement. [139266]

Dr. Howells: There have been no meetings between Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and either Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud or Rehab Massoud, his Chief of Staff, since 1 January 2006.

Schools: Corporal Punishment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether legislation has been introduced since 1 February 2005 to prohibit corporal punishment in *(a)* state and private schools in (i) Anguilla, (ii) Bermuda, (iii) British Virgin Islands, (iv) Cayman Islands, (v) Gibraltar, (vi) Montserrat and (vii) Turks and Caicos Islands, *(b)* penal institutions for young offenders under 18 years in (A) Gibraltar and (B) Montserrat, *(c)* alternative care settings in (1) Anguilla, (2) Bermuda, (3) British Virgin Islands, (4) Cayman Islands, (5) Falkland Islands, (6) Gibraltar, (7) Montserrat, (8) St. Helena and (9) Turks and Caicos Islands. [138604]

Mr. Hoon: There has been no legislation introduced since 1 February 2005 to prohibit corporal punishment in state schools and private schools, penal institutions for young offenders under 18 years and alternative care settings in the overseas territories listed in the hon. Member's question. The position on corporal punishment is as follows:

Anguilla:

Under the Education Act corporal punishment is only allowed in schools under controlled conditions.

Bermuda:

Under the Education Rules corporal punishment in schools is allowed under defined conditions. However, in practice, schools are moving towards using positive reinforcement for good behaviour. Corporal punishment may not be carried out on any child in care, whether in a children's home or foster care.

British Virgin Islands:

Corporal punishment can be carried out in schools, by the principal, deputy principal or by one senior teacher appointed in writing. Corporal punishment of children is not allowed in other institutions or forms of care. On 16 April 2005, the British Virgin Islands enacted the Children and Young Persons Act which, among other things, made it unlawful to abuse or ill treat a child.

Cayman Islands:

Corporal punishment is allowed by law in all public and private schools only where no other punishment is considered suitable or effective by the principal, and may be administered by the principal or any teacher appointed in writing by the principal for that purpose.

Falkland Islands:

Corporal punishment is prohibited by law in public sector schools. There is no prohibition on corporal punishment in other forms of care, or by carers. However, administratively, the Falkland Islands Government forbids corporal punishment of children in the forms of care it operates.

Gibraltar:

In both public and private educational establishments, and other institutions which care for children and young people, corporal punishment is not permitted. Corporal punishment is not administered in prison.

Montserrat:

Under the Education Act, corporal punishment can be administered in schools but subject to strict guidelines and it should only be administered by the principal or a teacher designated by the principal for that purpose. Corporal punishment is not permitted for young offenders and is not administered in prison.

St. Helena:

While no new law has been introduced, it is not practice to allow corporal punishment of children in alternate settings or forms of care.

Turks and Caicos Islands:

While existing law allows for corporal punishment in schools, in practice it is prohibited in both private and public schools and in all institutions dealing with children and adolescents.

Serbia: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration was made of Serbia's *(a)* human rights record and *(b)*

record of co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia prior to its assumption of the Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. [137091]

Margaret Beckett: The Chairmanship of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers is not an elected position, but organised on an alphabetical rotational basis every six months in May and November. On this basis Serbia became chair at the 117th Council of Europe Ministerial on 11 May.

The Parliamentary Assembly and Committee of Ministers have been monitoring Serbia's commitment to the Council of Europe core objectives of promoting and protecting human rights, democracy and rule of law, as well as compliance with treaty obligations since Serbia's accession in 2003. Monitoring will continue throughout Serbia's chairmanship and will cover co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Serbia's chairmanship will be scrutinised by both a domestic and international audience. It is in Serbia's interests to fulfil its obligations as chair to the highest standards. We hope that its chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers will provide impetus for Serbia to demonstrate its commitment to the Council of Europe core objectives as well as other international obligations, in particular full co-operation with the ICTY.

The United Kingdom is a strong supporter of the ICTY and regularly makes clear to countries of the region their obligation to co-operate fully with the tribunal as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1534. In February, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe delivered this message in Belgrade to the President and Prime Minister of Serbia.

Somalia

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the situation in Somalia. [139062]

Mr. McCartney: The UK strongly condemns the violence from all sides in Somalia. We welcome the recent pause in the fighting and hope it can result in a permanent cease-fire and a lasting stability, which is what the overwhelming majority of Somalis want more than anything else. For this to happen, the Transitional Federal Government needs to ensure that the National Reconciliation Congress planned for mid June reaches out effectively to include all Somalis, regardless of clan, who credibly renounce violence and who are willing to work for a peaceful and democratic Somalia in which all clans are fairly represented.

We are very concerned at the humanitarian situation in and around Mogadishu. We believe that more than 1,500 people have been killed and perhaps another 400,000 displaced since early January. Cholera is widespread and the plight of children is particularly grave due to increasing rates of malnutrition and disease. The Government have committed £3.54 million in emergency humanitarian relief since late February.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the humanitarian situation in Somalia following the Transitional Federal Government's arrival in Mogadishu; and if she will make a statement. [136517]

Margaret Beckett: The fighting in April in Mogadishu has hampered relief efforts. We are extremely concerned about the humanitarian situation in Somalia and we are monitoring the situation closely.

The UN has reported that over 300,000 persons, mostly women and children, were displaced by the violence since the beginning of February. The UN further reported that these displaced persons had little in the way of proper shelter, food, clean water, sanitation, health facilities and protection, and that the presence of a cholera outbreak added to their vulnerability. We welcome the cessation in hostilities over the last two weeks and urge all parties in Somalia to maintain this truce in order to allow humanitarian relief work to resume. We are encouraged by the reports that some of those displaced are now returning to their homes and by the resumption of food distribution by the World Food Programme in Mogadishu.

Since February, the UK has provided emergency humanitarian assistance of around £3.5 million. This is in addition to the UK's annual development and humanitarian programme for Somalia, currently £21 million. The UK was the second largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Somalia in 2006.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is advocating to improve the implementation of the UN arms embargo on Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [132776]

Margaret Beckett: We are committed to the effective implementation of the UN arms embargo and take allegations of non-implementation seriously. Our ambassador to the UN in New York, Sir Emyr Jones Parry, supported recommendations, made by the Panel of Experts to the UN Security Council's Sanctions Committee on the Sudan, to improve implementation of the UN arms embargo, when it was discussed at the Sanctions Committee meetings of 10 and 20 April and 9 May. The report has not yet been transmitted to the UN Security Council, nor been made public.

We review our sanctions policy on Sudan on a regular basis and are presently pressing the case for further sanctions in the Security Council if the Government of Sudan and rebel movements fail to co-operate fully. These would include expanding the existing arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan, in line with the current EU arms embargo, which should improve its implementation and enforcement.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure the safety and protection of British humanitarian workers working in

the Darfur region; and what recent meetings she has had with non-governmental organisations to discuss the humanitarian situation in Sudan. [138569]

Margaret Beckett: We take seriously the security of British humanitarian workers. Our representatives in Sudan keep in close contact with UK humanitarian workers to share information about the level of security. The UK is funding training programmes to enhance non-governmental organisation's (NGOs) security management and we are currently reviewing what additional support they require.

We are pushing both parties of the Darfur peace agreement to abide by their ceasefire commitments. We continue to support the African Union's (AU) peacekeeping mission, while pressing for a more effective peacekeeping operation in Darfur through the proposed hybrid AU-UN force. This will be critical to improving the security situation for ordinary Darfuris and the humanitarian agencies helping to meet their basic needs. The UK played a prominent role with the UN and other partners in securing a joint communiqué on 28 March between the UN and the Government of Sudan to address the bureaucratic impediments facing humanitarian agencies in Darfur. We are pressing for and closely monitoring its implementation.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development met NGO representatives on 28 March. UK officials regularly meet NGOs both in London and Sudan to discuss the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

Sudan: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what gaps in *(a)* EU and *(b)* international funding for the African Union Mission in Sudan have been identified; and which countries have yet to fulfil their commitments in this area. [137473]

Margaret Beckett: The EU has committed €242 million for the African Union (AU) Mission in Sudan (AMIS) from the Africa Peace Facility (APF) for AMIS personnel costs. Part of this sum has not been disbursed because the AU has not met EU financial reporting requirements and EU financial experts are now assisting the AU to improve financial reporting. The EU is about to commit €40 million more from the APF, with a further amount to follow the end of term review of the European Development Fund. Other member states are giving voluntary bilateral contributions: for example, Germany committed €20 million in March and the Netherlands announced on 14 May it would give an extra €10 million.

The UK and a small group of core donors, including US, Canada and Netherlands, provide the majority of international funding for AMIS on a voluntary basis. The UK has committed €67 million. UK funds are currently being used to pay for AMIS personnel allowances and catering and the mission's ground fuel costs. The Arab League has disbursed less than US$20m of its original US$150m pledge for AMIS. We are urging them, and other international partners, to honour their commitments and provide funds for AMIS.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 48W, on Sudan: peace negotiations, what steps the Government are taking to seek faster progress on the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. [138562]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is pressing the government of Sudan and rebel groups to cease the violence immediately and commit to a renewed political process. We are pressing the African Union (AU) and UN to make rapid progress in this area, most recently when the UK's Special Representative for Sudan attended a meeting in Tripoli on 28 April.

We stand ready to support: a secretariat for the AU and UN mediators; the AU in taking forward the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation; and the Transitional Darfuri Regional Authority and other bodies under the Darfur Peace Agreement. Progress in these initiatives has been slow due to the continued violence in Darfur.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 48W, on Sudan: peace negotiations, what progress has been made by the *(a)* African Union and *(b)* UN to meet commitments made at the UN high level meeting in November 2006 to convene a meeting between the non-signatories and signatories of the Darfur peace agreement. [138563]

Margaret Beckett: The African Union (AU) and UN Special Representatives for the political process in Darfur; and representatives from Sudan, Chad, African regional powers, the UN Security Council, the EU and the Arab League met on 28 and 29 April in Tripoli to discuss the Darfur peace process. They reconfirmed support for the conclusions of the UN high level meeting in November 2006 in Addis Ababa.

They agreed the "Tripoli Consensus" which calls for an immediate ceasefire; the facilitation of humanitarian access and delivery; and sustained funding for the AU force in Darfur until the AU/UN hybrid force can deploy. They urged all parties to commit to a renewed, inclusive and accelerated political process. The "Tripoli Consensus" warned all parties that those who obstruct the peace process in Darfur would bear the consequences.

We are pressing the AU and UN special representatives urgently to present a roadmap for negotiations to the UN Secretary-General.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the government of Sudan complies with the arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court in connection with alleged atrocities in Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [137110]

Margaret Beckett: The Government firmly believe that there can be no impunity for crimes against humanity and war crimes. The International Criminal

Court (ICC) has our full support for its activities. It must also have the full and unconditional co-operation of the government of Sudan. We have made this clear to the authorities in Khartoum.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, made a statement on 2 May calling upon the government of Sudan to co-operate with the court's request for the arrest and surrender of the two individuals which we brought to the attention of the Sudanese embassy in London. It is vital that the government of Sudan fulfils its obligations in relation to the ICC.

Tibet: Human Rights

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the Government of the People's Republic of China on the human rights situation in Tibet; and what recent progress has been made on improving human rights for the indigenous people of Tibet. [139056]

Mr. McCartney: We raised our concerns on the human rights situation in Tibet with the Chinese Government at the UK-China Human Rights Dialogue on 5 February. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also raised Tibet with Chinese Premier Wen when he visited London in September 2006. We welcome the economic development in Tibet, but remain concerned that this does not sufficiently benefit or take into account the wishes of the local Tibetan population. The British Government continue to fund project work to improve health, sanitation and education facilities for Tibetan populations in China.

Uganda: Elections

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what discussions she has had with the Commonwealth Secretariat on its report on the 2006 Ugandan elections. [139693]

Mr. McCartney: Our high commission in Kampala, along with other diplomatic missions, had regular contact with the Commonwealth Observer Group in the run up to and during the 2006 elections. We continue to have high level contacts with the Commonwealth Secretariat on a range of issues in Uganda, including political governance.

The UK, along with our EU partners, has a regular dialogue with the Government of Uganda on all aspects of developing multi-party democracy and engaging with the opposition as a means of building towards the next elections in 2011. Our high commissioner in Kampala discussed these issues most recently with President Museveni on 10 May.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to strengthen and increase resources for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. [140076]

Mr. McCartney: The UK fully supported the decision at the UN World summit, 14-16 September 2005, to double resources from the UN regular budget to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) over the next five years. As well as supporting the OHCHR through the UK's contribution to the UN regular budget, the Government continue to be one of the major donors to the OHCHR through voluntary contributions. They are contributing over £2.5 million annually in the period 2005-08.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development remain in close contact with the OHCHR on progress on the OHCHR's strategic management programme, which sets goals for OHCHR's expansion in 2006-08 and will, 'inter alia', enhance OHCHR's capacity to mainstream human rights more effectively across the UN system. We fully support this programme, including through resisting efforts by some at the UN Human Rights Council to limit the OHCHR's independence in pursuing its goals.

UN Human Rights Council

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the performance of the UN Human Rights Council. [140079]

Mr. McCartney: We continue to have ambitious goals for the new UN Human Rights Council (HRC). It has taken some encouraging steps. For example, it has begun to address the situation in Darfur, most recently through a consensus resolution adopted on 30 March to follow up on recommendations made by the council's high-level assessment mission for Darfur. We were, however, disappointed by a disproportionate and unbalanced focus in the council's early months on the situation in the Middle East, while other situations were comparatively neglected. Negotiations on the council's future tools and mechanisms are due to be completed in June. Their results will be key to the council's long-term potential. We continue to work hard to make these tools as effective as possible.

Much of the responsibility for the council's success rests with its members. We were disappointed that, at the most recent HRC elections on 17 May, three of the five UN regional groups did not put forward more candidates than there were seats available. However, we were pleased that Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina were elected from the Eastern European Group, in preference to a country where the human rights situation continues to be of deep concern. We look forward to continuing to work with all council members to try to increase the HRC's strength and effectiveness.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assessment she has made of the likelihood of the renewal of the *(a)* special procedures, *(b)* country-specific and *(c)* thematic special rapporteurs in the United Nations Human Rights Council. [140084]

Mr. McCartney: The UN General Assembly (GA) resolution of 16 March 2006 establishing the UN

Human Rights Council specifically provided for the Council to "assume, review and where necessary improve and rationalise" all mandates and mechanisms of its predecessor body, the Commission on Human Rights. This included the special procedures of the Commission, including the country-specific and thematic special rapporteurs. The review of the rapporteurs and other special procedures, provided for by the GA resolution, is ongoing.

The UK attaches enormous importance to the continued independence, strength and autonomy of the system of rapporteurs. We are resisting attempts by some to use the review to limit the rapporteurs' effectiveness. We strongly support the continuation of all thematic and country-specific rapporteurs' mandates after the Council session this June. However, other UN member states firmly oppose our aims in this area, particularly the continuation of some country-specific rapporteurs' mandates. Ongoing discussion of these issues in Geneva is difficult. We will continue to do our utmost to ensure the review process does not weaken the system of rapporteurs.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the special procedures in the United Nations Human Rights Council, and in particular the country-specific and thematic special rapporteurs, are renewed next month. [140244]

Mr. McCartney: The UN Human Rights Council's (HRC's) review of the special procedures (including thematic and country-specific special rapporteurs) has been ongoing in Geneva through formal and informal Council working groups, in the plenary of regular Council sessions, and in informal bilateral and small group consultations. It is due to be finished in June. The UK has consistently taken a strong position, nationally and with the rest of the EU, in favour of maintaining the most effective possible system of special procedures. While suggesting areas where the system could be further strengthened, we have argued strongly for the renewal of the mandates of the country-specific and thematic special rapporteurs. We have engaged bilaterally with other UN partners to build support for our position. In my speech to the HRC on 13 March, I said:

> "The Council's discussions have benefited from the valuable input of the Special Procedures. We must continue to draw on them to the fullest extent".

However, others in the Council do not share our aims, particularly with regard to the country-specific special rapporteurs and the independence of the system as a whole. We will continue to push hard, against opposition, for the renewal of mandates and for the rapporteurs' continued independence and autonomy.

United Nations

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the way in which the principle of responsibility to protect has been implemented by the United Nations in the last 12 months. [140077]

Mr. McCartney: The UK continues to lead efforts in the UN to maintain and build international consensus on how to implement the commitments made at the World summit in 2005 in relation to the Responsibility to Protect principle. UN Security Council resolution 1674 (2006), concerned with the protection of civilians in armed conflict, explicitly affirmed the World summit outcome on Responsibility to Protect. The UK has worked to embed this commitment in relevant country specific resolutions. One example is Sudan, where the UK was the main sponsor of resolutions 1706 (2006) and 1755 (2007) which make direct reference to the Responsibility to Protect provisions of the World Summit Outcome Document.

Responsibility to Protect remains a political commitment rather than a legal obligation, but it is in the UK's interests to make sure this commitment holds.

We will continue work to apply the Responsibility to Protect principle to achieve appropriate and speedy responses to protect vulnerable populations against genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

United Nations Security Council

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1177W, on the United Nations Security Council, what proposals were put forward by the United Kingdom at *(a)* the informal Security Council discussion on Sudan on 16 April and *(b)* any subsequent discussions for action to be taken by the Security Council on Darfur. [136492]

Margaret Beckett: At the informal meeting of the Security Council that I chaired on 16 April, I welcomed the Sudanese Government's announcement that they would accept the UN's Heavy Support Package for the African Union (AU) Mission in Sudan. I stressed that it represented only limited progress; five months after the Addis Ababa agreement, Darfur still had no viable cease-fire, political process or agreement to the hybrid AU-UN force. Since then, we have been pressing the case for further sanctions in the Security Council, if the Government of Sudan and rebel movements do not co-operate fully. These would include further targeted sanctions against individuals engaged in violence or responsible for authorising it; expanding the arms embargo to cover the whole of Sudan; and measures to allow better monitoring of the illegal use of aircraft in Darfur.

United Nations: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals she has for reform and strengthening of UN human rights mechanisms. [140078]

Mr. McCartney: The UK continues to support reform of the UN's human rights mechanisms, begun at the UN World summit in 2005. We worked actively for the establishment of the new UN Human Rights Council (HRC). We stood for election to the HRC last year to enable us to contribute to the Council's early development to the fullest possible extent. That development is ongoing, with key decisions on the Council's future shape and tools due in June this year. Throughout negotiations on these, we have consistently

pushed for the strongest and most effective mechanisms possible. We believe that a balanced and fair system of universal periodic review, and the continued independence and autonomy of the Council's special procedures, are particularly important. We have also encouraged innovative working methods at the Council, such as focused panel discussions. We continue to support efforts, including those of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, to mainstream human rights throughout the UN system in order to enhance the UN's human rights work overall. We also support efforts to improve the efficiency of the UN treaty monitoring bodies, and to increase ratifications and improve implementation of UN human rights treaties. The ultimate success of these reform efforts, however, inevitably lies with the UN membership as a whole.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest recorded journey time was for non-human primates imported into the United Kingdom for research purposes from *(a)* China, *(b)* Mauritius, *(c)* Indonesia, *(d)* the Philippines, *(e)* Vietnam and *(f)* Israel in each year since 1997. [137525]

Joan Ryan: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 requires that non-human primates are only used in scientific procedures if no other species is suitable. In deciding whether to grant a licence for any regulated procedure, the 1986 Act requires that the likely benefits of the programme are weighed against the likely adverse effects on the animals concerned and that there are no alternatives which, either, replace animal use entirely, reduce the number of animals needed or refine the procedures to minimise suffering. We must also be satisfied that the procedures are likely to achieve the stated objectives.

According to our records, the longest actual or estimated journey times for non-human primates imported into the United Kingdom for research purposes in the period 1999 to 2006 were as set out in the following table. We hold no information for 1997 or 1998.

In accordance with measures introduced in 1996, the Home Office only requires an estimated total journey time to be provided prior to each acquisition and that, after each acquisition, confirmation is provided that the importation was in accordance with what had been authorised. There is no obligation for licence holders to provide a detailed journey record or a precise total journey time.

	China	*Mauritius*	*Indonesia*	*Philippines*	*Vietnam*	*Israel*
1999	46.75	34.00	No Imports	NTA[1]	No Imports	[1]NTA
2000	75.00	51.00	No Imports	No Imports	No Imports	15.00
2001	65.50	56.00	No Imports	No Imports	63.00	14.50
2002	59.00	54.50	No Imports	No Imports	41.50	18.00
2003	[2]60.00	55.00	No Imports	No Imports	[2]65.50	19.75
2004	75.00	[2]40.00	No Imports	No Imports	32.25	14.00
2005	58.00	[2]40.00	No Imports	No Imports	34.50	No Imports
2006	54.80	[2]40.00	No Imports	No Imports	[2]33.50	No Imports

[1] No journey times available.
[2] Estimated times, actual times are likely to have been shorter.
Note:
Journey times in hours

Animal Experiments: Standards

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received in the last three years on the adequacy of monitoring by Government inspectors of animals used in laboratory experiments. [139280]

Joan Ryan: There have been no formal representations to the Secretary of State about the adequacy of monitoring by Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectors of animals used in laboratory experiments within the last three years. Members of the Inspectorate are all medical or veterinary graduates, are highly professional and dedicated, and have the complete confidence of Government Ministers. Information about their activities and achievements are published in the Inspectorate's annual report.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in 2006 were registered as fines; and how many Penalty Notices for Disorder issued in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005 were paid (i) within the 21 day suspended enforcement period and (ii) outside the 21 day suspended enforcement period. [137773]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Provisional data for 2006 on the number of Penalty Notices for Disorder are currently available only for total numbers PNDs issued; detailed data for 2006 will be available when the data are published in the summer.

Data from the Penalty Notices for Disorder Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform show that in 2004, of the 33,078 PNDs which were paid in full, 24,126 were paid within the initial 21-day suspended enforcement period with the remaining 8,952 paid outside the suspended enforcement period. In 2005 there were 77,247 paid in full, with 56,823 paid within the initial 21-day suspended enforcement period and the remaining 20,424 paid outside the suspended enforcement period.

Antisocial Behaviour: Motorcycles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of antisocial behaviour connected to the use of mini motors were recorded in *(a)* each year since 1997 and *(b)* January to April 2007. [139555]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not collect this information centrally.

British Crime Survey

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had on improving the *(a)* quantity and *(b)* quality of information (i) collected and (ii) published by the British Crime Survey. [139593]

Mr. McNulty: Following recommendations from the Smith review of crime statistics, the Secretary of State for the Home Department has discussed proposals for extending the scope of the survey to under 16's and other groups and to set up a Survey and Statistics advisory group which can advise on the quality and coverage of the BCS. Work has commenced to take these proposals forward.

Crime: Detection Rates

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the trends in crime clear-up rates since 2000. [138481]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The overall detection rate was 24 per cent. in 2000-01. The detection rate remained broadly stable between 2001-02 and 2003-04 but has since risen to 26 per cent. in 2004-05 and 27 per cent. in 2005-06.

The last two years has seen an increased focus on sanctioned detections which can be largely attributed to the police performance assessment framework (PPAF). The sanctioned detection rate was 21 per cent. in 2004-05 and rose to 24 per cent. in 2005-06.

Crimes Against Property: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of criminal damage were recorded in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of such incidents led to a conviction in each year. [138909]

Mr. Coaker: The statistics are not available in the form requested. Recorded criminal damage statistics relate to offences and convictions data relate to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and conviction data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are therefore not directly comparable.

Figures for the number of offences recorded and the number of convictions are provided in the tables. Recorded crime data at borough level are only available from 2000-01.

Table 1: Recorded offences of criminal damage by London borough, 2000-01 and 2001-02

Borough	2000-01	2001-02
Barking and Dagenham	3,909	3,607
Barnet	5,064	5,092
Bexley	4,938	5,726
Brent	4,349	4,520
Bromley	5,791	5,994
Camden	4,633	5,073
City of Westminster	5,104	4,829
Croydon	6,487	6,386
Ealing	6,217	5,818
Enfield	3,826	4,207
Greenwich	5,057	5,046
Hackney	4,828	4,898
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,718	3,719
Haringey	4,699	5,043
Harrow	2,732	2,819
Havering	3,855	4,317
Hillingdon	5,083	5,790
Hounslow	4,871	4,883
Islington	4,658	4,632
Kensington and Chelsea	2,529	2,431
Kingston upon Thames	2,649	2,602
Lambeth	6,384	6,509
Lewisham	4,549	4,669
Merton	3,508	3,420
Newham	6,282	5,681
Redbridge	3,750	4,135
Richmond upon Thames	2,841	3,171
Southwark	5,279	5,517
Sutton	3,428	3,496
Tower Hamlets	4,608	4,710
Waltham Forest	3,623	4,038
Wandsworth	4,795	4,874
Total	144,042	147,652

Table 2: Recorded offences of criminal damage by London borough, 2002-05 to 2005-06

Borough	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	3,495	4,066	3,874	3,953
Barnet	5,066	5,273	4,690	4,410
Bexley	4,563	4,843	4,720	4,682
Brent	4,252	4,473	3,921	3,610
Bromley	5,973	6,510	6,627	6,241
Camden	5,280	4,899	4,053	3,723
City of Westminster	4,725	4,464	3,925	3,247
Croydon	5,657	5,737	5,474	5,079
Ealing	5,258	5,661	4,679	4,816
Enfield	4,414	4,675	4,278	3,946
Greenwich	5,337	5,759	5,550	5,395
Hackney	4,717	4,241	4,086	3,299
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,450	3,168	2,950	2,492
Haringey	4,885	4,731	4,393	3,861
Harrow	2,694	2,660	2,644	2,222

Table 2: Recorded offences of criminal damage by London borough, 2002-05 to 2005-06

Borough	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Havering	4,091	4,577	4,262	3,538
Hillingdon	5,695	6,451	5,498	5,303
Hounslow	5,248	4,642	4,414	3,904
Islington	4,662	4,891	4,302	3,917
Kensington and Chelsea	2,624	2,293	2,099	1,789
Kingston upon Thames	2,738	3,093	2,835	2,785
Lambeth	6,333	5,928	5,479	4,769
Lewisham	4,152	4,446	4,643	4,562
Merton	3,156	3,357	2,896	2,667
Newham	5,701	5,721	4,450	4,286
Redbridge	4,071	4,234	3,596	2,792
Richmond upon Thames	3,278	2,834	3,234	3,020
Southwark	5,777	6,030	5,414	3,892
Sutton	3,174	3,524	3,904	3,170
Tower Hamlets	5,278	5,036	4,427	3,720
Waltham Forest	3,986	4,497	4,045	3,671
Wandsworth	4,525	4,631	4,220	3,509
Total	144,255	147,345	135,582	122,270

Note:
1. The National Crime Recording standard was introduced in April 2002. Figures for earlier years are therefore not directly comparable.

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of criminal damage, broken down by London court area, 1996 to 2005[1,2]

London Court Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
City of London										
Guildhall Justice rooms	2	9	7	4	6	22	12	20	14	2
Inner London Courts										
Bow Street	61	45	27	54	38	40	30	34	35	22
Camberwell Green/Tower Bridge	90	137	171	201	129	127	133	151	143	121
Greenwich and Woolwich	87	113	84	108	120	114	115	84	63	70
Highbury Corner	157	153	152	122	98	72	76	125	106	70
Horseferry Road	62	84	69	74	81	74	74	96	78	59
Marylebone	38	49	48	61	15	5	4	4	3	5
South Western	61	63	61	67	61	60	71	86	67	30
Thames	34	42	9	119	91	91	78	70	70	69
West London	32	74	81	63	86	77	95	93	87	55
Inner London Juvenile Courts	110	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total: Inner London	732	774	703	869	719	660	676	743	652	501
Outer London Courts										
Barking and Dagenham	22	30	38	53	35	40	33	26	34	32
Barnet	35	42	47	46	31	22	33	40	58	72
Bexley	26	23	33	46	28	28	41	28	63	67
Brent	34	39	45	45	36	26	24	21	24	17
Bromley	25	36	27	21	18	27	32	22	45	35
Croydon	40	63	78	49	75	63	71	49	70	73
Ealing	34	58	66	40	25	31	33	33	33	19
Enfield	26	42	44	29	30	22	29	17	23	30
Haringey	42	50	42	58	41	32	39	35	24	23
Harrow	24	21	31	28	11	25	26	13	17	27
Havering	29	38	39	55	36	27	33	37	22	29
Hillingdon	31	29	47	72	49	60	56	60	71	88
Hounslow	44	56	72	61	52	42	43	22	26	16
Kingston-upon-Thames	23	28	28	41	32	16	14	10	15	19
Merton	26	38	46	39	36	34	38	46	38	46
Newham	34	43	45	56	56	55	52	58	49	57
Redbridge	21	47	36	43	32	23	20	19	28	20
Richmond upon Thames	20	32	32	32	35	39	35	31	35	33
Sutton	17	18	25	30	30	20	26	15	12	11
Waltham Forest	44	60	53	44	38	37	23	30	13	23

Table 3: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts of criminal damage, broken down by London court area, 1996 to 2005[1,2]

London Court Area	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Total - Outer London	597	793	874	888	726	669	701	612	700	737
Total - Greater London	1,331	1,576	1,584	1,761	1,451	1,351	1,389	1,375	1,366	1,240

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used. *Source:* Office for criminal Justice Reform - ref IDS 234-07

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136854]

Mr. McNulty: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Domestic Violence: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic violence were recorded in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [139140]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

Drug Interventions Programme

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice his Department has given to intensive service drug intervention programme (DIP) teams in London on changes in funding to DIPs. [139053]

Mr. Coaker: The detailed spending of funds allocated to partnerships as part of the drug interventions programme is a matter for the partnerships who receive that funding.

There has been significant investment in the drug interventions programme—over £500 million since its commencement. In the context of the changes of the funding allocations for 2007-08, the Home Office, through its close work with the Government offices for the regions and colleagues from the National Treatment Agency, is encouraging partnerships to concentrate on protecting front line operational services which are the key to getting drug misusing offenders into treatment. This might be achieved, for example, by looking at administrative overheads, working patterns and other areas for efficiencies, including whether funding provided for start-up costs can now be deployed in support of operations.

Drug Interventions Programme: City of Westminster

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the likely impact on the rates of drug related acquisitive crime of changes in funding levels for Westminster city council's drug intervention programmes for 2007-08. [139055]

Mr. Coaker: There is a well established link between certain acquisitive crimes and drug misuse. Drug treatment has been shown to significantly reduce drug related offending which is why through the Drug Interventions Programme over 75,000 offenders have entered treatment since the beginning of the programme in 2003.

The Home Office is working closely with the regional Government offices, including London and colleagues from the National Treatment Agency, to encourage partnerships to ensure that operational capacity—which is the key to getting offenders into treatment and reducing crime—continues to have top priority in the new budget allocations. The Drug Interventions Programme remains on course to meet its target of getting 1,000 offenders a week into treatment by April 2008.

Drug Interventions Programme: Greater London

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he consulted the Metropolitan police prior to announcing the funding reductions to intensive service drug intervention programmes within London. [138646]

Mr. Coaker: The Metropolitan police receives funding directly from the Home Office, as part of the Drug Interventions Programme, to support drug testing operations in some Metropolitan police custody suites. The Metropolitan police have been consulted about the funding of those services in 2007-08 for which the budget has not been reduced.

Where funding streams to drug action team partnerships have been reduced, of which the Metropolitan police are part, representatives of regional Government office in London and the National Treatment Agency were consulted to ensure that local and regional perspectives were taken into account.

Emergency Calls

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* cost per operator and *(b)* total cost was to each police force of training emergency telephone operators in each of the last 10 years. [139484]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by police forces on outside consultants to provide customer service training to emergency telephone operators in each of the last 10 years. [139485]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Forensic Science

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crime scene investigators are in post in each police force in England and Wales; and what percentage of these are civilian. [138480]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics. The available information is the number of police officers and police staff who are primarily involved in the function "scenes of crime". These data are given in the following table.

The "scenes of crime" function refers to those staff who are predominately employed in providing scientific support, or supporting those who provide scientific support, including scenes of crime officers, their supervisors and those engaged in administrative duties relating thereto.

Scenes of crime function[1,2] (FTE)[3] in England and Wales by police force as at 31 March 2006

	Total number of officers/staff	Percentage of civilian staff in total number
Avon and Somerset[5]	73	100
Bedfordshire	42	100
Cambridgeshire	0	—
Cheshire	41	100
Cleveland	36	75
Cumbria	34	100
Derbyshire	62	100
Devon and Cornwall	75	89
Dorset	33	94
Durham	38	97
Essex	72	34
Gloucestershire[4]	8	—
Greater Manchester	145	95
Hampshire	103	66
Hertfordshire	54	94
Humberside	51	86
Kent	95	100
Lancashire	74	93
Leicestershire	46	100
Lincolnshire	0	—
London, City of	13	54
Merseyside	89	92
Metropolitan Police	732	92
Norfolk	40	100
Northamptonshire	42	100
Northumbria	70	62
North Yorkshire	36	95
Nottinghamshire	51	100
South Yorkshire	78	74
Staffordshire	50	100
Suffolk	24	100
Surrey	48	100
Sussex	81	92
Thames Valley	92	98
Warwickshire	21	100
West Mercia	56	100
West Midlands[4]	2	—
West Yorkshire	146	97
Wiltshire	26	96
Dyfed-Powys	13	52
Gwent	39	62
North Wales[4]	0	—
South Wales	36	3

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for individual chief constables.
[2] Overall force totals including those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The data in the function breakdown are from unpublished sources and therefore totals may not match totals found in the published data.
[3] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the totals in this table and totals in similar published tables.
[4] Data are not available for police staff only.

Genetics: Databases

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what personal and biometric data is collected by police when an arrest is made; and how much of this data is retained when a suspect is released without being charged. [140248]

Mr. McNulty: Under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 the police may photograph any person detained at a police station. They may also take a photograph elsewhere than at a police station of a person who has been arrested for an offence. Photographs taken under these provisions may be retained, regardless of the outcome of the arrest, and shared for purposes relating to the prevention or detection of crime, the investigation of an offence, the conduct of a prosecution or the enforcement of a sentence.

PACE also enables the police to take fingerprints, non-intimate samples, intimate samples and footwear impressions from individuals arrested for a recordable offence. Intimate samples may only be taken on the authority of an inspector (if he or she has reasonable grounds to believe that such an impression or sample will tend to confirm or disprove the suspect's involvement in a recordable offence) and with the person's consent.

Photographs, fingerprints, non-intimate samples and footwear impressions taken under PACE may be retained, regardless of the outcome of the arrest, but cannot be used by any person except for purposes related to the prevention or detection of crime, the

investigation of an offence, the conduct of a prosecution or the identification of a deceased person.

Chief constables retain the operational discretion to decide whether or not fingerprints and samples will be retained in individual cases. To ensure national consistency regarding retention and deletion of fingerprints and samples, the Association of Chief Police Officers has devised guidelines for chief officers on the consideration of applications from individuals for the removal of their samples and the procedure that should apply.

Under PACE code of practice C, when a person is arrested and taken into police custody the custody officer must carry out a risk assessment for the individual. This will include seeking information from the detainee around their history and any health issues that the police need to be aware of to enable the safe detention of the individual. This information will be recorded and retained on the Police National Computer.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 9 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 536-7W, on human trafficking, how many police operations were carried out prior to the 30 convictions referred to in the Answer. [136547]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* It is not possible to state how many police operations on human trafficking were carried out prior to the 30 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation referred to. Operations often have a number of different facets, for example, facilitation, use of false documents and trafficking. In some cases evidence of trafficking is found as a result of police activity on other forms of criminality.

Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions he has had with the Department for Education and Skills on the next scheduled date for a meeting of the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group; how his Department will be represented at that meeting; and what the report-back process will be for Ministers in his Department; [138763]

(2) if he will agree with the Department for Education and Skills suitable dates for a programme of meetings of the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group over the next 12 months. [138768]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The next meeting of the Strategic Oversight Group, which is chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers and supported by the Home Office, is planned for the early part of July 2007. A future programme of meetings will be considered in consultation with members of the Strategic Oversight Group.

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1877W, on the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, on what basis the decision was taken not to consult police staff associations in advance of the publication of the consultation paper. [138781]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The public consultation paper on the review of PACE contains no specific proposals for change. Instead, the consultation exercise aims to encourage stakeholders, practitioners and the public to identify where potential revision of the 1984 Act may increase operational effectiveness. As we are asking police representative associations to initiate proposals for change, no prior formal consultation took place.

Police: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1058W, on the police.uk website, when he expects the Association of Chief Police Officers and the National Policing Improvement Agency to report on an alternative solution that recognises the internal capability of police forces; and if he will make a statement. [139594]

Mr. McNulty: Provision of an alternative solution to the police.uk website is a matter for the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA), working with the police service. I understand from the NPIA chief executive that a new system has been developed and is currently being tested. The results of that process are expected over the next month.

Police: Terrorism

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in each police authority area have been equipped with specialist training skills in order to deal with the terrorist attack under the Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Resilience Programme. [140552]

Mr. McNulty: In excess of 8,300 police officers have been trained in specialist CBRN skills; although not all of these will be available due to staff turnover and role changes. The most recent audit carried out by the Police National CBRN Centre (mid-April 2007) recorded 7,249 fully trained, equipped and deployable CBRN police officers in the UK. The number of trained officers in each police authority is not disclosed for security reasons.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was provided to the Police National Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Centre in each of the last two years. [140553]

Mr. McNulty: The running costs for the Police National CBRN Centre (covering accommodation, salary and overhead expenses) were approximately £2.9 million in financial year 2005-06 and £3.3 million in financial year 2006-07.

Public Order Offences

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many penalty notices for disorder issued in each of the last five years were paid in full within the 21 day limit established by the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001; [137157]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder were issued in each of the last five years to individuals aged *(a)* 10 to 15 years old, *(b)* 15 to 16 years old and *(c)* *over* 16 years old; [137158]

(3) how many and what percentage of penalty notices for disorder issued in each of the last five years were *(a)* successfully and *(b)* unsuccessfully contested in court. [137159]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Penalty Notice for Disorder (PND) Scheme was rolled out to all police forces in England and Wales in 2004 under provisions in the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, allowing on-the-spot fines to be issued to offenders aged 16 and over for a range of minor disorder offences. Prior to this the police did not have the option of issuing on the spot fines for the offences covered by the scheme, having instead to issue a formal caution, reprimand or final warning or refer offenders to the court system to bring them to justice.

Data from the PND database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of PNDs issued to offenders aged over 16 in 2004, 2005 as well as provisional data for 2006 are provided in the table, along with the number of PNDs paid in full and contested in court for 2004 and 2005. Information on whether the contested PNDs were successfully contested is not centrally collected.

Data for 2006 on the number of PNDs paid in full within the 21-day period are currently unavailable as the data for this period have not been finalized.

The evaluation of the pilots undertaken in six police areas for issuing penalty notices for disorder to 10 to 15-year-olds was completed in November 2006 and is currently going through the final quality assurance procedures prior to publication. Until that process is complete we are not able to provide any figures relating to 10 to 15-year-olds.

Number of PNDs issued to offenders aged 16 and over, the number who paid the fine within 21 days and the number contested in court England and Wales 2004, 2005 and 2006 provisional data[1]

	PNDs issued to offenders aged 16 and over	*Number paid in full within 21 days*	*Number contested in court*
2004	63,639	24,126	360
2005	146,481	56,823	1,588
2006 (provisional)	192,583	—	—

— =Data not available as described in draft.

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data are extracted from large scale data collection systems provided by the police. As a consequence, care should be taken to assure that these data collection processes, and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Respect Task Force: Advertising

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1145W, on the Respect Task Force, if he will provide a breakdown of how the advertising figure of £35,580.32 has been spent since 2005. [139596]

Mr. Coaker: Since its establishment in September 2005, the Respect Task Force has spent £35,580.32 on advertising.

This breaks down into £13,850.32 for advertising on Respect academies and £21,730.00 for advertising on Respect Awards for Taking a Stand (RAFTAs).

Security Service Tribunal

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methods are available to members of the public to access the findings of the Security Service Tribunal before its abolition in 2000. [140280]

Mr. McNulty: The Security Service Tribunal was independent of Government. It is a matter of public record that the Security Service Tribunal did not make a determination in favour of any complainant. There is no public access to past complaints or findings.

Sexual Offences: Young People

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of training of front line police officers on evidence collection to support prosecution with particular reference to cases where teenagers have been sexually assaulted or raped in the latest period for which figures are available. [139785]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 25 May 2007]:* There are a number of police training modules covering sexual offences for police officers of different ranks and roles. There is also a relevant module for police probationers as part of the Initial Police Learning and Development Programme (IPLDP).

However, there are no courses specifically designed for cases involving "teenagers".

General probationer and specialist courses are developed centrally but delivered locally by all 43 forces. Information on the delivery cost is not collected centrally.

Special Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the notices of external employment have been given by special advisers in his Department in the last two years. [105573]

Mr. Byrne: There are no records of any special advisers in the Home Office giving notice of external employment in the period from 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will estimate the likely effect of the replacement of film cameras with digital speed cameras on the number of driving offences detected. [139670]

Mr. Coaker: It is a matter for individual chief officers of police to decide which type of approved speed camera to use. Our current estimate is that while a digital camera would generate increased efficiency in the processing of offences, it would not of itself detect more offences.

Terrorism: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what counter-terrorist exercises took place in the West Midlands region in each of the last three years. [140550]

Mr. McNulty: In July 2004 there was a live play counter terrorism exercise (Exercise Horizon), which was led by the Government office for the West Midlands and West Midlands police in partnership with regional and national stake holders, including the Home Office.

This was followed by Exercises Horizon two and three in January and March 2005 respectively, which were in tabletop format to consider further response issues with local authorities and senior executives.

Tabletop exercises were also held with Staffordshire police in November 2004, the West Midlands police in February 2006 and with West Mercia constabulary in June 2006.

Young Offender Institutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were committed to young offenders' institutions in *(a)* the year preceding 1 May 1997 and *(b)* each of the last three years. [136552]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

Figures on the numbers of persons received into prison establishments in England and Wales in 1996-97 and 2003 to 2005 can be found in the following table, by age band. There were no children under 15 years received into prison establishments in either of the periods.

The information is taken from Table 7.6 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, which gives figures by calendar year, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library.

Receptions into prison establishments[1] under an immediate custodial sentence: 1996-1997 and 2003-2005

Males and females 15 to 17	*Number of persons*
1996	5,285
1997	5,617
2003	4,918
2004	5,172
2005	5,175

[1] Excludes police cells.

Note:

Figures taken from table 7.6 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005 found at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosbl806section7.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 4 June 2007

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department have had with the Law Officers on an interpretation of the Abortion Act 1967 (as amended) that would allow nurses to perform abortions; and if she will make a statement. [136793]

Caroline Flint: There is a long standing convention, followed by successive Governments, that neither the fact that the Law Officers have advised on a particular matter, nor the substance of any advice they may have given is publicly disclosed. The purpose of the convention is to enable the Government to obtain frank and full legal advice in confidence.

The Department last issued guidance in this area in 1994 in the joint Chief Medical Officer/Chief Nursing letter PL CMO(94)8, PL CNO(94)10 'Termination of Pregnancy by Medical Methods: The role of the registered nurse or midwife and others who are not registered medical practitioners'. One of the requirements of the Abortion Act 1967 is that a pregnancy may only be terminated by a registered medical practitioner. The guidance states that for medical abortions, the practitioner is not required to perform personally each and every action that is needed for the treatment but must personally decide upon and initiate the process of medical induction and take responsibility throughout. This is in line with the legal case Royal College of Nursing *v.* Department of Health and Social Security [1981] AC 800, [1981] 1 All ER 545, HL.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the long-term effects of abortion on women that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if she will make a statement; [136800]

(2) what research has been *(a)* funded and *(b)* carried out by her Department on the symptoms of post-abortion depression; and if she will make a statement. [136802]

Caroline Flint: The safety and psychological effects of abortion, both immediate and longer-term, were considered by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in its updated evidence-based guideline, 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion (2004)', copies of which are available in the Library. In updating the guidance, the RCOG took account of the most recent national and international evidence. This is taken into account in the recommendations concerning information for women and abortion aftercare.

The Department has no current plans to commission any research in this area, but keeps all new and emerging evidence under review.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will amend the abortion notification form to distinguish between physical and mental health grounds for abortion; and if she will make a statement. [136803]

Caroline Flint: The section of the abortion notification form that requests information on grounds already requires doctors to distinguish between physical and mental health grounds for abortion.

The form was redesigned in 2002, following a consultation with stakeholders. We have no current plans to make further changes to the form.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospitals in England had acute accident and emergency facilities and accepted acute admissions in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135349]

Andy Burnham: Information is not collected in the format requested. National health service trusts self-report the number of accident and emergency (A&E) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department for the three types of A&E on a quarterly basis. The information available is provided in the following tables.

Information on number of type one (major) A&E services is as follows:

	Number of type one (major) A&E services
2001-02	196
2002-03	209
2003-04	208
2004-05	207
2005-06	203
2006-07	204

Note:
Position is at end March.
Source:
Department of Health QMAE dataset.

Prior to 2000-01 trusts submitted written information on whether or not they provided A&E services. They did not submit a count of the number of services provided. The following table shows information for the number of trusts that said "yes" to providing type one (major) A&E services for the period available.

	Number of trusts reporting type 1 (major) A&E services
1996-97	205
1997-98	202
1998-99	194
1999-2000	186
2000-01	179

Note:
Position is at end March.
Source:
Department of Health KH03 dataset.

Information on number of national health service trusts reporting emergency admissions via type 1 (major) A&E departments is as follows:

	Number of trusts reporting emergency admissions via type 1 A&E departments
1996-97	205
1997-98	202
1998-99	194
1999-2000	186
2000-01	179
2001-02	168
2002-03	159
2003-04	155
2004-05	155
2005-06	155
2006-07	156

Source:
Department of Health, QMAE dataset.

This does not include planned admissions in acute specialities.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS organisations reported a large number of delays in the transfer of care for patients at accident and emergency who were brought by ambulance, referred to on page 12 of her Department's Winter Report 2006-07, published on 3 April 2007; for what reasons the delays in transfer of care occurred; and if she will make a statement. [135877]

Andy Burnham: The statement

"a small number of organisations reported a large number of delays in the transfer of care for patients at A&E who were brought in by ambulance"

in the Department's Winter Report 2006-07 arises from an assessment of information made available to the Department by strategic health authorities (SHAs) through routine winter self-reporting arrangements.

From the information made available to the Department the trusts which reported the largest numbers of ambulances waiting last winter for transfer of care were:

Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals National Health Service Trust;

Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust;

Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Trust;

Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust;

Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust; and

Weston Area Healthcare NHS Trust.

It is for local NHS organisations, overseen by SHAs, to ensure action locally in line with agreed escalation plans to overcome these operational problems. The reasons given for delays included instances of pressure on A&E departments and hospital beds from large numbers of patients attending, as well as temporary restrictions caused by infections.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of admissions to NHS accident and emergency departments were alcohol-related in the most recent period for which figures are available. [135674]

Caroline Flint: Information on attendances at accident and emergency departments (A&E) for alcohol-related reasons is not held centrally. Listed as follows are admissions via accident and emergency to national health service hospitals in England for alcohol-related conditions. Also detailed are alcohol-related admissions as a percentage of total admissions via A&E.

Count of finished admission episodes where the patient was admitted via accident and emergency departments and count of finished admission episodes where the patient was admitted via accident and emergency with a primary or secondary diagnosis of alcohol-related illness for 2005-06.

NHS hospitals, England 2005-06

	Number
Total admissions via A&E	3,387,499
Admissions with alcohol-related illness via A&E	149,865
Alcohol-related admissions as a percentage of total admissions via A&E	4.42

Notes:
These figures represent a count of all finished in year admission episodes where the method of admission was coded as 21 Emergency: via accident and emergency services, including the casualty department of the provider; or 28 Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another provider.

Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

All diagnoses count of episodes
These figures represent a count of all finished in-year admission episodes where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.

Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.

Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.

The following diagnosis codes were used: F10 Mental and Behavioural Disorders Due to Use of Alcohol; K70 Alcoholic Liver Disease; T51 Toxic Effect of Alcohol.

Data quality
HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS Trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Acute Hospital Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 778, on acute hospital services, what cost was incurred by Surrey Primary Care Trust

in employing the Matrix consultancy for the purpose of producing the document "Squaring the Triangle" on the reconfiguration of health services in Surrey; and whether she plans to visit the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford in 2007. [136890]

Caroline Flint: This is a matter for Surrey Primary Care Trust.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has no current plans to visit the Royal Surrey County Hospital in Guildford in 2007.

Aerials: Health Hazards

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process is in place to continue to review the potential health impacts of mobile telephone masts; and what plans she has to report any changes in the scientific assessment. [138084]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division (HPA-RPD) continually monitors the health impact of mobile phone technologies. The research field was comprehensively reviewed in 'Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields - Report of an independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation' (Documents of the NRPB, Volume 14, No 2 2003).

This report concludes that the weight of evidence now available does not suggest that there are adverse health effects from exposures to radiofrequency (RF) fields below guideline levels, but the published research on RF exposures and health has limitations, and mobile phones have only been in widespread use for a relatively short time. The possibility therefore remains open that there could be health effects from exposure to RF fields below guideline levels; hence continued research is needed.

The report specifically mentions base stations (mobile telephone masts) saying exposure levels from living near to mobile phone base stations are extremely low, and the overall evidence indicates that they are unlikely to pose a risk to health.

The full report is available in the Library and also at the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpb/abstracts/absdl4-2.htm

The mobile telecommunications health research programme, jointly funded by Government and industry, is due to report later this year. Many of the studies supported under this programme have already been published and the details are available on its website at www.mthr.org.uk

AIDS: Medical Treatments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress she has made towards the target of universal access to treatment for all those with AIDS in the UK by 2010. [134507]

Caroline Flint: The national health service already provides access to treatment for HIV and AIDS for all people ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, including refugees and asylum seekers. Data from the annual Survey of People with Diagnosed HIV indicated that in 2005 there were 47,517 individuals with diagnosed HIV seen for care in the UK.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will *(a)* publish a review of the Government's first alcohol strategy and *(b)* publish details of the second alcohol strategy; what procedure was used to consult on the second alcohol strategy; and what measures she plans to use to assess the performance of the alcohol strategies. [136737]

Caroline Flint: The Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England was published in 2004. It contained a commitment for its review during 2007 and this review is under way. We expect to publish a renewed strategy very shortly; this will set out the progress made towards the goals of the 2004 strategy and indicate how the progress which has been made already will be built upon in the future.

The renewed strategy will set out the outcomes to be achieved. After publication, we will discuss how best to achieve the outcomes with stakeholders, and consult as appropriate on detailed proposals.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1771W, whether her Department has made an assessment of the potential for fiscal incentives to promote responsible drinking. [137367]

Caroline Flint: Tax decisions are made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, taking account of a range of factors, including health.

Alcoholic Drinks: Rehabilitation

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of her Department's alcohol treatment strategy; whether she has means to gather best practice from different parts of the country; and if she will make a statement. [139599]

Caroline Flint: The "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England" was published in 2004. It contained a commitment for its review during 2007 and this review is under way. We expect to publish a renewed strategy very shortly; this will set out the progress made towards the goals of the 2004 strategy and indicate how the progress which has been made already will be built upon in the future.

Ongoing liaison with stakeholders has meant that officials and Ministers from the Government Departments dealing with the different aspects of alcohol policy are aware of many examples of good practice, both at regional and local level. Along with developments in the evidence base, examples of good practice are an important component of the review of progress and will also be drawn upon to support work to achieve the outcomes being set out in the renewed strategy.

Alzheimer's Disease: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997; and at what net ingredient cost. [135893]

Caroline Flint: The number of prescription items and net ingredient cost of drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (Donepezil, Galantamine, Memantine and Rivastigmine[1]) dispensed in the community in England is in the following table.

[1] Rivastigmine is also licensed for dementia associated with Parkinson's disease and some of the data may relate to prescriptions dispensed for that condition.

	Prescription items (Thousand)	*Net ingredient cost (£ million)*
1997	7.2	656.8
1998	20.7	1,948.4
1999	34.6	3,215.5
2000	53.8	4,874.0
2001	122.1	11,005.3
2002	231.3	20,567.4
2003	358.2	31,347.5
2004	501.6	42,765.4
2005	630.4	49,256.8
2006	760.1	58,968.7

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Ambulance Services: Paramedical Staff

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether all ambulances carry paramedics. [139000]

Andy Burnham: There is no regular collection of data on this subject. However national health service ambulance trusts have indicated that there is a paramedic on the majority of ambulance vehicles in England.

The number of paramedics in England has increased by over 30 per cent. during the last decade[1]. Work force plans developed by NHS ambulance trusts in England indicate that the number of paramedics will increase further over the next five years.

Copies of the latest census are available at www.ic.nhs.uk.

[1] *Source:*
The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of changes in performance of ambulance trusts since trusts were merged in 2006. [133827]

Andy Burnham: Annual national health service ambulance trust performance data for 2006-07 are due to be published this summer, which will provide validated data for ambulance trusts post-merger.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the cost effectiveness models used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence take into account potential savings in work-related benefits of treatments which enable people with rheumatoid arthritis to remain in or return to work. [136380]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) published "Guide to the Methods of Technology Appraisal", states that, among other things, an appraisal committee may consider:

"significant resource costs imposed outside the NHS... [including] direct costs on patients or carers (for example, travel costs) or costs to other public sector organisations, but will not normally include productivity costs".

NICE does not model the impact of its assessments on direct benefit payments, but the methodology NICE uses for assessing health-related quality of life incorporates the benefits to individuals of being able to work.

Aspartame

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will take steps to ban the use of aspartame in drink and food marketed for consumption by children; and if she will make a statement; [137866]

(2) if she will make it a requirement for manufacturers of drink and food containing aspartame to include in the labelling a warning of possible side effects; and if she will make a statement. [137867]

Caroline Flint: I am advised by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) that it has no plans to propose a ban on aspartame in foods for consumption by children. Legislation on sweeteners and other food additives is harmonised throughout the European Union and all additives permitted for use such as aspartame have been regularly assessed for safety by the independent scientific committees that advise the European Commission and the United Kingdom Government.

In 2001, at the request of the FSA, the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Food undertook a comprehensive review of the safety of aspartame. A further review of aspartame was carried out in 2006 by the European Food Safety Authority. Both reviews concluded that there was no evidence to suggest a need to revise their previous risk assessment of the sweetener, which concluded that aspartame is safe for use in food.

Foods that contain aspartame must be labelled 'contains a source of phenylalanine' as a warning to the small group of people with the inherited disorder phenylketonuria who cannot metabolise the amino acid phenylalanine effectively.

Avian Influenza

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many members of staff from *(a)* her Department, *(b)* her Department's non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* the Food Standards Agency have visited Hungary in relation to the inquiry into the

outbreak of avian influenza at Holton; what plans she has to send further staff to Hungary; and if she will make a statement. [136134]

Caroline Flint: Staff from the Department, its non-departmental bodies, or the Food Standards Agency have not made any visits to Hungary in relation to the inquiry into the outbreak of avian influenza in poultry at Holton and there are no plans so to visit.

Inquiries into the source of the outbreak in poultry at Holton are a matter for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Blood: Donors

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department spent on increasing blood donations at regional transfusion centres in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984; and if she will make a statement; [136629]

(2) how much her Department spent on the production of blood products in the UK for use by haemophiliacs in the UK in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1988 and *(e)* 1989; and if she will make a statement. [136619]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 572W.

Blood: Imports

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department spent on imported blood products from the United States in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984; and if she will make a statement; [136620]

(2) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1985, *(b)* 1986, *(c)* 1987, *(d)* 1988 and *(e)* 1989 were sourced from UK donors; and if she will make a statement; [136621]

(3) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984 were sourced from US donors; and if she will make a statement; [136622]

(4) what volume of factor VIII blood products was imported from the United States into the UK in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983 and *(e)* 1984; and if she will make a statement; [136623]

(5) what volume of cryoprecipitate was available for use under the NHS in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978, *(c)* 1979, *(d)* 1985, *(e)* 1986, *(f)* 1987, *(g)* 1988 and *(h)* 1989; and if she will make a statement; [136624]

(6) what volume of UK-sourced blood was fractionated to develop blood products for use by haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978, *(c)* 1979, *(d)* 1985, *(e)* 1986, *(f)* 1987, *(g)* 1988 and *(h)* 1989; and if she will make a statement; [136627]

(7) how much and what proportion of blood products given to haemophiliacs in *(a)* 1977, *(b)* 1978 and *(c)* 1979 were sourced from UK donors; and if she will make a statement. [136634]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 572-73W.

Blood: USA

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department received from the World Health Organisation on the safety of imported blood from the United States between 1977 and 1979; and if she will make a statement. [137236]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 717W.

BPL Elstree

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on BPL Elstree in *(a)* 1980, *(b)* 1981, *(c)* 1982, *(d)* 1983, *(e)* 1984, *(f)* 1985, *(g)* 1986, *(h)* 1987 and *(i)* 1988; and if she will make a statement. [136630]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 571W.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to provide breast cancer screening for women over the age of 70. [139776]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1347-48W.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health under what circumstances clinicians may prescribe Erlotinib; and if she will make a statement. [135988]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make the drug Tarceva (Erlotinib) available to lung cancer sufferers in England; and if she will make a statement. [136694]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently undertaking an appraisal of Erlotinib (Tarceva) for the treatment of locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer. Erlotinib is licensed for this indication and there are currently no national restrictions on the prescribing of this drug.

Catheters

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for the home provision of catheters; what the outcome was of the recent consultation on catheter provision; and if she will make a statement. [139032]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to primary care is still ongoing. This includes catheters. No decisions have been made.

As outlined in the written statement of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 78-79WS, the volume and

complexity of the responses received following the latest consultations are such that the Department has decided that it needs more time to analyse the information provided. This analysis needs to take account of comments made about the Department's proposals regarding reimbursement for items and on the proposed levels of remuneration for particular services—such as home delivery.

Consequently, no changes will be implemented in July 2007 as previously proposed—and it is not expected that the review will be completed before the end of the year.

In conducting this review, a key objective has been to maintain and improve the quality of patient care.

Chief Medical Officer

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to alter the *(a)* role and *(b)* functions of her Department's Chief Medical Officer. [137395]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There are no plans to alter the role and functions of the Chief Medical Officer. The Department is to appoint a medical director for the national health service who will champion clinical engagement in the NHS and lead work on standards and quality and clinical programmes. The postholder will also be a Deputy Chief Medical Officer, and the Chief Medical Officer will maintain professional oversight of the functions for which the medical director will be accountable.

Chips

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice she has received on the quality and quantity of the fat content of *(a)* oven-baked chips and (b) deep fried chips. [138377]

Caroline Flint: Data on the fat content of foods shows that oven chips contain less fat than deep fried chips. The latest data was published in McCance and Widdowson's The Composition of Foods series in 2002, and is set out in the following table.

Food description	*Total fat (g/100g)*	*Saturated fat (g/100g)*
Oven chips, frozen, baked	[1]4.2	1.8
Chips homemade, fried in blended oil	[1]6.7	0.6
Chips retail, fried in blended oil	[1]12.4	1.1
French fries, retail	[1]15.5	5.8
Chips, straight cut, frozen fried in blended oil	[1]13.5	1.2
Chips fine cut, frozen, fried in blended oil	[1]21.3	1.8

[1] The fat content of chips will be variable and dependent on a number of factors related to their preparation, including how thick they are cut and their shape i.e. crinkle as opposed to straight cut.

Note:
Data from Food Standards Agency (2002) McCance and Widdowson's The Composition of Foods, Sixth summary edition. Cambridge: Royal Society of Chemistry.

Product development work carried out by manufacturers since this data was published may have changed the fat content of currently available commercial products.

Community Hospitals

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the Productive Community Hospital project commissioned by the NHS Institute from CHKS Ltd.; when she expects to publish the report produced by CHKS; which community hospitals were found by the project not to have been visited by trust chief executives; and by what criteria the 30 community hospitals in phase three of the project were selected. [137135]

Andy Burnham: The value of the contract held between the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement (NHSII) and CHKS Ltd. is £20,000. The report from CHKS has already been published and is available from the NHSII website at www.institute.nhs.uk/productivecommunityhospital.
The selection criteria for the 30 hospitals participating in the focused survey can be found on page 12 of the full report. It is not possible to list the community hospitals that were not visited by trust chief executives as the research was conducted in confidence and releasing this information would violate the agreement that CHKS Ltd. had with participating hospitals.

Contraception: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research her Department *(a)* has undertaken, *(b)* plans to undertake and *(c)* has evaluated on the effectiveness of use of the morning after pill in reducing teenage pregnancies; how many and what percentage of teenagers requesting the morning after pill in the last 12 months were using (i) condoms and (ii) combined pill contraception at the time of conception; and if she will make a statement. [136799]

Caroline Flint: No research has been commissioned or planned in this specific area. Given the complex set of factors that influence young people's sexual behaviour and outcomes, it is not possible to attribute reductions in teenage pregnancy rates to a single intervention or measure. International evidence from countries with low teenage pregnancy rates indicates that a multi-faceted strategy needs to be in place, providing comprehensive programmes of sex and relationships education, easy access to contraceptive and sexual health advice for sexually active young people and support for parents to have open and honest discussions with their children about sex and relationships. This is the basis for our strategy which, since its launch, has resulted in a reduction of 11.8 per cent. in the under-18 conception rate, to its lowest level for over 20 years.

The information relating to the percentage of teenagers requesting emergency hormonal contraception who are already using other methods of contraception is not collected centrally.

Deep Vein Thrombosis

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will commission research on deep vein thrombosis experienced by people travelling on long distance coach journeys to and from all-seater sporting venues. [137878]

Caroline Flint: No. We know from research funded in part by the Department and by the Department of Transport that all forms of travel involving a journey of four hours or more leads to an increase in the risk of blood clots forming in the veins of the legs.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's total expenditure has been in each of the last three years on *(a)* newspapers, magazines and periodicals, *(b)* landscape gardening and flora and *(c)* (i) stationery and (ii) promotional merchandise branded with the name of the Department. [118167]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's library service is responsible for the central purchasing of newspapers, magazines and periodicals for library use and retention by individual units. Suppliers who have been chosen by competitive tendering every three to five years are used.

Expenditure details are kept on a central system but it does not differentiate between expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals.

Total expenditure for the financial years 2004-05 to 2006-07 is:

	£
2004-05	380,025
2005-06	395,148
2006-07	350,930

The Department's expenditure on landscaping and flora for the period 2004-2006 is set out as follows:

	£
2004	13,445.35
2005	13,714.26
2006	14,405.28

The Department's total spend on stationery for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is as follows:

	£
2004-05	915,383.86
2005-06	1,619,021.35
2006-07	623,338.21

The Department does not provide materials for the purpose of promoting the Department itself, therefore there are no figures available centrally. However, individual projects and programmes within the Department may occasionally produce materials to promote their aims and objectives which are branded with the Department's logo.

Departmental Gifts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what gifts have been received by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* special advisers in her Department in each financial year since 1997-98; on what date each gift was given; what the estimated cost was of each gift; and who the (i) donor and (ii) recipient was in each case. [118159]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Government publishes an annual list of gifts received by Ministers valued at more than £140. The first list was published in 2003 and covered the period from 2001 to 2003. Since then lists have been published annually. Previous lists are available in the Library. Information for 2006-07 is currently being collected and will be published soon.

Information related to gifts received by Ministers since 2001 is published on the Cabinet Office website at:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers/

The other information requested from 1997 is not available.

Departments: Consultants

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has required any of the management, IT or other consultants involved in the Medical Training Application Service to repay any fees or expenses. [137150]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This matter is under review.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which projects in her Department the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has assessed in the last 12 months. [137069]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last 12 months, the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has assessed the following Department of Health projects: 18 weeks, choice of four providers, practice-based commissioning, the overall NHS reform programme, childhood obesity, child and adolescent mental health services, and primary care trust capability.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many grievance procedures have been initiated in her Department in the last 12 months. [135156]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 14 grievance procedures have been initiated in the Department in the last year.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in her Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134827]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the last 12 months, there have been nine Fairness and Respect at Work cases in which bullying was raised. Although for some it was only part of the overall complaint.

Four cases, from those nine, have been completed and five are ongoing. In all four of the completed cases the claims of bullying were not upheld.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people took sick leave for stress in her Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135471]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In the year ended 31 March 2007, 129 people were recorded on our sickness absence database as taking sick leave under a category defined as "mental health—including depression, anxiety and potential stress related problems."

This represents 5.6 per cent. of the total staff number.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There have not been any meetings between departmental Ministers or permanent secretaries with Sovereign Strategy between 1997 and 2006. Information on meetings with all officials is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the combined Ministerial and Departmental Board Away Day, referred to in the minutes of the Departmental Management Board meeting of 5 October 2006 was held; and what the cost was of the away day. [137297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The joint Ministerial and Departmental Management Board away day was held in Skipton House, one of the Department's buildings in the London Estate. The total cost of the meeting was £3,687.

Departments: Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which grants for which her Department is responsible have been made to Westminster City council since 1997-98; and what the value was of each grant. [137761]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The grants made to Westminster City council in each year since 1997-98 by this Department, as recorded by the council in the Communities and Local Government Revenue returns, are as follows

	£000
1997-98	
Social Services Training Support Programme	215
HIV and AIDS	800
Alcohol and Drug Misuse	56
Mental Illness	1,206
Guardians ad Litem	29
Community Care Special Transitional Grant	2,305
1998-99	
Social Services Training Support Programme	196
AIDS Support	770
Drug and Alcohol Misusers	23
Mental Health	574
Community Care Special Transitional Grant	2,171
1999-2000	
Social Services Training Support Programme	185
AIDS Support	810
Drug and Alcohol Misusers	17
Mental Health	1,225
Promoting Independence: Partnership	1,280
Promoting Independence: Prevention	121
Promoting Independence: Carers	137
Children's Services' (Quality Protects)	751
2000-01	
Social Services Training Support Programme	322
AIDS Support	756
Drug and Alcohol Misusers	92
Mental Health	812
Promoting Independence: Partnership	2,606
Children's Services (Quality Protects)	1,231
2001-02	
Social Services Training Support Programme	332
AIDS/HIV Support	688
Mental Health	1,101
Promoting Independence	1,979
Promoting Independence: Carers	554
Children's Social Services	3,016
2002-03	
Social Services Training Support Programme	369
AIDS/HIV Support	547
Mental Health	1,013
Promoting Independence	1,150
Preserved Rights	2,906
Residential Allowance	606

	£000
Carers Grant	696
Young People's Substance Misuse Planning	148
Performance Fund	302
Building Care Capacity	884
Children's Social Services	5,131
Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation	6
2003-04	
Access and Systems Capacity	840
AIDS/HIV Support	489
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	353
Carers	614
Mental Health	1,354
Performance	498
Preserved Rights	3,456
Training Support	230
2004-05	
Access and Systems Capacity	2,231
AIDS Support	442
Carers	776
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	498
Delayed Discharges	482
Human Resources Development Strategy	145
Mental Health	1,017
National Training Strategy	193
Preserved Rights	2,618
Residential Allowance	1,688
Training Support Programme	351
2005-06	
Access and Systems Capacity	3,093
AIDS Support	397
Carers	1,296
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	608
Delayed Discharges	463
Human Resources Development Strategy	450
Mental Health	1,092
National Training Strategy	381
[redacted]eserved Rights	2,051
[redacted]idential Allowance	806
[redacted]	
[redacted]7	
[redacted]nd Systems Capacity	2,892
AIDS Support	397
Carers	1,261
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	827
Delayed Discharges	550
Human Resources Development Strategy	342
Mental Health	1,099
National Training Strategy	739
Preventative Technology	168
Preserved Rights	1,793

Depression: Diamorphine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net ingredient cost of *(a)* anti-depressants and *(b)* diamorphine dispensed in the community was in each year since 1997. [137319]

Caroline Flint: The net ingredient cost (NIC) for anti-depressants and diamorphine hydrochloride dispensed in the community, in England, from 1997 to 2006, is in the following table:

	NIC (£000)	
	Diamorphine hydrochloride	*Anti-depressants*
1997	3,748	239,121
1998	3,808	279,004
1999	3,693	315,269
2000	3,553	310,378
2001	3,287	341,661
2002	3,312	380,883
2003	3,686	395,178
2004	3,974	400,682
2005	1,803	338,547
2006	3,532	291,511

For diamorphine, the British National Formulary (BNF) chemical name of 'diamorphine hydrochloride' is used. For anti-depressants, the figures cover all dispensing in the BNF section 4.3.

The use of diamorphine hydrochloride in 2005 was affected by supply problems. Costs of anti-depressants and diamorphine hydrochloride in 2005 and 2006 were affected by the new PPRS agreement (February 2005) and new arrangements for generic prices introduced in April 2005.

Doctors: Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date her Department gained Treasury approval for *(a)* the new GP contract introduced in 2004 and *(b)* the new consultant contract introduced in 2003. [137068]

Ms Rosie Winterton: New contracts for doctors formed part of the discussions between the Department and HM Treasury on the SR02 spending review, which concluded in July 2002.

Doctors: Training

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-EEA doctors have obtained training posts in the first round of application through the Medical Training Application Service. [128714]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As the process is ongoing, it is not yet possible to provide a breakdown of numbers as requested.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to encourage junior doctors who do not get a run-through training post to remain in the UK. [137210]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Review Group is exploring the possibilities for creating further training opportunities where these can support local workforce requirements. For junior doctors who do not get a run-through training post there are a number of options, including, as in the past, non-training service posts, fixed term specialist training appointments and any other training posts that will continue to become available over the year. The Review Group is also exploring ways to support any doctors who do not secure training and to maximize the employment opportunities for them in the United Kingdom.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Medical Training Application Service system will be audited and reviewed before doctors are allocated their jobs; and if she will make a statement. [137211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A full security review of the system has now been completed by information technology security testing specialists, MWR Infosecurity. Action has been taken to further strengthen the security arrangements and MWR now consider the Medical Training Application System site to be robust and above average for security. Both MWR and CESG (Communications Electronic Security Group), the national technical authority for information assurance, have confirmed that appropriate and sufficiently comprehensive action has been taken. The site was therefore re-opened on 4 May, restricted to postgraduate deaneries only, to support the next steps in the recruitment process. Given the continuing concerns about MTAS, the computer system will now not be used for matching candidates to training posts, but will continue to be used for national monitoring.

Drugs: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were referred to NHS services as a result of drug addiction in each London health trust area in each of the last 10 years. [138496]

Caroline Flint: The information is not held in the format requested. However, the following table shows the number of referrals made by drug action teams in London from 2004.

	Number of referrals		
Drug action team (DAT)	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	404	500	734
Havering	341	295	538
Camden	1,079	1,043	1,989
Islington	949	921	1,789
City of London	15	21	40
Hackney	694	446	1,675
Lambeth	938	1,248	1,990
Lewisham	655	791	1,216
Southwark	971	1,145	1,997
Redbridge	452	489	728
Waltham Forest	443	589	998
Barnet	397	499	847
Bexley	241	223	400
Brent	453	476	1,164
Bromley	377	382	845
Croydon	640	635	1,232
Ealing	872	938	1,545
Enfield	390	411	811
Greenwich	576	610	1,001
Hammersmith and Fulham	756	900	1,897
Haringey	722	726	1,348
Kensington and Chelsea	643	472	1,356
Kingston upon Thames	300	299	502
Merton	559	482	782
Newham	662	652	1,412
Richmond upon Thames	495	384	765
Sutton	403	483	832
Tower Hamlets	827	920	1,716
Wandsworth	578	657	1,327
Westminster	819	889	1,938
Harrow	426	423	789
Hillingdon	384	397	692
Hounslow	610	748	1,117
Total	19,071	20,094	38,012

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the total cost of treating *(a)* drug, *(b)* alcohol and *(c)* smoking related illnesses in each London primary care trust in each of the last five years. [138498]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally. However, the following table shows the cost of drug related illnesses broken down by Drug Action Teams in London, with allocations for 2007-08 to be finalised in June.

Nationally, the national health service spends between £1.4 billion and £1.7 billion on alcohol related illnesses, and £1.4 billion and £1.7 billion on smoking related illnesses.

	PTB for				
Drug action team	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Barking and Dagenham	111	1,019	1,149	1,430	1,849
Barnet	955	1,205	1,309	1,576	2,030
Bexley	600	759	827	997	1,287
Brent	1,417	1,909	2,201	2,795	3,605
Bromley	716	901	978	1,175	1,510
Camden	2,017	2,466	2,599	3,033	3,914
City of London	14	23	31	44	58
Croydon	1,212	1,565	1,738	2,135	2,753
Ealing	1,794	2,135	2,188	2,480	3,195
Enfield	1,093	1,458	1,669	2,104	2,704
Greenwich	1,449	1,867	2,070	2,538	3,261
Hackney	2,112	2,749	3,077	3,806	4,920

Drug action team	PTB for 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,340	1,616	1,679	1,931	2,500
Haringey	1,547	2,096	2,430	3,099	3,988
Harrow	542	689	754	914	1,185
Havering	566	711	770	924	1,192
Hillingdon	888	1,038	1,043	1,157	1,494
Hounslow	861	1,041	1,084	1,250	1,612
Islington	2,451	2,950	3,059	3,511	4,507
Kensington and Chelsea	1,817	1,999	1,999	2,099	2,699
Kingston upon Thames	658	725	725	761	977
Lambeth	2,439	3,266	3,748	4,739	6,083
Lewisham	2,023	2,586	2,847	3,468	4,469
Merton	804	949	964	1,081	1,389
Newham	2,164	2,984	3,509	4,529	5,801
Redbridge	678	929	1,087	1,398	1,798
Richmond upon Thames	687	756	756	793	1,021
Southwark	2,274	3,052	3,510	4,446	5,739
Sutton	568	662	664	733	940
Tower Hamlets	1,988	2,731	3,202	4,124	5,272
Waltham Forest	958	1,357	1,630	2,141	2,733
Wandsworth	1,663	2,000	2,073	2,378	3,063
Westminster	2,729	3,002	3,002	3,152	4,042
London total	43,801	55,195	60,371	72,741	93,590

Dyspráxia

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children and young people were diagnosed with dyspraxia in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; [139127]

(2) how many children and young people diagnosed with dyspraxia were referred to mental health services in each of the last five years for which records are available; and what the cost was of the use of mental health services by those people to the NHS. [139129]

Caroline Flint: This information is not available centrally.

Electric Cables: Health Hazards

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what response she has made to the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Waves and Electric Magnetic Fields report, "Power lines and Property, wiring in homes and electrical equipment in homes", with particular reference to the building of new homes and schools near power lines; and if she will make a statement. [139875]

Meg Munn: I have been asked to reply.

Government have sought advice from the Health Protection Agency on the recently published report by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields. Government are considering the implications of the report's conclusions and recommendations and will respond in due course.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the recently-published Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields report on precautionary measures to protect the public against exposure to extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields; and if she will make a statement. [137031]

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what account she takes of public concern in determining suitable precautionary measures on power frequency electric and magnetic fields (EMFs); what mechanism she plans to put in place to assess public opinion on the issues raised by the recently published Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electric and Magnetic Fields report on precautionary approaches to power frequency EMFs; and if she will make a statement. [137663]

Caroline Flint: The Department notes the publication of the report by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields and acknowledges the hard work that has gone into its production. The Government will need time to consider the implications of the report's conclusions and recommendations.

Eyesight: Computers

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of how many people working with visual display units take up their entitlement under the Health and Safety (Display Screen Equipment) Regulations (1992) for an eye and eyesight test paid for by their employer. [133737]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

Research commissioned by the Health and Safety Executive estimated in 1997 that nearly 1 million people in Great Britain had received eye and eyesight tests provided by their employer under these regulations.

Food Standards Agency

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the work of the Food Standards Agency. [113790]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is an independent Government Department set up in 2000 by an Act of Parliament to protect the public's health and consumer interests in relation to food. Its core values include being open and transparent in the work that it does. It is not subject to an assessment by the Department. However, I hold regular meetings with the FSA to review general matters and the organisation is accountable to Parliament through Ministers by means of an annual report.

Food Standards Agency: Smith Institute

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* value and *(b)* purpose was of each payment made by the Food Standards Agency to the Smith Institute since 1997. [136322]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency made a payment of £10,000 to the Smith Institute in 2006. This was to sponsor a seminar on the Effects of Nutrition in School Attainment.

Food: Hygiene

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will delay the decision on implementation of the Hygiene of Foodstuffs Regulation (EC) number 852/2004. [137325]

Caroline Flint: European Union Regulations are directly applicable law and Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 has applied in the UK since 1 January 2006.

Food: Labelling

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many investigations into falsely labelled food the Food Standards Agency carried out in each year since 1997. [136770]

Caroline Flint: Investigations into falsely labelled food are not carried out directly by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). The FSA has the overall policy responsibility for food labelling, however the enforcement of the legislation is undertaken by food enforcement officers who are employed by local authorities.

It should be noted that the FSA was not formed until 2000, therefore the information between 1997 and 2000 is not available. The FSA does receive annual returns from food enforcement authorities on the work they carry out. The requested information for the period 2001-06 cannot be broken down specifically to false labelling investigations. However, the following table shows the number of food samples taken formally for both labelling and compositional standards.

	Formal samples	*Unsatisfactory samples*	*Formal samples which lead to legal proceedings*	*Establishments prosecuted*
2001	11,161	2,833	122	150
2002	12,119	2,829	63	161
2003	12,007	3,065	92	193
2004-05	9,559	2,489	106	149
2005-06	8,680	2,784	130	87

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 585W, on food: labelling, what account was taken of typical portion size in developing the Food Standards Agency's nutrient profiling model; and if she will make a statement. [138424]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency's nutrient profiling (NP) model has been developed solely as a tool for Ofcom to use to redress the imbalance of foods high in fat, salt and sugar being advertised to children through television. The issue of portion size was discussed by the expert group which advised the FSA on the development of the model, an independently chaired academic workshop and the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition. Each concluded that using a per portion approach would introduce several difficulties since serving sizes and consumption patterns are an individual matter and cannot be standardised.

The FSA's nutrient profiling (NP) model has not been developed to provide dietary advice or used in labelling.

General Practitioners

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of GP practices in each English constituency have closed their lists to new patients. [138069]

Andy Burnham: The results for the primary care access survey, February 2007, show that in England 214 practices have been reported as having closed lists, this represents 2.5 per cent. of the total.

The Department does not collect or hold this information broken down by constituency but the following table shows these data by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT). The data were collected in February 2007.

	Closed lists	
	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	*Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register*
England	214	2.5
Strategic health authority		
North East	12	2.9
North West	59	4.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	26	3.1
East Midlands	3	0.5
West Midlands	43	4.2
East of England	25	3.1
London	16	1.0
South East Coast	22	3.3
South Central	3	0.6
South West	5	0.7
Primary care trusts		
County Durham PCT	0	0.0
Darlington PCT	0	0.0
Gateshead PCT	2	5.9
Hartlepool PCT	0	0.0
Middlesbrough PCT	0	0.0
Newcastle PCT	0	0.0
North Tyneside PCT	0	0.0
Northumberland Care Trust	1	2.0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	0	0.0
South Tyneside PCT	8	25.0

	Closed lists	
	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	*Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register*
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	0	0.0
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1	1.9
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	0	0.0
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	4	12.1
Blackpool PCT	0	0.0
Bolton PCT	0	0.0
Bury PCT	2	6.1
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1	1.9
Central Lancashire PCT	7	7.4
Cumbria PCT	7	7.2
East Lancashire PCT	0	0.0
Halton and St Helens PCT	0	0.0
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1	2.9
Knowsley PCT	0	0.0
Liverpool PCT	0	0.0
Manchester PCT	9	8.5
North Lancashire PCT	0	0.0
Oldham PCT	0	0.0
Salford PCT	10	17.2
Sefton PCT	3	5.5
Stockport PCT	0	0.0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	2	5.0
Trafford PCT	10	21.3
Warrington PCT	3	10.3
Western Cheshire PCT	0	0.0
Wirral PCT	0	0.0
Barnsley PCT	1	2.3
Bradford and Airedale PCT	13	14.9
Calderdale PCT	0	0.0
Doncaster PCT	0	0.0
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	2	4.8
Hull PCT	8	13.3
Kirklees PCT	0	0.0
Leeds PCT	1	0.9
North East Lincolnshire PCT	0	0.0
North Lincolnshire PCT	0	0.0
North Yorkshire and York PCT	0	0.0
Rotherham PCT	0	0.0
Sheffield PCT	1	1.0
Wakefield District PCT	0	0.0
Bassetlaw PCT	0	0.0
Derby City PCT	0	0.0
Derbyshire County PCT	0	0.0
Leicester City PCT	1	1.4
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1	1.2
Lincolnshire PCT	0	0.0
Northamptonshire PCT	0	0.0
Nottingham City PCT	0	0.0
Nottinghamshire County PCT	1	1.0
Birmingham East and North PCT	1	1.2
Coventry Teaching PCT	2	3.0
Dudley PCT	32	57.1
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	4	5.2
Herefordshire PCT	0	0.0
North Staffordshire PCT	0	0.0
Sandwell PCT	0	0.0
Shropshire County PCT	0	0.0
Solihull PCT	0	0.0
South Birmingham PCT	1	1.5
South Staffordshire PCT	0	0.0
Stoke on Trent PCT	2	3.4
Telford and Wrekin PCT	0	0.0
Walsall Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Warwickshire PCT	0	0.0
Wolverhampton City PCT	1	1.4
Worcestershire PCT	[redacted]	0.0
Bedfordshire PCT	[redacted]	7.3
Cambridgeshire PCT	2	2.6
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	0	0.0
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	3	9.1
Luton Teaching PCT	9	28.1
Mid Essex PCT	1	2.0
Norfolk PCT	0	0.0
North East Essex PCT	0	0.0
Peterborough PCT	3	9.4
South East Essex PCT	0	0.0
South West Essex PCT	2	2.4
Suffolk PCT	1	1.4
West Essex PCT	0	0.0
West Hertfordshire PCT	0	0.0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1	1.8
Barnet PCT	0	0.0
Bexley Care Trust	0	0.0
Brent Teaching PCT	2	2.8

	Closed lists.	
	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	*Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register*
Bromley PCT	2	3.7
Camden PCT	1	2.3
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Croydon PCT	0	0.0
Ealing PCT	3	3.4
Enfield PCT	0	0.0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1	1.5
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	0.0
Haringey Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Harrow PCT	1	2.6
Havering PCT	0	0.0
Hillingdon PCT	2	3.9
Hounslow PCT	1	1.7
Islington PCT	0	0.0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0	0.0
Kingston PCT	0	0.0
Lambeth PCT	0	0.0
Lewisham PCT	1	2.0
Newham PCT	0	0.0
Redbridge PCT	0	0.0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	0.0
Southwark PCT	0	0.0
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	0.0
Tower Hamlets PCT	1	2.7
Waltham Forest PCT	0	0.0
Wandsworth PCT	0	0.0
Westminster PCT	0	0.0
Brighton and Hove City PCT	0	0.0
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	0	0.0
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	0	0.0
Hastings and Rother PCT	0	0.0
Medway Teaching PCT	3	4.5
Surrey PCT	4	2.9
West Kent PCT	14	13.3
West Sussex PCT	1	1.0
Berkshire East PCT	1	1.8
Berkshire West PCT	0	0.0
Buckinghamshire PCT	0	0.0
Hampshire PCT	0	0.0
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	0	0.0
Milton Keynes PCT	1	3.6
Oxfordshire PCT	1	1.2
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Southampton City PCT	0	0.0

	Closed lists	
	Number of practices whose list is closed for new patients to register	*Percentage of (all) practices whose list is closed for new patients to register*
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	0	0.0
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1	2.0
Bristol PCT	0	0.0
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1	1.4
Devon PCT	0	0.0
Dorset PCT	0	0.0
Gloucestershire PCT	0	0.0
North Somerset PCT	0	0.0
Plymouth Teaching PCT	0	0.0
Somerset PCT	0	0.0
South Gloucestershire PCT	0	0.0
Swindon PCT	3	9.1
Torbay Care Trust	0	0.0
Wiltshire PCT	0	0.0

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition she uses of universal GP opening hours, as referred to on page 23 of the Department of Health's research report, "Our health, our care, our say—one year on". [137201]

Andy Burnham: The document "Our health, our care, our say: One year on" was prepared by Opinion Leader Research and reports a public event on 27 March 2007. The term universal opening hours was used in discussion by members of the public at that event and is not a statement of departmental policy.

Health Services: Portsmouth

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will set out, with statistical evidence relating as closely as possible to Portsmouth, North constituency, the effects of changes to departmental policy since 1997 on Portsmouth, North constituency. [135342]

Caroline Flint: The Government have put in place a programme of national health service investment and reform since 1997 to improve service delivery in all parts of the United Kingdom. There is significant evidence that these policies have yielded considerable benefits for the Portsmouth, North constituency.

For example:

At the end of February 2007 the number of people waiting more than 26 weeks for in-patient treatment within Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) had fallen to zero from 1,005 in June 2002.

At the end of February 2007 the number of people waiting more than 13 weeks for out-patient treatment within Portsmouth City Teaching PCT had fallen to zero from 939 in June 2002, Portsmouth City PCT

funding has increased by over 31.5 per cent. (£47.1 million) in the three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06.

The PCT's funding will increase by 19.2 per cent. (£41 million) in the two years from 2006-07 to 2007-08. By 2007-08, the PCT will have reached its fair funding allocation target.

98.4 per cent. of patients attending the A and E department at Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust are seen within four hours.

99.7 per cent. of people referred urgently by their general practitioner see a cancer specialist within two weeks.

95.4 per cent. of cancer patient referrals are treated within two months.

Compared to 1997 Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust now has:

123 more consultants;

159 more doctors in training;

707 more nurses; and

164 more health care assistants.

A major £236 million private finance initiative redevelopment scheme is under way on the Queen Alexandra hospital site. Currently acute services are provided across three sites, the redevelopment of the Queen Alexandra hospital site will enable all acute services the trust provides to be housed on one site. To date £55 million of construction has been carried out.

Health Services: West Sussex

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make an assessment of the effect of recent trends in immigration on the delivery of *(a)* maternity and *(b)* accident and emergency services in West Sussex. [136030]

Caroline Flint: It is for local primary care trusts in conjunction with other stakeholders, to make assessments of current and future health needs and to commission services accordingly.

Heart Diseases: Consultants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many interventional cardiologists were practising in the NHS in each year since 2001; and if she will make a statement. [137910]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally. It is not possible to separately identify interventional cardiologists from the rest of the cardiology workforce.

Hepatitis: Screening

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will assess the merits of introducing a policy of screening patients having routine check-ups or blood tests for hepatitis C. [136834]

Caroline Flint: The prevalence of chronic hepatitis C infection in England is relatively low and it would not be appropriate to offer hepatitis C testing routinely to the general population. The Department has published information and guidance for health professionals and the public, highlighting those groups considered to be at risk of hepatitis C infection and who should be offered testing or should consider being tested, for hepatitis C infection.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1510W, on hospital wards (1) when she determined the timescale for publication; [137369]

(2) what comprehensive assessment of the situation was undertaken between 30 April and 9 May 2007. [137370]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The timescale for publication was decided over a period of weeks. A May publication was mooted in mid-April, but at this stage no specific date was confirmed. A final decision to publish on 10 May was made on 4 May.

The assessment leading to the report commenced in late November 2006, when strategic health authorities (SHA) were asked to review the situation in their areas. Between 30 April and 9 May, final checking of the information was undertaken, confirmed SHAs intention to publish local position statements.

Hospital Wards: Warwickshire

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients have been located in mixed sex wards at the *(a)* Walsgrave, *(b)* Warwick, *(c)* Alcester, *(d)* Stratford-upon-Avon and *(e)* Ellen Badger hospitals since May 2006; [139514]

(2) what the reasons were for the location of patients in mixed sex wards at *(a)* Walsgrave, *(b)* Warwick, *(c)* Alcester, *(d)* Stratford-upon-Avon and *(e)* Ellen Badger hospitals since May 2006. [139756]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, standards of privacy and dignity are measured by the Healthcare Commission against two core standards, which require that:

(C13a) "Staff treat patients, their relatives and carers with dignity and respect"; and

(C20b) "Health care services are provided in environments which promote effective care and optimize health outcomes by being supportive of patient privacy and confidentiality".

The boards of all national health service trusts in England are required to make public declarations annually on the extent to which they meet the core standards set by the Government. In 2005-06, the following NHS organisations all declared that they were compliant with the two privacy and dignity core standards detailed above:

South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust (responsible for the Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon hospitals);

University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (responsible for Walsgrave hospital); and

South Warwickshire Primary Care Trust (formerly responsible for Alcester and Ellen Badger Hospitals).

Hospitals: Construction

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the capital cost of building a medium-sized district general hospital. [138420]

Andy Burnham: An indicative cost of building a medium-sized district general hospital is approximately £240 million (excluding VAT) which reflects the current business case approval level. The cost includes the capital construction cost for a new 418 bed hospital built on a green field site, together with supporting services such as operating theatres, out-patient department, accident and emergency services, catering, office accommodation, public areas, pharmacy, pathology and radiography. The cost also includes equipment costs and professional fees incurred. It does not include the running costs to make the hospital operational, such as staffing and other hard and soft facilities management services.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the latest figures are for the incidence of *acinetobacter baumannii* in England; whether there is in place a system for *(a)* the reporting and *(b)* the investigation of all cases; whether a process for identifying *acinetobacter baumannii* is undertaken as a matter of course; and if she will make a statement. [136390]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) asks microbiology laboratories to report all cases of bloodstream infections caused by Acinetobacter species, this is the voluntary surveillance system.

The latest figures[1] of *A. baumannii* bloodstream infections under the HPA's voluntary reporting scheme for England are as shown.

	Number of infections
2001	207
2002	265
2003	295
2004	310
2005	341

Source:
HPA

Investigation of cases will be decided locally however in addition to voluntary surveillance the HPA also collects data on resistant organisms including Acinetobacter spp (species), and provides a reference service for investigating unusually resistant bacteria and the mechanisms responsible for their resistance, and seeks to identify options for treating infections.

The HPA has been involved in the investigation and characterisation of multi-resistant clones of Acinetobacter that have been associated with outbreaks in hospitals, particularly in London and south east England[2, 3]. The HPA has published guidance on the control of outbreaks of multi-resistant Acinetobacter[4].

The widely used commercial identification systems are often inadequate for the routine identification of specific Acinetobacter spp. owing to their poor reactivity in these test systems. The level of species identification varies between hospital laboratories. Some laboratories may classify isolates only to Acinetobacter spp. level unless they have an ongoing problem with multi-resistant strains.

[1] Acinetobacter spp bacteraemia in England, Wales and Northern Ireland: 2005. Communicable Disease Report Weekly 2006; 16 (13 October 2006) http://www.hpa.org.uk/cdr/archives/2006/cdr4206.pdf

[2] JF Turton, ME Kaufmann, M Warner et al. A prevalent, multi-resistant clone of Acinetobacter baumanii in Southeast England. Journal of Hospital Infection 2004; 58: 170-179.

[3] JM Coelho, JF Turton, ME Kaufman et al. Occurrence of carbapenem-resistant Acinetobacter baumanii clones at multiple hospitals in London and Southeast England. Journal of Clinical Microbiology 2006; 44: 3623-3627.

[4] Interim guidance on the control of outbreaks of multi-resistant Acinetobacter. http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/acinetobacter_b/guidance.htm

Infectious Diseases: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether one million NHS staff have received training in infection control, as referred to by her Department's Chief Nursing Officer in her speech to the Chief Nursing Officer's conference of 3 November 2004; and if she will make a statement. [137393]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about the number of national health service staff who have received infection control training is not held centrally.

Progression of infection control training is centred upon a number of activities at both the national and local level. The statutory Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Health Care Associated Infections lays on NHS bodies a duty to ensure that all staff are suitably educated in the prevention and control of these infections.

At the time of making the speech referred to, the Chief Nursing Officer was highlighting the importance of infection control training, in the context of the NHS Agenda for Change Knowledge and Skills Framework (KSF), which was to be launched in December 2004.

In particular, under the KSF, staff at all levels must have a core health and safety dimension (which includes infection control) as part of their KSF outline. Delivery of this component of the KSF is a matter for local determination. A key resource, with potential to assist staff in fulfilling the KSF requirement is the NHS Infection Control Programme, which was published in September 2005 by the NHS Core Learning Unit. This is a free to access, on-line learning programme, aimed at all staff, which covers critical aspects of infection prevention practice.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total expenditure on advertising campaigns in support of the seasonal influenza immunisation programme was in *(a)* real and *(b)* cash terms in each year since 2000-01. [137322]

Caroline Flint: Total expenditure on advertising campaigns in support of the seasonal influenza immunisation programme in each year since 2000-01, broken down into real and cash terms is shown in the following table.

Flu campaign—advertising spend

		£ million
	Cash	*Real*
2000-01	2.02	2.02
2001-02	1.45	1.41
2002-03	2.00	2.00
2003-04	1.60	1.58
2004-05	1.50	1.50
2005-06	1.85	1.81
2006-07	1.10	1.10

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many influenza vaccine doses have been secured for the winter of 2007-08; from which manufacturers this supply has been secured; and if she will make a statement. [131937]

Caroline Flint: The forecasts from the UK Vaccine Industry Group (UVIG) is that 15.75 million doses of flu vaccine will be available for the United Kingdom for the 2007-08 seasonal flu programme.

The Department does not purchase flu vaccine. It is the responsibility of general practitioners to order their vaccine direct from the supplier of their choice based on the number of eligible patients on their register. There are currently six suppliers of flu vaccine to the UK market and these are Sanofi Pasteur MSD, Novartis Vaccines (formerly Chiron Vaccines), GlaxoSmithKline, MASTA, Solvay Healthcare and Wyeth Vaccines.

Keep Well, Keep Warm

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the overall cost was to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the NHS of the Keep Well, Keep Warm campaign in 2006-07. [135874]

Caroline Flint: The overall cost to the Department's Keep Warm, Keep Well campaign in 2006-07 was around £500,000. The campaign materials were provided freely to the national health service and other stakeholders for use in their own winter warmth activities with vulnerable people.

Maternity Services

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the recommended ratio of professional midwives to women in labour wards is in hospital maternity units; [140579]

(2) what the recommended ratio is of professional midwives to *(a)* mothers and *(b)* babies in (i) delivery suites and (ii) post-natal wards in hospital maternity units. [140580]

Caroline Flint: No such ratios have been recommended. The birth to midwife ratio varies throughout the country and is dependent on a range of factors including the model of care, the care setting and the skill mix of the work force. Local organisations should identify an appropriate ratio based on the needs of their local population. Work force planning tools are in place to support this locally.

Maternity Services: Heavitree Hospital

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incident forms were submitted in the maternity unit, Heavitree Hospital, Exeter in each month since January 2006. [140581]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the Chair of Royal Devon and Exeter NHS foundation trust. We have written to Ms Angela Ballatti informing her of the hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has assessed the impact of standardising medical education across Europe on medical training standards and patient care in the UK. [137196]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The General Medical Council, which has the statutory responsibility for standards of undergraduate medical education, is considering the implications of the proposals outlined in the Bologna process for the creation of a European higher education area.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 24 April, on nurses' pay and mental health services in Worcestershire. [139588]

Andy Burnham: The reply was sent on 24 May 2007.

Mental Health Services: Sandwell

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was provided to Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust in each of the last five years. [136706]

Caroline Flint: National health service trusts do not normally receive funding from the Department, but receive income from the provision of services from commissioners, principally from primary care trusts.

The figures in the table represent the total income including all income from activities and all other operating income for the respective years.

Total income	*£000*
Black Country Mental Health NHS Trust[1]	
2001-02	27,426
2002-03	30,233
Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust	
2003-04	38,019

Total income	£000
2004-05	42,870
2005-06	46,047

[1] Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust was established on 1 April 2003. The Black Country Mental Health NHS Trust was the predecessor Trust.

Source:
Audited summarisation schedules of the named NHS trusts 2001-02 to 2005-06.

Methadone

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many methadone prescriptions were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997; and what the net ingredient cost was of those drugs in each year. [135914]

Caroline Flint: The total number of methadone hydrochloride prescription items dispensed in the community in England since 1997, and the associated net ingredient cost (NIC) is shown in the table.

Methadone hydrochloride

	Items dispensed (Thousand)	Net ingredient cost (£000)
1997	1,163.2	10,668.2
1998	1,192.7	10,757.4
1999	1,225.3	10,494.4
2000	1,269.7	10,476.4
2001	1,318.1	10,798.0
2002	1,428.4	11,727.2
2003	1,614.2	13,764.3
2004	1,810.0	15,991.6
2005	2,044.0	18,946.7
2006	2,277.1	22,037.5

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department collects data on the death or injury of third parties as a result of ingesting methadone provided to an addict as a drug substitute. [136232]

Caroline Flint: The data are not collected centrally.

Midwives: Insurance

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made in assisting independent midwives to establish a system for the provision of indemnity cover. [136274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are supporting independent midwives to find a method to access indemnity cover, which is clearly in the public's best interests. We have been working with the Independent Midwives Association and other independent midwives since 2004. The Chief Nursing Officer is meeting with key stakeholders to explore what options are available to assist independent midwives. This process is continuing.

MMR Vaccine

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population was provided with the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine in England in each year since 1997; what the recommended percentage provision of MMR vaccine was in each such year; and what percentage of the relevant population was provided with the MMR vaccine in each primary care trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [131856]

Caroline Flint: Information on what percentage of the population that has received measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine in England in each year since 1997 is available at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/vaccination/cover.htm.

The Department recommends that all eligible children are offered the MMR vaccine. Information is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/greenbook.

The latest information (2005-06) on the uptake of childhood immunisations by primary care trust is published annually by The Information Centre for health and social care and is available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/immstats2005to2006/immunexcel/file.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total *(a)* staff and *(b)* public membership is of NHS foundation trusts (i) in total and (ii) broken down by trust. [137323]

Andy Burnham: The total number of staff and public membership of the 32 national health service foundation trusts in existence during 2005-06 is available in the following table. The table is taken from Monitor's "Review and Consolidated Accounts of NHS Foundation Trusts 2005-06", which is available from their website at:

www.monitor-nhsft.gov.uk/publications.php?id=960

There are now 65 foundation trusts. I am advised by the Chairman of Monitor (whose statutory name is the Independent Regulator of NHS foundation trusts) that all foundation trusts must include details of membership figures when they submit their annual plans to Monitor on 31 May 2007. This information will be included in Monitor's report of the consolidated accounts of foundation trusts for 2006-07, which Monitor will publish this autumn. Monitor is under a duty to lay their report before Parliament and send a copy to the Secretary of State.

Membership of NHS foundation trusts 2005-06

	Total membership as at 31 March		Of which:		
NHS foundation trust	2005	2006	Public[1]	Staff	Patient
Barnsley Hospital	12,508	12,602	9,670	2,932	—
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals	10,062	12,069	7,713	4,356	—
Bradford Teaching Hospitals	3,485	4,221	1,716	2,248	257
Cambridge University Hospitals	22,397	23,597	8,492	7,296	7,809
Chesterfield Royal Hospital	9,799	13,346	10,189	3,157	—

Membership of NHS foundation trusts 2005-06

NHS foundation trust	Total membership as at 31 March 2005	2006	Of which: Public[1]	Staff	Patient
City Hospitals Sunderland	7,101	9,129	3,394	4,664	1,071
Countess of Chester Hospital	3,611	4,266	3,739	527	—
Derby Hospitals	9,647	13,934	6,560	7,434	—
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals	7,378	7,870	2,327	5,311	232
Frimley Park Hospital	5,841	7,671	6,103	1,568	—
Gateshead Health	9,121	11,171	7,852	3,319	—
Gloucestershire Hospitals	15,203	14,609	12,707	908	994
Guy's and St Thomas'	13,490	13,368	2,227	8,317	2,824
Harrogate and District	10,559	13,557	12,798	759	—
Heart of England	48,141	51,038	40,488	6,800	3,750
Homerton University Hospital	4,544	5,968	4,525	1,443	—
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals	9,394	14,592	3,079	5,784	5,729
Liverpool Women's	10,074	10,693	9,806	887	—
Moorfields Eye Hospital	11,436	11,487	8,882	1,305	1,300
Papworth Hospital	8,156	11,690	11,024	666	—
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	8,685	8,523	5,073	3,450	—
Queen Victoria Hospital	12,838	12,864	11,833	1,031	—
Rotherham	5,373	5,502	4,497	1,005	—
Royal Devon and Exeter	15,184	15,639	10,481	5,158	—
Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases	4,557	4,612	759	418	3,435
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals	6,505	18,168	1,870	12,823	3,475
South Tyneside	4,526	4,981	2,653	2,328	—
Stockport	11,535	11,938	8,279	3,659	—
The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals	13,305	14,990	13,995	995	—
The Royal Marsden	2,397	4,893	1,080	2,427	1,386
University College London Hospitals	8,592	10,194	543	6,600	3,051
University Hospital Birmingham	96,406	91,961	58,684	7,075	26,202
Total	421,850	471,203	293,038	116,650	61,515

[1] For a number of NHS foundation trusts, this column shows public and patient figures combined.

NHS Foundation Trusts: Recruitment

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on employment consultants to recruit members of foundation trusts; [137197]

(2) how much foundation trusts have spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* publicity and *(c)* public consultations since they were established. [137198]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department or Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts), and is matter for national health service foundation trusts. However, the annual reports and accounts of individual foundation trusts are publicly available on Monitor's website at:

www.monitor-nhsf.gov.uk.

NHS: Databases

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the security of each database containing personal details used by the NHS. [136144]

Caroline Flint: Historically each national health service organisation has been responsible for the physical and technical security safeguards, and access arrangements, for the very many local databases containing information about patients and NHS staff. These range in scale and scope from trust-wide patient information systems, to ephemeral personal contact lists held by individual members of staff.

NHS organisations are required to comply with comprehensive guidance on information security standards set out in the NHS information governance toolkit. Performance against these standards by NHS trusts and primary care trusts is collected centrally and monitored for compliance. Legal penalties for individuals and organisations misusing personal health and other information are provided for under section 60 of the Data Protection Act 1998. NHS organisations are responsible, as employers, for the actions taken on their behalf by their employees, and for disciplining their staff when they behave inappropriately. The practice expected of NHS organisations in managing the use and protection of patient information is set out in the document, "Confidentiality: NHS Code of Practice", published in November 2003.

Access to the national systems and services being developed and delivered through the national programme for information technology is determined by the policies, processes and technology provided by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency. These include that a user must have a smartcard. Smartcards are issued only after identity and qualifications have been checked under arrangements that conform with the e-Government interoperability framework (eGif) level 3 standards for the registration and authentication of staff. Staff must also be registered as a member of a health care team, for example a general practitioner practice or a clinic, that the patient is registered with or has been referred to, providing that patient with care, and will then only be able to access as much information as is needed for the purpose of their role within the health care team.

Users are required to acknowledge their acceptance of the terms and conditions under which they may operate, including that smartcard will not be shared, smartcards and logged-on computers will not be left unattended, and conformity with the NHS Code of Confidentiality. Nominated information assurance leads in each organisation ensure the access controls

are being adhered to correctly and that no unauthorised access is allowed.

The security of patient identifiable data travelling over the new NHS broadband network (N3) is further protected using various network security controls, and encryption which ensures the two end points of the communication are valid, speak the same cryptographic language, and encrypts the communication that passes between them. In addition to encryption, the network security controls include each NHS trust, and the national spine database, having a firewall to protect it. The N3 network runs intrusion detection and prevention systems alongside other network management processes. Further, all of the data centres being used for national programme systems meet the highest standards of data centre security as defined by the Communications Electronic Security Group, the information assurance arm of the Government Communications Headquarters. Regular reviews of the end-to-end security infrastructure are also undertaken to identify where industry best practice has changed or technologies improved so that these can be incorporated into the overall system.

While no system can be 100 per cent. secure, together these safeguards have been devised to provide an unprecedented degree of assurance of security for national programme systems and services, and the personal data they will contain, compared with existing local electronic systems. They are evidence of the very great importance that we attach to protecting the confidentiality of patient information. They contrast sharply with the situation with regard to paper records. As well as often being difficult to read, or inaccessible when they are needed, these are inherently insecure and can be easily lost, as exemplified by a recent case where paper copies of patient information from 2001-02 were found in second-hand filing cabinets.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products has undertaken research into the effectiveness of regulations on the development and licensing of orphan medicines; and whether there has been an assessment of access to these medicines for patients in the UK. [131656]

Caroline Flint: Research findings into the effectiveness of regulations on the development and licensing of orphan medicines are presented in the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) Report to the Commission in relation to article 10 of regulation 141/2000 in orphan medicinal products. It includes an assessment of access to these medicines for patients in the different member states, including the United Kingdom.

The report concludes that while COMP considers that the current legislation framework for orphan medicinal products is suitable overall to achieve public health benefits for patients suffering from rare diseases, it has identified a number of policy areas that require strengthening. COMP makes six recommendations to stimulate and foster European Union policy and makes three suggestions for action to the European Commission.

This report is published on the website of the European Medicines Agency under document reference EMEA/35218/2005 at www.emea.eu.int and is available in the Library.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her written statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 96-98WS, on the NHS Resource Accounting and Budgeting Regime, whether income reductions as a result of the RAB regime in earlier years than 2006-07 will be reversed. [137364]

Andy Burnham: The reversals set out in the written ministerial statement of 28 March 2007 are for resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) income deductions applied to national health service trusts in 2006-07 as a result of deficits incurred during 2005-06.

Under the new rules, an adjustment will be made to the calculation of performance against statutory breakeven duty for RAB income deductions that were made in years prior to 2006-07. This means that NHS trusts will no longer have to generate a surplus to recover any part of their cumulative deficit that arose solely from the application of RAB income deductions.

NHS: Loans

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what rate of interest her Department charges on loans to NHS organisations; and how this rate is set. [138418]

Andy Burnham: All long-term loans will attract interest at a rate equivalent to the National Loans Fund (NLF) rate at the date the loan is advanced. The interest rate is determined by reference to the prevailing rate at the date the loan is drawn, as notified on the Public Works Loan Board website, at:

www.pwlb.gov.uk

NLF interest rates are determined each night by the Treasury and normally take effect from the start of business on the next working day. Fixed interest rates are based on gilt yields.

NHS: Management

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the management of the NHS being undertaken by an independent board. [137040]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 16 May 2007]:* In recent weeks, the British Medical Association has published a report on the issue of greater operational independence for the national health service, and both the King's Fund and the Nuffield Trust are currently engaged in research on this area.

Since 1997, this Government have already entrenched far greater independence in the NHS. This includes the development of foundation trusts free from Whitehall control; the creation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to provide independent advice to the NHS on the clinical and cost effectiveness of different drugs and treatments; and the institution of the independent Healthcare Commission.

We will watch the public debate on this topic with interest, and use it in our continuing assessment of the best approach to the relationship between the Department and the NHS.

NHS: Personnel Management

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date *(a)* the Information Centre and *(b)* her Department became aware that staff records being collected as part of the 2006 NHS Workforce Census were being double-counted; and whether there were similar problems with the collection of data in previous censuses. [137276]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Information Centre identified potential duplication in the non-medical records being collected as part of its pre-publication processing during January 2007. Further work was done to confirm, analyse and establish the scale of the duplication.

The Department was advised of the duplication as part of normal pre-publication checking processes during March.

NHS: Recruitment

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the change has been in the number of NHS posts since November 2005. [133628]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources were made available for the contingency plan to mitigate the operational risks of delivering modernising medical careers in 2006. [137204]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding allocated for modernising medical careers and medical training application system was sufficient to meet the requirements for the project in year.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1514-15W, on the NHS: working hours, what the full URL is of the monitoring information published on the NHS Employers website. [137368]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The full URL is:

www.nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-467.cfm.

Obesity: Children

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many school children in the Easington constituency were classed as obese in each of the last four years. [137177]

Caroline Flint: The specific information requested is not collected centrally. However, figures on children's obesity prevalence by Government office region for 2002 to 2004 are available and are published in the Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet, England 2006 publication produced by The Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet-england-2006.

Copies have been placed in the Library.

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were treated for obesity in Easington constituency in each year since 2002, broken down by age; and if she will make a statement. [137178]

Caroline Flint: Information on children treated for obesity broken down by ages in the Easington constituency is not collected centrally.

Obesity: Hartlepool

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were classified as obese in Hartlepool constituency in each year since 1996; and what steps her Department is taking to reduce levels of obesity. [137358]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the format requested.

Data for Hartlepool constituency's obesity prevalence among adults are not available. However the estimated prevalence of obesity can be given for adults in Hartlepool primary care trust (PCT) for the combined years 2000-02. This information is given in the table.

Data on childhood obesity in the Hartlepool constituency are also not available. Figures on children's obesity prevalence by Government office region for the combined years 2002-04 are available and are published in the Statistics on Obesity, Physical Activity and Diet, England 2006 publication produced by the information centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/health-and-lifestyles/obesity/statistics-on-obesity-physical-activity-and-diet-england-2006

Table 1: Estimated prevalence[1] of obesity among adults in Hartlepool primary care trust, 2000-02

	Percentage
Estimated prevalence of obesity	23.9
95 per cent. lower confidence interval	21.8
95 per cent. upper confidence interval	26.6
Comparison of estimated prevalence for obesity with national estimate[2]	[3]

[1] Please note that these data were created from the ward level estimates which can also be found on the Neighbourhood Statistics website. The PCOs were built up from aggregation of "best-fit" ward data. Since PCOs and wards are not coterminous, this information is not exact.

[2] The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2000-02 (with associated confidence intervals) and therefore is not a synthetic estimate.

[3] Overlapping.

Source:
Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours at PCO Level, 2000-02, The Information Centre, Neighbourhood Statistics 2005

Obesity: Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many gastroplasty procedures have been undertaken by the NHS in each year since 1997-98; and what the average cost was of a gastroplasty procedure in the latest period for which figures are available. [137390]

Caroline Flint: Data are given in the following table on gastroplasty procedures for 1997-98 to 2005-06. The data are split into two groups: one for where the procedure is for a gastroplasty and the second for where the procedure is on the stomach but the area is unspecified so it could include gastroplasty among other procedures.

Count of total gastroplasty procedures—Data for national health service hospitals England, data years 1997-98 to 2005-06

Data year	*Total procedures for G24.5 Antireflux operations, Gastroplasty and antireflux procedure, G30.1 Plastic operations on stomach, Gastroplasty nec and G30.2 Plastic operations on stomach, Partitioning of stomach*	*Total procedures for G30.8 Plastic operations on stomach, Other specified and G30.9 Plastic operations on stomach, unspecified*
1997-98	188	35
1998-99	198	58
1999-2000	179	33
2000-01	222	51
2001-02	222	50
2002-03	248	64
2003-04	269	96
2004-05	367	169
2005-06	456	217

Note:
The data provided is not related to a count of patients treated. As the question stated, these are data for the number of procedures taking place, and it may be possible for patients to have more than one of the procedure codes attached to their episode.

The costs of gastroplasty procedures are not separately identified or available.

Orthopaedics

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department is making on the tariff for payment by results in orthopaedic hospitals. [138601]

Andy Burnham: The Department of Health published the 'Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11' consultation document on 15 March 2007. The consultation document puts forward proposals for developing payment by results for specialist services, which includes specialist orthopaedic services. A response to the consultation will be published later this year. Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library.

Departmental officials continue to work closely with specialist orthopaedic hospitals and the specialist orthopaedic alliance. The latest meeting with representatives from specialist orthopaedic hospitals was on 22 May 2007 and with the specialist orthopaedic alliance on 2 May 2007. The Secretary of State for Health and the Minister of State with responsibility for delivery and reform also met with representatives from all specialist hospitals on 22 February 2007.

Palliative Care: Young People

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has for the funding of the provision of palliative care for *(a)* children and *(b)* young people; and if she will make a statement. [139773]

Caroline Flint: The Government will consider the recommendations of the independent review of children's palliative care and their implications for life-limited children and young people in England in the context of the comprehensive spending review. This will be considered in the context of the wider recommendations from the HM Treasury/Department for Education and Skills "Disabled Children's Review". The Department is also providing £27 million of extra funding to children's hospice services in England over three years from 2006. The first year's payments were made to 36 providers in October 2006.

Patientline

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings her Department has had with Patientline; what the outcomes were of those meetings; and if she will make a statement. [138060]

Andy Burnham: Since the publication of the bedside televisions and telephones (Patient Power) review group report on 23 February 2007, the Department has met once with Patientline to discuss what further work can be done to reduce the cost of incoming calls. This meeting was commercial and in confidence. Work is on-going to find a solution to the issue of the bedside telephone charges.

Patients: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the NHS funding allocation per unweighted head is in 2007-08 in each *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority region. [137296]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is shown in the following table. This information is given for 152 primary care trusts (PCTs) and 10 strategic health authorities (SHAs).

PCT	*2007-08 allocation per unweighted head (£)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	1,483
Barking and Dagenham PCT	1,581
Barnet PCT	1,374
Barnsley PCT	1,537
Bassetlaw PCT	1,348
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1,230
Bedfordshire PCT	1,185
Berkshire East PCT	1,243
Berkshire West PCT	1,155
Bexley Care Trust	1,339
Birmingham East and North PCT	1,509
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	1,514
Blackpool PCT	1,636
Bolton PCT	1,457

PCT	2007-08 allocation per unweighted head (£)
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1,405
Bradford and Airedale PCT	1,444
Brent Teaching PCT	1,632
Brighton and Hove City PCT	1,449
Bristol PCT	1,398
Bromley PCT	1,306
Buckinghamshire PCT	1,168
Bury PCT	1,362
Calderdale PCT	1,415
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,160
Camden PCT	1,727
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	1,282
Central Lancashire PCT	1,374
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	1,818
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1,339
County Durham PCT	1,575
Coventry Teaching PCT	1,466
Croydon PCT	1,359
Cumbria PCT	1,389
Darlington PCT	1,508
Derby City PCT	1,327
Derbyshire County PCT	1,336
Devon PCT	1,318
Doncaster PCT	1,499
Dorset PCT	1,319
Dudley PCT	1,349
Ealing PCT	1,516
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	1,220
East Lancashire PCT	1,490
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	1,248
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	1,396
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	1,401
Enfield PCT	1,432
Gateshead PCT	1,629
Gloucestershire PCT	1,261
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	1,441
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1,558
Halton and St. Helens PCT	1,586
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	1,626
Hampshire PCT	1,212
Haringey Teaching PCT	1,595
Harrow PCT	1,396
Hartlepool PCT	1,600
Hastings and Rother PCT	1,571
Havering PCT	1,384
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	1,586
Herefordshire PCT	1,274
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,536
Hillingdon PCT	1,358
Hounslow PCT	1,477
Hull PCT	1,511
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	1,440
Islington PCT	1,956
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	1,407
Kingston PCT	1,280
Kirklees PCT	1,364
Knowsley PCT	1,816
Lambeth PCT	1,812
Leeds PCT	1,422
Leicester City PCT	1,416
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	1,140
Lewisham PCT	1,743
Lincolnshire PCT	1,302
Liverpool PCT	1,788
Luton PCT	1,359
Manchester PCT	1,723
Medway PCT	1,254
Mid Essex PCT	1,150
Middlesbrough PCT	1,626
Milton Keynes PCT	1,201
Newcastle PCT	1,615
Newham PCT	1,714
Norfolk PCT	1,295
North East Essex PCT	1,373
North East Lincolnshire PCT	1,417
North Lancashire PCT	1,406
North Lincolnshire PCT	1,337
North Somerset PCT	1,288
North Staffordshire PCT	1,365
North Tees PCT	1,344
North Tyneside PCT	1,497
North Yorkshire and York PCT	1,238
Northamptonshire PCT	1,269
Northumberland Care Trust	1,404
Nottingham City PCT	1,483
Nottinghamshire County PCT	1,329
Oldham PCT	1,511
Oxfordshire PCT	1,171
Peterborough PCT	1,494
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1,402
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	1,382
Redbridge PCT	1,384
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	1,601
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	1,273
Rotherham PCT	1,480
Salford PCT	1,717
Sandwell PCT	1,554
Sefton PCT	1,556
Sheffield PCT	1,512
Shropshire County PCT	1,268
Solihull Care Trust	1,297
Somerset PCT	1,276
South Birmingham PCT	1,489
South East Essex PCT	1,334
South Gloucestershire PCT	1,143
South Staffordshire PCT	1,234
South Tyneside PCT	1,639
South West Essex PCT	1,337
Southampton City PCT	1,353
Southwark PCT	1,825
Stockport PCT	1,356
Stoke On Trent PCT	1,559
Suffolk PCT	1,227
Sunderland Teaching PCT	1,632
Surrey PCT	1,258
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,347
Swindon PCT	1,288
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,504
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1,282
Torbay Care Trust	1,464

PCT	2007-08 allocation per unweighted head (£)
Tower Hamlets PCT	1,843
Trafford PCT	1,405
Wakefield District PCT	1,464
Walsall Teaching PCT	1,526
Waltham Forest PCT	1,531
Wandsworth PCT	1,538
Warrington PCT	1,339
Warwickshire PCT	1,241
West Essex PCT	1,315
West Hertfordshire PCT	1,257
West Kent PCT	1,239
West Sussex PCT	1,336
Western Cheshire PCT	1,363
Westminster PCT	1,564
Wiltshire PCT	1,194
Wirral PCT	1,595
Wolverhampton City PCT	1,511
Worcestershire PCT	1,239
England	1,388
SHA	
East Midlands	1,305
East of England	1,269
London	1,531
North East	1,551
North West	1,503
South Central	1,220
South East Coast	1,329
South West	1,305
West Midlands	1,382
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,407
England	1,388

Physiotherapy: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent physiotherapists there were in each NHS trust in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement on recruitment and retention of physiotherapists in the NHS. [137780]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information showing full-time equivalent number of physiotherapists in each national health service trust in each of the last three years has been placed in the Library.

Workforce planning is now the responsibility of local NHS employers and strategic health authorities, who need to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of physiotherapists to meet local service needs. The workforce review team are continuing to provide information to support local workforce planners to model their requirements.

Physiotherapy: Training

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 970W, on Physiotherapy: training and 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W, on Nurses: training, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that *(a)* the number of newly qualified staff meets the number of available posts and *(b)* the number of staff training in different specialities meets demand; and if she will make a statement. [136739]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The work force review team (WRT) works in close partnership with the Department, strategic health authorities, professional bodies, and a range of other stakeholders to help shape work force strategies and to help ensure the levels of supply of newly qualified staff and the number of staff in training meets the levels of demand locally and nationally.

The WRT provides a national view of the planning and investment strategies needed to produce a work force with the right skills, in the right numbers, in the right places to deliver the health services that patients want and need in the future.

The WRT produces reliable data and intelligence about the work force, and their recommendations prepared each year inform local work force planners and provide guidance on the investment of national and local training budgets in work force development.

Pregnant Women: Alcoholic Drinks

Charlotte Atkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent changes her Department has made to its advice on the consumption of alcohol by pregnant women and by women who are trying to conceive; on what new scientific evidence the changes are based; what plans her Department has to convey the revised advice to pregnant women and those trying to conceive; what consultation has taken place with *(a)* the medical profession and *(b)* other interested stakeholders about the changes; and when the changes were finalised by her Department. [130206]

Caroline Flint: We have just announced that the Department is amending its advice to pregnant women and those trying to conceive, to provide a clearer message. There is no change in the underlying scientific advice.

The existing advice for women in England is:

Pregnant women or women trying to conceive should not drink more than one to two units of alcohol once or twice a week and should avoid getting drunk.

The amended advice is:

Pregnant women or women trying to conceive should avoid drinking alcohol. If they do choose to drink, to minimise risk to the baby, they should not drink more than one to two units of alcohol once or twice a week and should not get drunk.

The amended wording is designed to strengthen the message, make it clearer and easier to understand and to provide consistent advice across the whole of the United Kingdom. It has been agreed by the Chief Medical Officers of all four UK countries.

The Government's message in England is based on the advice of the Sensible Drinking Working Group set up in 1995 and the findings of a review commissioned by the Department in 2005 from the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit to review available evidence. The 2005 review did not change the scientific basis of the advice.

The amended wording recognises that many women already stop drinking alcohol in pregnancy, while

acknowledging that an alternative is very low consumption, with re-statement of the previous advice in that context.

The aim is to minimise any underestimation of risk to the developing foetus from drinking in pregnancy and to help reduce the proportion of women drinking in pregnancy above the sensible drinking levels.

We are currently consulting the UK alcohol industry on proposals to include a short form of the new message as part of a health message on alcohol labels and containers. This should support future awareness raising campaigns on this issue. The wording we have proposed for labels is:

Avoid alcohol if pregnant or trying to conceive.

Prescription Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for drugs for the treatment of *(a)* allergies, *(b)* diabetes and *(c)* asthma were dispensed in the community in each year since 1997; and what the net ingredient cost of such drugs was in each case in each year. [137320]

Caroline Flint: The number of prescription items dispensed in the community and the net ingredient cost (NIC), from 1997 to 2006, for England, categorised by allergies, diabetes and asthma, as defined by the most appropriate chapters in British National Formulary (BNF), are provided in the following tables:

(a) Allergies—BNF section 3.4 Antihistamines, Hyposensitisation and Allergic Emergencies

	Items (Thousand)	NIC (£000)
1997	6,226.2	35,353.0
1998	6,678.3	42,147.4
1999	7,149.9	49,161.0
2000	7,484.0	54,246.9
2001	8,033.3	59,646.8
2002	8,461.5	65,552.7
2003	8,629.2	65,419.2
2004	8,740.8	62,174.5
2005	8,959.5	50,411.3
2006	9,310.5	[1] 49,745.6

[1] The drop in NIC between 2005 and 2006 is probably due to Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme (PPRS) and price changes to generic medicines (Category M).

(b) Diabetes—BNF section 6.1 Drugs Used In Diabetes

	Items (Thousand)	NIC (£000)
1997	11,497.5	142,585.9
1998	12,695.9	167,037.9
1999	14,201.4	200,977.6
2000	15,924.9	230,327.5
2001	18,119.7	278,577.2
2002	20,305.3	335,689.8
2003	22,302.1	390,567.8
2004	24,487.1	450,567.5
2005	26,491.7	495,272.9
2006	28,439.4	562,479.0

(c) Asthma (treatment and prophylaxis) BNF sections:

3.1 Bronchodilators,

3.2 Corticosteroids,

3.3 Cromoglicate and related therapy and leukotriene receptor antagonists

	Items (Thousand)	NIC (£000)
1997	35,512.3	466,228.8
1998	36,467.7	498,037.3
1999	36,638.6	519,754.9
2000	36,797.8	528,390.4
2001	37,852.7	563,200.4
2002	38,394.0	594,938.6
2003	38,149.5	627,627.7
2004	38,935.3	685,531.5
2005	39,801.5	722,139.3
2006	40,386.2	768,619.7

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription items were dispensed in the community in each primary care trust in England in each year since 2003; and what the net ingredient cost of such items was in each year. [137321]

Caroline Flint: This information requested has been placed in the Library.

Prescription Drugs: Internet

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the volume of prescription drugs sold to UK residents over the internet. [139260]

Caroline Flint: In the United Kingdom, there are strict legal controls on the retail sale, supply and advertisement of medicinal products. Prescription only medicines (POM) and pharmacy medicines can be sold or supplied at registered pharmacy premises only by or under the supervision of a pharmacist. In addition, POMs may be sold or supplied only in accordance with a prescription from a prescriber, and cannot be advertised to the public. These legal controls apply equally to medicines sold or supplied via internet transactions. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) takes the view that internet sale and supply of medicines are acceptable provided these legal requirements are met, but investigates and, where appropriate, takes enforcement action against suppliers who operate outside the legal requirements. The MHRA do not hold figures, nor has any estimate been made, for sales of POMs to UK residents.

Prescriptions: Easington

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were dispensed in Easington constituency for *(a)* methadone, *(b)* diamorphine and *(c)* anti-depressants in each year since 2002; and if she will make a statement. [137175]

Caroline Flint: Easington constituency has been assumed to be coterminus with Easington Primary Care Trust. This PCT merged with others to form Durham PCT in October 2006 and so separate figures do not exist for Easington PCT after this date. The Prescription Pricing Division maintain only 60 months data in their live systems and so figures are not available for the whole of 2002.

The following table shows the number of items dispensed in Easington. For methadone all forms (including cough linctus) have been included.

	Anti-depressants	*Methadone*	*Diamorphine*
2003	69,409	1,496	222
2004	71,294	3,207	217
2005	73,831	5,343	158
2006 (January-September)	58,602	5,125	136

Notes:
1. *PCA data*
Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system, supplied by the Prescription Pricing Division (PPD) of the Business Services Authority (BSA), and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. Also included are prescriptions written in Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man but dispensed in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.
2. *Prescription items*
Prescriptions are written on a prescription form: Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent submissions she has received in support of free prescriptions for asthmatics; and when she expects the findings of the review of prescription charges to be published. [136721]

Caroline Flint: The Department has welcomed comments on possible options for changing the current prescription charge arrangements from all organisations that wished to make representations. Between 1 November 2006 and 10 May 2007, 52 representations were received from organisations and individuals advocating free prescriptions for asthmatics.

We have undertaken to report to Parliament before the summer recess 2007.

Pupils: Eating Disorders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what materials her Department provides for schools and youth groups to help teachers and staff talk to pupils about eating disorders; [139118]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1918W.

Rehabilitation Centres: Young People

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* location is of each dedicated residential rehabilitation unit for adolescents with addiction problems. [137374]

Caroline Flint: There are 23 residential services in England for young people who have or have had substance misuse problems, covering a range of services from short-term crisis intervention centres to long-term interventions for young people with multifaceted needs. Within these 23 services there are four specialist residential drug and alcohol services. Information about these services is as follows:

Name of service	*Location*	*Age covered*
The PROMIS Recovery Centre—Residential addiction rehabilitation centre	Nonington, Kent	14-18
Companions—Intensive rehabilitation treatment programme	Eccleshall, Staffordshire	14-18
Middlegate Lodge—12 week residential programme	Caistor, Lincolnshire	11-17
Godden Green Clinic—Treatment tailored to individual need	Sevenoaks, Kent	12-18

Note:
These are all listed in the National Treatment Agency's (NTA) Directory of Residential Services for Young People.
Source:
http://www.nta.nhs.uk/areas/young_people/Docs/Young_people_directory.pdf

Sex: Health Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* public education about healthy sexual relationships especially for young people and *(b)* advice on recognising abusive behaviour in the last 12 months. [140610]

Caroline Flint: Improving the nation's sexual health is a key Government priority.

£5.5 million was spent in the 2006-07 financial year on the two teenage pregnancy media campaigns: 'RU Thinking?' which promotes messages on delay and avoiding peer pressure for younger teenagers; and 'Want Respect: Use a Condom' which promotes a safe sex message to older, sexually active teenagers. In addition, schools deliver positive sexual health messages through their delivery of personal, social and health education, although it is not possible to disaggregate how much of a school's overall budget is used for this purpose.

'Condom Essential Wear', which was launched in November 2006, had a spend of £5.5 million in the financial year 2006-07.

These campaigns are part of a joint communications strategy between Department for Education and Skills and the Department.

The media campaigns do not focus explicitly on recognising abusive behaviour. However, 'RU Thinking?' in particular aims to enable young people to take control of their relationships and to recognise that it is okay to say no to situations that leave them feeling uncomfortable.

Smoking

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the guidance provided by local authority co-ordinators of regulatory services on implementation and enforcement of the smoke-free regulations. [135903]

Caroline Flint: In March 2007, guidance on the implementation of smokefree legislation was published by Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS). The purpose of the guidance is to support local council regulatory officers in successfully implementing smokefree legislation to be enforced in England from 6 am on Sunday, 1 July 2007. The remit

of LACORS is to provide advice and guidance to help support local authority regulatory and related services.

The guidance on smokefree legislation was developed by LACORS and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, in consultation with the Department and other organisations. The guidance was also shown in advance to Smokefree England Ministerial Reference Group members, and received only minor comments. We understand the guidance has been well received by local councils.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of smokers being treated for smoking-related illness in the NHS. [136405]

Caroline Flint: Figures are available and provided on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) in national health service hospitals for those aged 35 and over with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking and estimates of the number of those FCEs attributable to smoking.

Table 1 shows the number of FCEs for those aged 35 and over with a primary diagnosis of various diseases that can be caused by smoking and estimates of the number of those FCEs that can be attributed to smoking. Figures have been provided for 2004-05, as this is the most recent year for which data are available. It is acknowledged that not all of the FCEs included in the table will be attributable to smoking as there are other contributory factors to these diseases. Therefore, the relative risks of these diseases for current and ex-smokers, compared to non-smokers have been used to estimate smoking-attributable FCEs.

Table 1: Finished Consultant Episodes (FCEs)[1] among adults aged 35 and over[2], with a primary diagnosis of diseases that can be caused by smoking, and the estimated number of these FCEs that can be attributed[3] to smoking as a percentage of all admissions from that disease, 2004-05[4], England

			Number/percentage
Diagnosis (ICD 10)	*Observed FCEs[5]*	*Attributable number[6]*	*Attributable percentage*
All diseases caused in part by smoking	1,573,395	559,800	36
Cancers caused in part by smoking	335,707	172,400	51
Lung	89,547	75,800	85
Upper respiratory sites	18,614	12,900	69
Oesophagus	38,484	26,200	68
Bladder	78,177	30,500	39
Kidney	12,132	3,400	28
Stomach	28,639	7,300	25
Pancreas	22,967	6,000	26
Unspecified site	17,244	6,300	37
Myeloid leukaemia	29,903	4,200	14
Respiratory diseases caused in part by smoking	315,927	177,300	56
Chronic obstructive lung disease	176,294	147,300	84
Pneumonia	139,633	30,000	21
Circulatory diseases caused in part by smoking	636,226	158,100	25
Ischaemic heart disease	419,513	106,200	25
Peripheral Arterial Disease	18,797	15,800	84
Cerebrovascular disease	169,584	24,200	14
Aortic aneurysm	15,457	9,500	62
Myocardial infarction	2,802	600	21
Atherosclerosis	10,073	1,900	19
Diseases of the digestive system caused in part by smoking	59,765	26,400	44
Stomach/duodenal ulcer	41,879	22,200	53
Crohn's disease	15,205	3,000	20
Periodontal disease	2,681	1,200	46
Other diseases caused in part by smoking	225,770	25,500	11
Age related cataract among those aged 45 and over	127,111	15,500	12
Hip fracture among those aged 55 and over	85,641	9,200	11
Spontaneous abortion	13,018	700	6

[1] An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Figures do not represent the number of patients, as a patient may have more than one episode of care within the year.
[2] Figures have been presented for adults aged 35 and over unless otherwise specified.
[3] More information on the methodology used to calculate these estimates are available in the Statistics on Smoking: England, 2006 publication produced by The Information Centre for health and social care, which is available in the House Library.
[4] The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals).
[5] Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data. Observed admissions only includes those where gender was recorded.
[6] Estimated attributable number, rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES). The Information Centre.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on enforcing the maximum yield legislation for cigarettes in each of the last five financial years. [137730]

Caroline Flint: Cigarettes are tested regularly by Arista Laboratories in Kingston-upon-Thames on behalf of the Department. They measure the maximum yields of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide as required by the European Union Directive on the manufacturing, presentation and sale of tobacco products. Details of departmental spending on the testing contract cannot be disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were referred to smoking cessation services in each of the last five years, in each NHS trust area; and what estimate she has made of the number of people who stopped smoking after using those services in that period in each NHS trust area. [138495]

Caroline Flint: The specific information requested is not centrally collected. Data for referrals to smoking cessation services are not available. However, we can provide information for the number of people who have set a quit date through the NHS Stop Smoking Services in England and of those, how many people had successfully quit smoking at the four week follow up (based on self report).

Figures have been included for the number of people who have set a quit date and for those who successfully quit annually from April 2001 to March 2006. Provisional figures for the period April 2006 to September 2006 have also been provided. Figures for the period April 2001 to March 2002 are provided by health authority and regional office areas—this information is given in table one. From April 2002 data have been provided by government office region (GOR), strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT)—this information is given in table two.

Table one showing People setting a quit date and number successfully quit at four weeks, by regional office area and health authority, 2001-02; and table 2 two People setting a quit date and number successfully quit at four weeks, by GOR, SHA and PCT April 2002 to September 2006, have been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Brent

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of Brent Primary Care Trust's decision to change the funding allocation to smoking cessation services; and if she will make a statement. [138499]

Caroline Flint: Brent Teaching Primary Care Trust received a specific allocation of £334,000 for their national health service stop smoking services for each of the years 2006-07, and 2007-08. However, it is for the PCT to decide how best to spend these provide the service.

Smoking: Clubs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the smoking ban on private members clubs; and what representations she has received on the matter. [138520]

Caroline Flint: Costs and benefits associated with smokefree legislation are included with the regulatory impact assessment published by the Department, which includes reference to the hospitality industry.

Members clubs have been consulted at all stages of consideration of the Health Act 2006 and its implementation. We continue to work closely with organisations representing members clubs in the run-up to the implementation of the smokefree provisions of the Health Act 2006 on 1 July 2007. The General Secretary of the Committee of Registered Clubs Association is a member of the Smokefree England ministerial reference group that provides a forum for direct and regular contact on implementation issues between the Department and key stakeholders.

Smoking-free Regulations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which organisations representing religious faiths she has consulted about the Smoke-Free (Signs) Regulations 2007; and if she will make a statement. [140607]

Caroline Flint: The Department ran a full 12-week public consultation on the smoke-free regulations to be made under powers in the Health Act 2006 between July and October 2006. This was an open public consultation, and the Department encouraged all interested parties to respond.

Department officials recently met representatives from the Church of England, the Churches Main Committee and the Association of English Cathedrals regarding smoke-free legislation. Department officials have also offered meetings to other faith groups. The Department has published a fact sheet on signage requirements for places of worship, which has been made available to churches throughout England and is also available on the Department's Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/files/churches-signage-factsheet.pdf

Surgery

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement on page four of her Department's report "Saws and Scalpels to Lasers and Robots", published on 17 April 2007, that greater specialisation in complex cases could result in local hospitals being able to carry out 80 per cent. of planned surgery, with 20 per cent. of cases being carried out in more specialised centres. [138471]

Andy Burnham: In that part of his report, Professor Sir Ara Darzi set out his vision for surgery and gave his view of the proportions of planned surgery which might be carried out either locally or at specialised centres in the future. He was giving his expert judgment based on extensive clinical experience.

Tomography: Kent

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many CT scanners are operational in Kent. [139722]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect information on the operational use of the computed tomography (CT) scanners. However, as at January 2007 there were 12 CT scanners installed in national health service trusts in Kent.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 5 June 2007

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Cemeteries

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Commissioners have had with English Heritage over the staking of gravestones for safety reasons in listed church graveyards. [140508]

Sir Stuart Bell: None, but the Council for the Care of Churches has issued guidance on possible approaches to the inspection of memorials and the Justice Minister has written to local authorities urging a proportionate response to the question of memorial safety. Councils need to balance the (often slight) risk of injury against the certainty of distress if memorials were laid down.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many church graveyards have gravestones supported by temporary fittings. [140509]

Sir Stuart Bell: These figures are not available. Where gravestones are temporarily supported, this is likely to be in churchyards where responsibility for maintenance has been transferred to the local authority.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many cases of *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful litigation there have been from injuries and deaths caused by falling gravestones and memorials in church cemeteries in the last 20 years. [140510]

Sir Stuart Bell: Statistics are not available for the last 20 years but Ecclesiastical Insurance, which insures the majority of Church of England churches, has handled less than 20 claims relating to gravestones in the last 10 years.

John Mann: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners how many complaints have been received by the Commissioners of unsafe gravestones and memorials in church cemeteries in the last 20 years. [140513]

Sir Stuart Bell: None, as far as I am aware.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of underage drinking in public places were reported to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in each of the last three years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by district command unit. [119506]

Paul Goggins: As underage drinking is not a notifiable offence it is not included in recorded crime statistics. The information is therefore not readily accessible and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

PSNI Community Safety Branch are currently adopting a statistical return that will, in future, capture such information.

Criminal Records

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people resident in Northern Ireland have criminal convictions in foreign jurisdictions; and if he will make a statement. [140110]

Paul Goggins: It is impossible to determine an exact figure relating to offences committed abroad, since there is no general requirement for foreign police forces to notify the PSNI of offences committed by residents of Northern Ireland while overseas. Nor are foreign nationals migrating to Northern Ireland required to declare convictions for offences committed in another jurisdiction. However, in the case of serious offences committed within Europe, the Council of Europe Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance applies, in which case notification is given to the host country of the offender in question. Via this mechanism, 519 people resident within Northern Ireland have so far been identified as having committed criminal offences abroad.

Prisons: Drugs

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland for what reasons responsibility for the drugs rehabilitation of prisoners in Northern Ireland was not transferred to the Department of Health in April when responsibility for all other aspects of prisoners' healthcare was duly transferred; and if he will make a statement. [140111]

Paul Goggins: The Prison Service's strategy toward drug and alcohol misuse is based on the twin pillars of security, in terms of reducing supply, and on working with prisoners to reduce their addiction, principally through the input of voluntary community support organisations in each establishment.

To have transferred part of the budget at this stage could have jeopardised the implementation of the strategy, though the Service intends to review the position as the partnership with HPSS more widely develops.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Prosecutions: Costs

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General what the average cost was of a prosecution within the former Director of Public Prosecutions' system of prosecutions in *(a)* magistrates' courts and *(b)* the Crown Court in each of the last five years. [140237]

The Solicitor-General: The former Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland did not hold information on the average cost of prosecutions. While some unit costs may be identifiable, the overall cost to the Department of any case it prosecuted, as a percentage of the overall cost of its total workload, is not.

Public Prosecution Service: Consultants

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General how much has been spent on the employment of consultants by the *(a)* Public Prosecution Service and *(b)* Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission in the last three financial years; and what payments were made to each consultant or consultancy. [140234]

The Solicitor-General: The figures for the Public Prosecution Service are as follows:

For the financial year 2006-07 the following consultants were paid the shown amounts:

	£
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	121,470
William Hamilton Sturdy	68,895
Ivor Morrison	35,871
Raymond Wilson	2,053
White Young Green	110,144

For the financial year 2005-06 the following consultants were paid the shown amounts:

	£
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	608,124
William Hamilton Sturdy	65,151
Ivor Morrison	21,158
Raymond Wilson	2,199
White Young Green	229,718
Quest Consulting	9,607

For the financial year 2004-05 the following consultants were paid the shown amounts:

	£
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	992,609
William Hamilton Sturdy	72,011
Raymond Wilson	2,560
White Young Green	56,099
Quest Consulting	19,563

I have been informed by the Ministry of Justice that the figures for the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission are as follows:

For the financial year 2006-07 the following consultants were paid the shown amounts:

	£
11KBW	2,115.01
Acheson Associates	2,115.01
Beamans Management Consultants	2,192.25
Burness	6,715.14
Deloitte	(675.43)
Economic Research and Evaluation	6,750.69
FLAC—Promoting Access to Justice	27.70
Harrison Photography	227.95
Hymans Robertson	3,818.75
IMS International	693.25
Jardine Lloyd Thompson	587.50
Ken Millar Consultancy Ltd.	500.00
KPMG	29,998.92
Legal Services Commission England and Wales	4,497.21
Miss Suki Wong	234.00
ND Multimedia	300.00
NI Statistics and Research Agency	1,459.00
Northern Ireland Media Monitoring Services	329.89
Nottingham Law School Ltd.	3,830.50
Parents Advice Centre	2,104.45
Penna Group Finance	61,404.70
Professor John Peysner	1,460.43
Professor Richard Moorhead	574.98
Toplevel Computing Ltd.	507.67
Matthews Consulting	31,881.67
Ivor Morrison	939.00

For the financial year 2005-06 the following consultants were paid the shown amounts:

	£
Acheson Associates	7,402.50
Arcomm Ass Board Presentation	(235.00)
Art Of Change	1,909.38
Beamans Management Consultants	5,077.48
Burness	705.00
Deloitte	15,275.00
Economic Research & Evaluation	56,633.76
Evolve Business Consultancy	816.86
Gillian Mccaughey	600.00
Harbison Mulholland	3,936.25
Ims International	2,267.75
Jardine Lloyd Thompson	2,353.50
Legal & General Assurance	8,148.00
Legal Services Commission England & Wales	1,685.70
NI Statistics & Research Agency	40,000.00
Nottingham Law School Ltd.	10,381.13
Patton Associates	600.00
Penna Group Finance	7,050.00
Swift Telecoms	4,606.02
Ultonia Solutions	9,525.46

For the financial year 2004-05 the following consultants were paid the shown amounts:

	£
Acheson Associates	1,057.50
Bdo Stoy Hayward	2,702.50

	£
Burness	11,074.38
Deloitte Total Reward & Benefit	29,202.28
Docagility Ltd.	917.75
Economic Research & Evaluation	26,516.92
Jardine Lloyd Thompson	7,169.01
N.I.L.G.O.S.C	12,787.12
NI Statistics & Research Agency	20,000.00
NPI	4,445.00
Occupational Health Consultant	921.52
Pricewaterhousecoopers	7,637.50
Sypol Ltd.	881.25
Tim Brogan	2,409.78
Ultonia Solutions	15,507.88

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she will reply to the letter of 9 March from the right hon. Member for Warley regarding appointments to the BBC Trust. [138737]

Tessa Jowell: I apologise for not replying sooner to the letter of 9 March from my right hon. Friend regarding appointments to the BBC Trust.

I can confirm that I responded on 4 June.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether payment of the *(a)* operational allowance and *(b)* longer separation allowance can lead to a reduction in payment of the other allowance. [140575]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* No.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139415]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government was created on 5 May 2006.

In the Financial year, 2006-07, the Department spent £843,000 on external public relations agencies. PR agencies have been used for four campaigns—home information packs, tenancy deposit, fire kills and the local e-govt take-up campaign.

Figures for the Department's agencies are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

Figures for spend on public relations by the Department's predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, could only be disaggregated from the Office's total spend on publicity and information campaigns at disproportionate costs.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139517]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government (created on 5 May 2006) and its predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister has spent the following on advertising over the last five years (May 2002-May 2007). The increase in spend in the Financial Year 2006-07 was due to the Department running an increased number of campaigns, in addition to the on-going fire safety activity. The additional campaigns included local authority on-line services, home information packs, changes to the fire safety legislation for businesses, the introduction of the tenancy deposit scheme, and the female fire fighters recruitment campaign.

	£ million
2002-03	3.347
2003-04	4.49
2004-05	5.04
2005-06	4.7
2006-07	10

Figures for the Department's agencies are not held centrally and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment his Department has made of the potential long term impact of the fair trade food initiative on living standards in third world nations. [139809]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The UK Government are strong supporters of fair-trade products. They help farmers and other producers earn a decent living and get more of the final value of the product. Many Government Departments, including DFID, use fair-trade tea and coffee. And DFID supports initiatives to help producers benefit from fair-trade certification and develop new products. A number of individual impact assessments have been carried out, for example on DFID support to the Kuapa Kokoo cocoa growers' cooperative in Ghana to achieve fair-trade certification. The findings of this and

other studies of fair-trade suggest the greatest benefits come through improved farmer organisation and improved availability of agricultural supplies. Direct impacts on long-term poverty reduction are less easy to measure. How the poverty impacts of fair trade can be more reliably and clearly monitored is at the centre of our current discussions with fair-trade organisations, including the Fairtrade Foundation, around future DFID support.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of EU mechanisms for the delivery of aid to the Palestinians; and whether any changes to the policy are planned for the 2006-07 financial year. [140379]

Hilary Benn: The European Community and EU member states use a variety of mechanisms to deliver aid to the Palestinian people. Since the suspension of direct budgetary support in March 2006, the EU created the temporary international mechanism (TIM) in order to deliver aid directly to the Palestinians. The European Commission and the World Bank have begun a review of the TIM. A report is expected in June.

The UK Government and other EU member states will wish to consider the review's recommendations in deciding future policy on the TIM. Decisions will also be based on an assessment of the Palestinian National Unity Government's progress towards Quartet's three principles of engagement. These are renouncing violence, recognising Israel and signing up to previous peace agreements.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what yield to the Exchequer from the abolition of the agricultural buildings allowance is expected in each year to 2010-11. [138375]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Over the course of the 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years, Exchequer receipts from the staged phasing-out of the agricultural buildings allowance (ABA) from incorporated agricultural businesses are expected to be negligible.

For the 2010-11 financial year, receipts are expected to increase to £5 million.

The corresponding figures for unincorporated agricultural businesses cannot be reliably estimated separately from industrial buildings allowances (IBA).

Over the next year, HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs will produce a regulatory impact assessment of the withdrawal of IBAs and ABAs, in time for the first phase of their withdrawal in April 2008.

Animal Welfare: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in how many cases since 5 January 2007 transporters have not returned journey logs within one month of the completion of the journey as required by paragraph 8 of Annex II to Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. [139945]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between 5 January 2007 and 30 April 2007, 217 journey logs were not returned within one calendar month of the completion of the journey.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to monitor the effectiveness of twice monthly waste disposal collections; and if he will make a statement. [139725]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have set each 'best value' authority in England statutory performance standards for recycling and composting of household waste for 2003-04, 2005-06 and 2007-08. In addition, the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 requires waste collection authorities—subject to certain exemptions—to provide a kerbside collection service of at least two recyclable materials by 2010. Each authority is free to choose its own method of collection and the priority, degree of effort and resources required to meet its target and the requirements of the Act.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme has carried out regular public attitude surveys since 2004, which have included ratings of how convenient the public find different waste collection systems to use. Only a minority of alternate weekly collection systems received poor convenience ratings and these related to systems where insufficient capacity was provided to householders in the week alternating with residual waste collection.

Best value authorities also have a statutory duty to put in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in their functions and their performance is subject to annual inspection by the Audit Commission. Authorities are audited against a number of indicators, and their annual performance plans assessed, to ensure waste management services are good quality, value for money and likely to improve.

Offshore Industry: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the "Planning For A Sustainable Future" White Paper, under what circumstances he envisages a marine management organisation not acting as the consenting body for developments in the marine area. [140045]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proposed Marine Management Organisation would, in principle, be responsible for marine developments except for those that fall within the scope of oil and gas consenting provisions and a small number of major offshore renewable energy and port developments.

The Government propose that an infrastructure planning commission should determine applications for development consent for offshore renewable energy projects capable of generating more than 100 megawatts of power. We are consulting on the threshold above which the commission will determine port projects. The White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (Cm 7120) has an illustrative threshold for ports of container facilities with:

(i) an annual capacity of 0.5 million or more twenty-foot containers

(ii) roll-on/roll-off facilities for 250,000 units or more per year

(iii) or any bulk or general cargo facility with a capacity for five million tonnes or more each year.

It will be for devolved Administrations to determine which bodies will determine consent for marine developments for which they are responsible.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether he plans to transfer his authority to issue consent for the licensing of offshore oil and gas infrastructure to the proposed Marine Management Organisation; and if he will make a statement; [140046]

(2) whether a decision has been made to transfer the licensing of offshore oil and gas infrastructure from the Department for Trade and Industry to the proposed Marine Management Organisation; and if he will make a statement; [140047]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the future licensing of offshore oil and gas infrastructure; and if he will make a statement. [140048]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry meet regularly to discuss matters of mutual interest, including the delivery of the Government's energy policy.

As we set out in the recent Marine Bill White Paper, the current system of licensing oil and gas infrastructure and activity works well, and there is no compelling evidence that integrating it with others would achieve any benefits. The Government therefore intend the Department for Trade and Industry to remain responsible for delivering this service.

The circumstances in which authority is required from the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for activities associated with oil and gas exploration and exploitation are very limited: essentially the sub sea injection of produced waters and drilling muds. We are considering whether this function would in future best lie with the Department for Trade and Industry or the proposed Marine Management Organisation.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Companies: Bankruptcy

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many companies filed for bankruptcy in each year since 1997. [140232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The term bankruptcy applies only to individuals; companies go into liquidation. The statistics published by the Insolvency Service relate to those companies and individuals who actually become insolvent, not to numbers of applications/filings made for insolvency. Company winding up and bankruptcy petition court statistics in England and Wales are published by the Ministry of Justice and are available online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/newsrelease110507.htm.

The following table shows the number of company liquidations since 1997 in the UK.

	England and Wales	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
1997	12,610	477	n/a
1998	13,203	566	n/a
1999	14,280	572	n/a
2000	14,317	583	n/a
2001	14,972	602	n/a
2002	16,306	788	102
2003	14,184	631	142
2004	12,192	621	121
2005	12,893	569	138
2006	13,137	549	128

n/a = Not available

Energy Technologies Institute: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many bids from Welsh research bodies or consortiums were made to host the Energy Technologies Institute; and what criteria were adopted in choosing the five short-listed bids. [138406]

Malcolm Wicks: One bid to host the Energy Technologies Institute was received from Wales. This was from the Welsh Energy Research Centre, an independent all-Wales collaborative body formed by research groups from the universities of Cardiff, Swansea, Glamorgan and Bangor, and from the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research. This bid was not shortlisted.

The key selection criteria used to identify the five short listed bids were:

Reputation and Culture

World class reputation for R and D across a range of energy themes;

Strong existing industrial and academic relationships, with sustained collaborative working and networking track record.

Space, Facilities and Location

The ability to expand to provide a suite of office/conferencing facilities commensurate with the developing needs and aspirations of the ETI; a showcase for the ETI;

Good communications and access.

Commitment to ETI

Demonstrate strong and sustained senior management commitment, leadership and drive.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the impact of recent changes in solar

photovoltaics grant levels under the low carbon buildings programme on household demand for the technology. [136986]

Mr. Darling: The changes we have made to the programme will allow us to use funds available in a more flexible way, supporting an increased number of microgeneration installations across all technologies, which is a fundamental aim of a demonstration programme such as this.

Marketing: Trade

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what guidance he has provided for regional development agencies (RDAs) on international marketing strategy; and by what criteria he measures the effectiveness of strategies adopted by RDAs. [138754]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* Each RDA is responsible for developing and delivering its own international marketing strategy. UK Trade and Investment works closely with RDAs to strengthen their marketing strategies through operational support overseas and collaborative promotion of the UK economy as a whole. There is no formal guidance or measurement for this activity.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many employers were fined for underpayment of the national minimum wage in each year since 1999. [139477]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

To date no employers have been fined for underpaying the minimum wage. In January 2007 the DTI published the NMW penalty notice policy. In line with this, since February 2007 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has been issuing penalty notices for those who fail to comply with an enforcement notice. In May 2007 the DTI published a consultation document to explore options for issuing penalties in all cases where arrears are due and for awarding fair arrears to workers.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what monitoring processes his Department has in place to detect employers claiming excessive deductions from minimum wage payments for accommodation costs. [139479]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

HMRC operates a national minimum wage helpline, which any worker or third party can call to register a complaint about possible non-payment of the minimum wage. Complaints about non-payment of minimum wage can also be made via the HMRC website. HMRC also has a risk assessment programme to identify employers and sectors at risk of breaching the minimum wage rules, including those at risk of claiming excessive deductions for accommodation costs.

Public Buildings: Energy

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will discuss with ministerial colleagues the proposition that all Government Departments, local government and public sector organisations should be instructed that it is a requirement *(a)* that all new public buildings should install low carbon electricity and heat generators powered by natural elements and *(b)* that they be encouraged to do the same for existing buildings. [140073]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is already working with other Departments to determine how to improve the overall energy efficiency of both new and existing non-domestic buildings, including those owned or occupied by the public sector. An integral part of the work looking at how low and zero carbon technologies can contribute to this improvement.

Additionally, the UK Government sustainable procurement action plan, which was published on the 5 March 2007, sets out detailed plans about how the Government will move towards a sustainably built and managed central Government estate. This includes using sustainable procurement to make rapid progress against the cross-Government sustainable operations targets announced in June 2006.

Rover Group: Subsidies

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much and what proportion of the own resources of *(a)* Advantage West Midlands and *(b)* English Partnerships has been spent since establishment, excluding private sector leverage and European Union funding resources directly allocated by Government to deal with the MG Rover situation, on projects located within the administrative boundaries of Birmingham city council. [138072]

Margaret Hodge: Excluding private sector-leverage and European Union funding directly allocated by Government for MG Rover, Advantage West Midlands and English Partnerships have spent the following amounts on projects located within the administrative boundaries of Birmingham city council.

Advantage West Midlands from 1999-2000 to present date

	Amount spent (£000)	*Percentage of annual spend*
1999-2000	11,906	11
2000-01	15,268	13
2001-02	24,294	15
2002-03	36,173	16
2003-04	70,789	23
2004-05	49,442	17
2005-06	49,760	18
2006-07	48,310	17

English Partnerships—spend in 2004-05 and 2005-06 only[1]

	Amount spent (£000)	*Percentage of total budget*
2004-05	2,807	[2]0.6
2005-06	13	0.002

[1] EP spend pre-1999 has not been provided due to the disproportionate costs of retrieving the information.
[2] 0.5 per cent. of this (£2,752,925) was refunded by AWM in 2006-07 which meant HP's actual expenditure was 0.1 per cent. (£53,970)
Note:
Further expenditure was incurred during 2006-07 but cannot be reported until year end accounts are completed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, how much was raised from the sale of property by the House in each of the last five years. [139311]

Nick Harvey: No land or buildings have been sold during the last five years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, (1) what properties the Commission *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years; [139353]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the value of the *(a)* Commons part of the Palace of Westminster and *(b)* other parts of the parliamentary estate that fall under the responsibility of the Commission; [139375]

(3) what the cost to the Commission of leasing buildings and office space was in each of the last five years. [139470]

Nick Harvey: Title to the freehold of the Palace of Westminster is held by the Sovereign. Title to the remaining freehold property on the House of Commons part of the parliamentary estate is held by the Corporate Officer of the House of Commons. This includes the following land and buildings:

Portcullis House
Norman Shaw North
Norman Shaw South
1 to 3 Parliament street
1 Derby Gate
1, 2 and 4 Canon Row
Abingdon street car park
11 Bridge street

The House has long-term leases on both 22 John Islip street and 102 Rochester Row, and the buildings at 7 Millbank and 2 The Abbey Garden are rented. During the last five years parts of 4 Millbank have also been rented for short periods to provide decant facilities during the refurbishment of buildings within the parliamentary estate.

At 31 March 2007 the value of the Commons share of the Palace of Westminster was £716,742,302 and other freehold and long-term leased property on the parliamentary estate totalled £393,716,798. Further details about the parliamentary estate are published in the House of Commons Administration Resource Accounts 2005/6 (HC1453).

The rents incurred on leased buildings were:

	£000
2002-03	6,199
2003-04	6,045
2004-05	6,450
2005-06	6,755
2006-07	6,512

These figures include both rent and landlord service charges where appropriate.

Food: Wastes

Mrs. Moon: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate has been made of the volume of food waste generated by the food outlets on the Commons parliamentary estate in each of the last three years; what steps have been taken to minimise this output and deal with the remainder in an environmentally appropriate manner; and if he will make a statement. [139764]

Nick Harvey: Food waste is not recorded or monitored separately from other general waste, except used cooking oil. The quantities of cooking oil collected in the last three years are as follows:

	Tonnes
2004-05	6.36
2005-06	12.21
2006-07	12.17

This used cooking oil is sent to a processing plant which converts it to biodiesel fuel.

Following a joint meeting between officials and the House's waste management contractor in December 2006, it was concluded that an insufficient quantity of suitable waste is produced on the parliamentary estate for it to be economic or practicable to collect separately food waste for composting. Only a small amount of raw food waste suitable for composting is produced, as most fresh fruit and vegetables purchased by the Refreshment Department are pre-prepared off-site.

Food waste is disposed of within the general waste stream; this is collected and sent for incineration, which is harnessed for electricity generation.

The potential for schemes such as composting and the generation of methane from biodegradable waste will continue to be reviewed on a regular basis and we have set ourselves challenging targets taking account of such future developments in recycling.

The House has set a target of 44 per cent. for recycling of waste in 2007-08, and the current policy for waste recycling is to increase this target by 5 per cent. per year.

Palace of Westminster: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, whether Ministers attending the House

for Question Time or other Parliamentary business should wear their security passes in a visible position at all times. [138047]

Nick Harvey: In his statement of 11 September 2003, Mr. Speaker said that although he recognised that it was impractical for Members to wear their passes at all times, it was essential for them to carry their passes and to co-operate with the security staff if they are asked to produce them. Members are advised not to wear passes in the Chamber to avoid them being shown on television. Members should avoid wearing passes away from the parliamentary estate. No distinction is made between Ministers and other Members.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Absent Parents

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what definition his Department uses for absent fathers; and how many and what proportion of British men fit this definition, broken down by age group. [137526]

Mr. Plaskitt: Following the introduction of the Child Support, Pensions and Social Security Act 2000, the Department has ceased to use the term 'absent parent', using the more appropriate term, 'non-resident parent' in its place.

However section 3(2) of the Child Support Act 1991 defines a parent of a child as an 'absent parent' if

(a) that parent is not living in the same household with the child; and

(b) the child has his home with a person who is, in relation to him, a person with care.

We estimate that non-resident parents account for around one-tenth of the adult male population. This figure includes all non-resident parents, not only those who have a case at the Child Support Agency. This figure was reached by dividing the number of non-resident parents (assumed to be roughly equal to the number of parents with care) by the total number of adult males in the UK.

Unfortunately, the number of non-resident parents broken down by age group is not available.

A breakdown of non-resident parents who have a case with the Child Support Agency by age and gender is available in the Agency's Quarterly Summary Statistics, tables 23 and 24 respectively. The Quarterly Summary Statistics are available from the House of Commons Library, or online at the following address:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency has received from amounts paid to them for child maintenance collected through deductions from earnings orders imposed after liability had ceased; and how much interest was accrued by the Agency from these amounts in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [138697]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which electoral wards in Nottinghamshire have the highest numbers of child support agency claimants. [138826]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 5 June 2007:

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which electoral wards in Nottinghamshire have the highest numbers of Child Support Agency claimants. [138826]

The information requested is not available at ward level. However, the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics Table S1a and Table S1b provides data to Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituency level within Nottinghamshire, that is relevant to your question.

This is available in the House of Commons Library or on the internet via the following link:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children have been defined as living in *(a)* absolute and *(b)* relative poverty in (i) the Jarrow constituency, (ii) south Tyneside, (iii) the north-east and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [131279]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government's long-term measure for child poverty uses three indicators: absolute low income, relative low income and material deprivation combined with relative low income. This measure was the result of a year long consultation initiated by the DWP.

The available information is in the following tables. Information—using our official measure of income or material deprivation—is not available below Government Office Region.

Children in households in the north east below thresholds of contemporary and 1998-99 real terms median income before housing costs

	Below 60% of contemporary median income (relative poverty)	*Below 60% of 1998-99 median income (absolute poverty)*
Percentage of children[1]		
1997-98 to 1999-2000	34	33
1998-99 to 2000-01	34	30
1999-2000 to 2001-02	30	24
2000-01 to 2002-03	32	22
2001-02 to 2003-04	30	19
2002-03 to 2004-05	31	17
2003-04 to 2005-06	28	15

Children in households in the north east below thresholds of contemporary and 1998-99 real terms median income before housing costs

	Below 60% of contemporary median income (relative poverty)	*Below 60% of 1998-99 median income (absolute poverty)*
Number of children (million)[1]		
1997-08 to 1999-2000	0.20	0.19
1998-09 to 2000-01	0.19	0.17
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.17	0.14
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.18	0.12
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.17	0.10
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.17	0.09
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.15	0.08

[1] *Source:* FRS

Notes:
1. These data use OECD equivalisation factors.
2. Our child poverty statistics, published in the Households Below Average Income series, allow a breakdown of child poverty by Government Office Region. To provide such a breakdown requires us to use a three-year average figure of child poverty, which is defined as children in a household with an income below 60 per cent of median equivalised household income (before housing costs).

Children below thresholds of contemporary and 1998-99 real terms median income before housing costs, United Kingdom[1]

	Below 60% of contemporary median income (relative poverty)	*Below 60% of 1998-99 median income (absolute poverty)*
Percentage of children		
1997-98	27	28
1998-99	26	26
1999-2000	26	23
2000-01	23	19
2001-02	23	15
2002-03	23	14
2003-04	22	14
2004-05	21	13
2005-06	22	13
Number of children (million)		
1997-98	3.4	3.5
1998-99	3.4	3.4
1999-2000	3.4	3.1
2000-01	3.1	2.5
2001-02	3.0	2.0
2002-03	2.9	1.8
2003-04	2.9	1.8
2004-05	2.7	1.7
2005-06	2.8	1.6

[1] Figures are for United Kingdom from 1998-99 onwards. Earlier years are for Great Britain only.

Notes:
1. Due to rounding, the estimates of change in numbers of children below low-income thresholds may not equal the difference between the total number of children below thresholds between 1998-99 and 200405.
2. These data use OECD equivalisation factors.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139206]

Mrs. McGuire: The definition of "found to have been in breach" can be very broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, by the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139110]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department does not collect data on the number of people with epilepsy it employs. Staff are encouraged to declare whether they consider themselves disabled, but, if they do make such a declaration, they are not asked to state the nature of the disability.

Where necessary, we will make reasonable adjustments to enable disabled members of staff to carry out their full duties.

Departments: Leaflets

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of the Department's leaflets have been checked for accuracy in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [137195]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed on 8 June 2001 from parts of the former Department of Social Security, the former Department for Education and Employment, and the Employment Service. Information prior to 2001 is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Leaflets produced after 2001 were the subject of a National Audit Office study that was published in January 2006. As a result of this study the Department has commissioned a review of all 176 of its leaflets and introduced systems, supported by an electronic content management system, to ensure that its new leaflets are checked for accuracy at regular intervals.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department and its agencies on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139386]

Mrs. McGuire: Although the Department records expenditure incurred on professional services it does not specifically identify the total amount spent on external legal advice. However, external legal advice purchased by the Department's own lawyers can be identified and the cost of this is as follows:

	Cost (£ million)
2002-03	4.023
2003-04	3.940
2004-05	4.595
2005-06	5.084
2006-07	5.580

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many whole-time equivalent staff are employed in his Department's branding team; and what the cost was of those staff in the last 12 months. [137979]

Mrs. McGuire: The central branding team comprises two full-time posts. The salary ranges of these are

Information Officer: £31,340-£36,280

Senior Information Officer: £38,130-£47,550

The team remit is to advise on the development, promotion, and use of departmental customer facing and corporate brands, to develop and promote guidelines and best practice, and to ensure consistency and clarity in the use of branding across the range of Departmental communications.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137840]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

(a) In 2007 the total value of private finance initiative projects included in the Department's balance sheet was £63,534 million.

(b) The following table details the total value of private finance initiative projects included in the Department's balance sheet in each of the last five years.

Total value of private finance initiative projects included in the Department's balance sheet

	Amount (£000)
2005-06	63,482
2004-05	64,257
2003-04	0
2002-03	0
2001-02	0

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137841]

Mrs. McGuire: The value of annual private finance initiative payments made by the Department is as follows:

Financial year	(a) From capital budgets	£000 (b) From revenue budgets
2001-02	Nil	329,489
2002-03	Nil	550,668
2003-04	Nil	738,378
2004-05	1,325	1,045,903
2005-06	3,062	753,313

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137842]

Mrs. McGuire: The value of annual private finance initiative payments made by the Department:

(a) Classified as identifiable by-project:

Financial year	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	£000 2001-02
Provision of IT services with EDS	80,647	221,009	38,269	41	0
Pensions Forecasting System (PFS)	2,986	0	0	0	0
Wide Area Network Services (WAN)	28,781	27,234	18,456	15,087	0
Logica	23,264	23,987	17,680	16,951	0
Bootle accommodation	2,172	0	0	0	0
PRIME	517,671	479,621	339,299	251,418	329,489
Strategic Outsourcing Business Allocation (SOBA)	71,757	206,998	239,367	251,411	0
New Tax Credits (NTC)	4,842	12,862	16,425	700	0
Advanced Telephony Business Allocation (ATBA)	21,193	17,876	13,137	0	0
Child Support Reform (CSR)	0	53,290	50,570	8,916	0
Rebus	0	3,026	5,175	4,144	0
HSE Health and Safety Laboratories, Buxton	3,062	1,325	0	0	0
Total	756,375	1,047,228	738,378	550,568	329,489

(b) Classified as non-identifiable—by project

The Department is unaware of any non-identifiable annual private finance initiative payments made.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments by his Department was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137843]

Mrs. McGuire: The value of annual private finance initiative payments made by the Department:

(a) To repay capital—by project:

					£000
Financial years	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
HSE Health and Safety Laboratories Serviced Accommodation at Harpur Hill, Buxton	3,062	1,325	0	0	0

(b) Expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract—by project:

					£000
Financial years	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*
Provision of IT services with EDS	80,647	221,009	38,269	2,041	0
Pensions Forecasting System (PFS)	2,986	0	0	0	0
Wide Area Network Services (WAN)	28,781	27,234	18,456	15,087	0
Logica	23,264	23,987	17,680	16,951	0
Bootle Accommodation	2,172	0	0	0	0
PRIME	517,671	479,621	339,299	251,418	329,489
Strategic Outsourcing Business Allocation (SOBA)	71,757	206,998	239,367	251,411	0
New Tax Credits (NTC)	4,842	12,862	16,425	700	0
Advanced Telephony Business Allocation (ATBA)	21,193	17,876	13,137	0	0
Child Support Reform (CSR)	0	53,290	50,570	8,916	0
Rebids	0	3,026	5,175	4,144	0
Total	753,313	1,045,903	738,378	550,668	329,489

Employment Schemes: Bedfordshire

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding is available to organisations assisting *(a)* long-term unemployed and *(b)* disabled people into work in (i) Luton and (ii) Bedfordshire. [139985]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is not available in the form requested.

Employment Schemes: Urban Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 6 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 524W, on city strategy partnerships, what the formula is for distributing the savings for his Department arising out of city strategy partnerships. [139488]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are committed to paying reward funding to high-performing pathfinders to encourage them to innovate, and to ensure that they have a stake in, and are able to share in, the success they have in helping people into work.

We have announced that at least £5 million of reward money will be available, and we are continuing to work on a mechanism for allocating these funds.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many former Allied Steel and Wire workers are forecast to receive *(a)* 80 per cent., *(b)* 65 per cent. and *(c)* 50 per cent. of their (i) expected occupational pension and (ii) core pension under the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [136633]

James Purnell: As FAS payments commence at age 65, (except in special circumstances where early access to payments can be applied for by scheme trustees for terminally ill qualifying members or the survivor of a qualifying member), under the current scheme no one would be expected to start receiving payments at the rate of 65 per cent. or 50 per cent. until at least 15 May 2011 or 15 May 2015 respectively. However, our announcement of increased funding for FAS means that by then all will receive 80 per cent.

At 65 all members will receive at least 80 per cent. of their expected core pension (subject to the cap).

There are two qualifying Allied Steel and Wire schemes for FAS purposes.

1. On the commencement of wind up the ASW Pension Plan (Cardiff) has advised the FAS operational unit that the scheme had 2,351 deferred members and 2,036 pensioner members. Under proposed changes to FAS and subject to the necessary legislation all eligible members of this scheme will receive 80 per cent. of their core expected pension at age 65.

2. On the commencement of wind up the ASW Sheerness Steel Group Pension has advised the FAS operational unit that the scheme had 750 deferred members and 359 pensioner members. Under proposed changes to FAS and subject to the necessary legislation all eligible members of this scheme will receive 80 per cent. of their core expected pension at age 65.

Incapacity Benefit

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants receive benefit after *(a)* self-assessment, *(b)* GP referral, *(c)* independent medical assessment, *(d)* provision of additional information, *(e)* non fee-paying referral and *(f)* using form IB85. [137543]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. For the available information, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Incapacity Benefit: Disqualification

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many sanctions were imposed in Pathways to Work areas on incapacity benefit claimants who missed their *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third work-focused interview for each quarter since 1997. [123577]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Just over 0.1 per cent (one in 1,000) of all incapacity benefit claims within Pathways districts resulted in a sanction being imposed in 2005-06.

Industrial Health and Safety: Noise

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims there were for occupational deafness from employees in the music and entertainment industry in each of the last 10 years. [139159]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date notice was given to Land Securities Trillium of the intention to vacate the Christchurch premises of Jobcentre Plus. [138865]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 5 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking on what date notice was given to Land Securities Trillium of the intention to vacate the Christchurch premises of Jobcentre Plus. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I can confirm that we have not given notice to Land Security Trillium to vacate the Premises as we are still in the consultation period. This runs from 21 May for a 6-week period following which the findings will be communicated.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will hold discussions with the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus on making all jobcentre customer telephone lines freephone numbers. [138304]

Mrs. McGuire: The Secretary of State regularly meets the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus. Late last year we agreed to Jobcentre Plus proposals for introducing 0800 numbers for all claims for benefit. This service is currently being rolled out nationally. Jobcentre Plus continues to use 0845 numbers for benefit enquiries and local geographic numbers for contacting jobcentres. We will keep under review the use of all these numbers.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Basic Skills

Natascha Engel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how Jobcentre Plus monitors and assesses the literacy and numeracy of claimants; [138594]

(2) what steps are taken by Jobcentre Plus to ensure that written advice on benefit suspensions and sanctions are understood by people with low literacy skills. [138596]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 5 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how Jobcentre Plus monitors and assesses the literacy and numeracy of customers; and what steps are taken by Jobcentre Plus to ensure that written advice on benefit suspensions and sanctions are understood by people with low literacy skills. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Customers claiming Jobseekers Allowance are screened for a potential basic skills need as part of the personal adviser interview after six months unemployment. Customers are asked to complete the Basic Skills Agency Fast Track Assessment and those with a skills need are given information, advice and guidance about the importance of basic skills in terms of finding a job and how to get a more detailed assessment and further help if needed. The outcome of the screening process is recorded on our Labour Market System.

From the outset of the claim and throughout all our face-to-face contacts, customers receive information about what they must do to receive payment of Jobseekers Allowance as well as the support we will provide to help them look for work. These requirements are first explained at the new jobseeker interview when a personal adviser will discuss and agree with the customer their job goals and those steps that, if taken, will offer the best chance of success. The adviser also tells the customer they must attend the Jobcentre for regular jobsearch reviews and that failure to attend or not being able to show they have been actively seeking work will affect payment of benefit. This information is reiterated in the Jobseekers Agreement and the JCP40 'signing' booklet, both of which are issued to the customer.

Where there is a subsequent doubt about entitlement to Jobseekers Allowance, the adviser will give a clear explanation to the customer, telling them what happens next and how their benefit could be affected. As part of this we are required to issue written notifications, but these are not issued without a full explanation to ensure that the customer understands. The adviser will explain the decision-making process, the outcome of which will be notified in writing. However, as part of the initial referral process, the customer will be advised to contact the Jobcentre if they want a personal explanation of the decision and the appeals process.

I hope this reply is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Edmonton

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit in Edmonton constituency. [140066]

Mr. Plaskitt: As at April 2007, there were 2,780 people claiming jobseeker's allowance in the Edmonton parliamentary constituency. As at November 2006, there were 4,910 people claiming incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance in the Edmonton parliamentary constituency. Both figures are the most recent available information.

Low Incomes

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the revised Households Below Average Income 2005-06 statistics. [140245]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Households Below Average Income 2005-06 (revised) was published on 22 May 2007.

National Insurance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers were issued to non-UK citizens resident in Peterborough city council area in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [140618]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Registrations for national insurance numbers from non-UK citizens in Peterborough city council area

	Number
2004-05	3,320
2005-06	5,080

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 17 June 2006 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

Occupational Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Department has spent on *(a)* legal fees, *(b)* consultants, *(c)* special advisers and *(d)* other costs in relation to the High Court case concerning the Government's response to the Parliamentary Ombudsman's ruling on the case of lost occupational pensions; and if he will make a statement. [135317]

James Purnell: The Department has spent some £66,000 to date on legal fees in relation to the High Court case. No consultants or special advisers were employed by the Department on this case and other costs, principally civil servants' salaries, are incorporated into normal departmental staff costs.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the written statement of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 113-14WS, on occupational pensions, what the evidential basis is for his estimate that providing benefits of 80 per cent. of core pension rights to members of affected pension schemes will cost £8 billion in cash terms and £1.9 billion in net present value terms. [136021]

James Purnell: In order to determine the likely cost of the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS), data were collected on the numbers and characteristics of 380 affected pension schemes and specific data were collected on some 1,300 members of a smaller number of these schemes expected to be representative of the overall eligible membership. These sample data have then been fed into an actuarial model developed by the Government Actuary's Department to generate detailed time profiles of costs.

The actuarial model calculates the amount of pension that would be paid in each year to each individual in the sample, reflecting the design of the FAS. The key pieces of information used to calculate these costs are age, retirement age, accrued pension, percentage of pension lost and the likely longevity of eligible members and any survivors. The results, in terms of likely cash flow in each year, are scaled up to the level of the total assumed numbers of affected scheme members.

The main assumptions used in the calculations, based on the best available evidence, are as follows: 125,000 eligible pensioner and non-pensioner members; an average funding level of schemes in respect of non-pensioner members of 30 to 35 per cent.

An average accrued pension for non-pensioner members of £3,300 per year; and longevity estimates from standard tables from the UK actuarial profession's Continuous Mortality Investigation, based on the longevity experienced by pensioners whose pensions are secured with insurance companies.

Further information is available in the Annex to the Government's response to the report by the parliamentary ombudsman, "Trusting in the pensions promise", published on 8 May 2006.

Pension Credit: Internet

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit application forms have been downloaded from the pension credit website in each month since the service has been provided. [138037]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following table.

Pension credit application forms downloaded from the Pension Service website

	2004	2005	2006	2007
January	—	4,182	6,677	7,295
February	—	5,782	6,726	6,919
March	—	5,688	9,169	10,815
April	—	4,606	6,404	7,940
May	2,502	4,151	5,513	—
June	4,519	2,762	3,144	—
July	4,133	4,308	4,933	—
August	3,451	4,378	6,787	—
September	3,787	4,523	5,054	—
October	3,344	5,007	5,767	—
November	4,500	7,113	5,325	—
December	2,748	4,471	4,399	—

Source:
DWPE Communications Team, monthly Webtrends report issued by the Pension Service website.

Pension Credit: Telephone Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension tracing application forms have been requested *(a)* on the pensions tracing application form telephone number 0845 6002 537 and *(b)* in total in each month since the service has been offered. [138040]

James Purnell: The Pension Tracing Service does not collect statistics on the number of pension tracing application forms that are requested from the telephone number 0845 6002 537 or issued via other methods of distribution.

Pensions: Forecasts

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension forecasts have been calculated through submission of the (BR19) form to the retirement pension forecasting team at the Pensions Service in each month since the service has been provided. [138045]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of state pension forecasts calculated via submission of BR19

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
April	—	30,822	15,350
May	—	18,066	16,200
June	—	15,880	15,719
July	—	12,63	12,539
August	—	16,538	13,309
September	—	12,529	14,579
October	—	16,886	17,325
November	23,421	15,260	18,070
December	29,030	11,831	10,284
January	9,585	16,957	17,842
February	7,874	11,146	21,572
March	11,285	11,146	20,878
Total	81,195	189,624	193,667

Number of state pension forecasts calculated via submission of BR19 and telephone requests

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
April	45,5[illegible]	55,571	48,800	41,328
May	5[illegible]	47,311	50,396	40,064
June	[illegible]	54,753	51,658	35,565
July	[illegible]	44,813	11,595	51,568
August	[illegible]	34,983	48,586	42,874
September	[illegible]	51,053	56,056	48,320
October	[illegible]	53,914	38,438	47,384
November	[illegible],359	45185	40,888	53,025
December	39,873	31,462	35,458	30,260
January	55,438	51,244	29,323	39,696
February	49,082	44,249	36,998	44,330
March	56,845	48,004	70,01	52,721
Total	574,817	562,542	518,897	527,135

Number of state pension forecasts calculated via submission of BR19 and telephone requests

	2001-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
April	35,355	57,564	101,953	67,325	154,630
May	53,563	54,310	57,638	61,364	85,461
June	60,287	64,505	64,291	89,327	117,176
July	61,090	54,151	64,805	104,367	105,020
August	49,422	80,297	54,155	61,885	152,618
September	55,078	70,156	85,784	66,210	136,191
October	50,921	84,237	58,371	66,599	106,945
November	46,438	46,719	62,016	57,498	—
December	50,522	23,721	47,562	55,817	—
January	61,855	33,757	43,266	89,791	—

Number of state pension forecasts calculated via submission of BR19 and telephone requests

	2001-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
February	40,807	60,572	54,804	72,791	—
March	28,519	31,377	44,610	124,079	—
Total	593,857	661,366	739,255	917,053	—

Notes:
1. Requests for forecasts received clerically or via the telephone were not kept separately until November 2005.
2. Clerical clearance figures were not complete for February and March 2006 therefore figures that were available were divided equally between both months.

Source:
Future Pension Centre Automated Call Distribution and Clerical Count of BR19s.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension forecast forms have been downloaded in each month since the service has been provided. [138055]

James Purnell: The state pension forecast application form has been available to download since the late 1990s, but statistical data are only available from July 2003 (shown in the following table). Some months are unavailable because of technical problems The available information is in the table.

Number of state pension forecast forms downloaded each month

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
April	—	—	9,354	8,681	9,985
May	—	8,189	8,709	9,469	—
June	—	13,228	11,260	5,379	—
July	10,630	14,212	10,972	7,835	—
August	8,426	12,987	12,777	9,100	—
September	—	14,695	14,283	10,417	—
October	—	16,695	14,638	10,802	—
November	—	10,220	10,710	9,732	—
December	—	7,424	5,997	7,392	—
January	13,543	12,202	10,918	12,927	—
February	13,464	12,979	11,030	11,946	—
March	13,804	11,575	12,903	11,835	—

Source:
Monthly Webtrends Report

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension forecasts have been calculated on the forecasting e-service based on the Pensions Service website in each month since the service has been provided. [138056]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

State pension forecasts calculated by the e-service based on the Pension Service website

	Forecasts calculated
2004	
October	343
November	3,936
December	2,912
2005	
January	9,357
February	8,019
March	4,401
April	5,841

State pension forecasts calculated by the e-service based on the Pension Service website

	Forecasts calculated
May	4,658
June	4,356
July	3,748
August	4,221
September	4,807
October	7,110
November	8,770
December	5,452
2006	
January	9,822
February	8,524
March	10,794
April	10,468
May	9,120
June	7,697
July	6,768
August	6,337
September	8,113
October	11,071
November	10,960
December	6,899
2007	
January	13,536
February	13,614
March	11,568

Source:
Figures supplied by Electronic Data Systems, the Department's IT supplier.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests of information or assistance with regard to state pension forecasts have been received on the pensions service helpdesk telephone number 0845 601 8040. [138043]

James Purnell: The number 0845 601 8040 is the e-service helpdesk telephone number. The total number of telephone calls made to the helpdesk since real time pension forecasting was introduced in October 2004 up to the end of March 2007 was 78,716.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension forecasts have been calculated over the telephone on numbers 0845 3000 168 and 0845 3000 169 in each month since the service has been provided. [138044]

James Purnell: The available information is in the following table.

Number of state pension forecasts calculated over the telephone on numbers 0845 3000 168 and 0845 3000 169

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
April	—	48,132	47,977
May	—	39,753	51,549
June	—	33,912	43,432
July	—	32,390	39,055
August	—	33,112	40,702
September	—	43,749	44,132
October	—	50,852	53,281
November	87,888	56,230	50,390
December	50,599	37,148	30,647
January	79,461	46,575	53,506
February	67,412	48,735	49,290
March	66,921	66,284	41,998

Source:
Future Pension Centre Automated Call Distribution.

Public Expenditure

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give examples of where his Department has used cash costs for long-term public expenditure; and whether there are any examples of cash costs being used for expenditure over 30 or more years. [110977]

Mrs. McGuire: Cash costs of long-term public expenditure, up to 2050, have been quoted in figure 1.1 of the regulatory impact assessment accompanying the Pensions Bill.

Scheme Assets Review Team

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which key stakeholders the unclaimed scheme assets review team *(a)* has met and *(b)* plans to meet. [138031]

James Purnell: The Financial Assistance Scheme Review of Scheme Assets team has already met some key stakeholders including Ros Altmann, trade unions, opposition spokesmen and an additional number of interested MPs. The team will be contacting others shortly to tell them about the review and to invite their contributions.

The team has further plans to meet representatives from financial bodies and institutions as well as the Pension Protection Fund and the Pensions Regulator. However, this list is not exhaustive and the team intend to meet as many stakeholders as possible in the time available.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria were used in the selection of the team which will review the possibility of using unclaimed assets and other potential funding sources. [138033]

James Purnell: The review will focus on whether better use could be made of the remaining assets within the failed pension schemes that have qualified for FAS. The review will also determine how these and other sources of non-public expenditure funding (not already earmarked or allocated) could be used to increase assistance for affected scheme members. This task presents a number of complex issues across a wide range of subject areas including, but not limited to, legal, investment, actuarial and administration issues.

The make-up of the team reflects the range of expertise required to meet the objectives set out in the terms of reference. In the selection of the individuals to be approached, the Department's internal experts and a number of external industry experts were consulted.

The goal was to ensure the review had direct access to a leading source of that in each key area, and that individuals with status in the industry, an understanding of the issues, and an interest in finding a solution were involved. None of the individuals approached to participate in the review declined.

State Retirement Pensions

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the annual cost of uprating state pensions to pensioners over 80 years of age arising from the additional 25p per week allowance alone. [138183]

James Purnell: The 25p age addition is not uprated. The estimated gross annual cost of the additional 25p per week allowance for the over-80s is approximately £35 million in 2007-08.

Unemployment: Shipping

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many holders of UK mariners' qualifications registered as unemployed for periods of more than one month in each of the last five years. [140104]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Educational Visits

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Prime Minister why school visits to Downing Street are to be limited to Fridays. [140088]

The Prime Minister: In the past few years, my Office has increased the programme of events at Downing street in order to give access to as many people as possible.

Committee on Standards in Public Life: Public Appointments

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to appoint a permanent chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life. [139260]

The Prime Minister: I announced on 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 22WS, that Rita Donaghy CBE would become the Interim Chair of the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) from 26 April 2007. The Government are currently considering the report of the Public Administration Select Committee (PASC) "Ethics and Standards: The Regulation of Conduct in Public Life" which was published on 29 April 2007 and which covers the work of not only the CSPL, but other ethical regulators. The Government will set out a timetable for the appointment of a permanent Chair in its response to the PASC report.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was to the public purse of his flight from London to Sedgefield on 10 May. [140003]

The Prime Minister: None. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Tunbridge Wells (Greg Clark), on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1523W.

Departments: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for his Office in each of the last five years. [139466]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: McKinsey and Company

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* role and *(b)* cost has been of each employee from McKinsey hired to work for him in the last 12 months. [140136]

The Prime Minister: There have been no secondments from McKinsey to my Office in the last 12 months.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister what recent estimate has been made of the value of the property occupied by his Office. [139371]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on public relations in each of the last five years. [139418]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what the total *(a)* carbon cost and *(b)* financial cost has been of his overseas visits since he announced the date of his

resignation; and what estimate he has made of the projected carbon cost of his planned overseas visits up to 27 June. [139257]

The Prime Minister: In respect of carbon costs, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 15 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 820W.

In respect of financial costs, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1523W.

Privy Council: Oaths and Affirmations

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Prime Minister what legal obligations there are for members of the Privy Council to adhere to the terms of their oath of membership; and if he will make a statement. [138140]

The Prime Minister: Privy Councillors are duty bound to honour the Privy Council oath just as they are bound to honour the oath of allegiance that they also take on becoming members of the Privy Council.

WALES

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for his Department in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139447]

Mr. Hain: None.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been spent on advertising by his Department in each of the last five years. [139525]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139205]

Mr. Hain: None

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139390]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has spent the following amounts on external legal advice, all of which has come from the Treasury Solicitor.

	Amount (£)
2002-03	5,509.50
2003-04	909.00
2004-05	7,103.19
2005-06	2,140.40
2006-07	9,275.00

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was raised from the sale of his Department's property in each of the last five years. [139304]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139324]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what properties his Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139344]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office owns one property, Gwydyr House, London.

The Wales Office rents office space covering 637 square metres, in Cardiff. This rental lease has been in place since 2003. Before that the Wales Office did not have any rented premises.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139369]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office owns Gwydyr house in Whitehall, which has a book value of £2,100,000. We do not own any other property.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for his Department was in each of the last five years. [139461]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has been leasing office space in Cardiff since 2003. From October 2005 to September 2006 we leased office space in London.

The cost was:

	Cost (£)
2003-04	95,955.50
2004-05	162,305.00
2005-06	188,710.44
2006-07	170,416.98

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139452]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140041]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139914]

Mr. Hain: Nil.

River Severn

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the Severn Barrage Project; and if he will make a statement. [139538]

Mr. Hain: I have discussed the issue of tidal power in the Severn Estuary on several occasions with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

As the recent Energy White Paper makes clear, the Government recognise tidal power represents a massive untapped clean, green energy resource. That is why the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) is leading a major study looking at issues related to harnessing tidal power in the UK. The SDC study will consider a wide range of locations and technologies, including the potential of tidal power in the Severn Estuary and the proposals for a tidal barrage.

With the second largest tidal range in the world, the Severn Estuary is one of the most promising locations in existence for tidal energy. A Severn Barrage could produce up to 5 per cent. of UK energy consumption by 2020, save up to 3 per cent. of total UK carbon emissions, and last for 150 years.

Sports

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent meeting he has had with the management of the SkillsActive Wales Learning Hub on participation in sport in Wales. [139953]

Mr. Hain: None.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Bookstart Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment has been made of the economic and social background of those families who have collected Bookstart books and packs. [139993]

Beverley Hughes: Booktrust tells me that its annual audit indicated that, in the financial year 2006-07, Bookstart packs were received in England by approximately 88 per cent. of eligible children (87 per cent. for the baby pack, 85 per cent. for Bookstart Plus and 93 per cent. for My Treasure Chest).

Since its inception the Bookstart programme has been delivered in partnership with Sure Start local programmes which were located in areas with large numbers of disadvantaged families. This link has been maintained as Sure Start Children's Centres have been created, many of them based around the local programmes, initially serving families living in the most disadvantaged areas. By 2010 we aim to deliver 3,500 children's centres, one for every community, giving many more families with young children access. This, together with the wide reach of contact points for pack delivery, has helped to ensure that the packs are received by a diverse range of families, including those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Bookstart makes special efforts to ensure that its local schemes work proactively to facilitate delivery of book packs to "hard to reach" groups. Local scheme performance on accessing "hard to reach" groups is evaluated periodically, and best practice is shared and its adoption encouraged.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment has been made of the impact of the Bookstart scheme on improving reading standards. [139994]

Beverley Hughes: The Bookstart scheme aims to encourage a love of books by children in their earliest years, and helps to support the development of early communication and language skills in young children. A number of studies have assessed the impact of the Bookstart programme on reading standards. Among these, Wade and Moore's longitudinal study in Birmingham in 2000 offers the most comprehensive examination of the immediate and long-term impact of the programme. The study compared a cohort of Bookstart children who received the book pack at nine months with a control group who did not receive a pack. The children's performance on a range of literacy and reading measures was evaluated at intervals from the age of two-and-a-half to three years up to the end of Key Stage 1 in primary schools. Observations of book sharing in the home at the initial evaluation demonstrated that Bookstart children concentrated more and showed more interest in books, pointed to text more and tried to turn pages more than did the comparison group. The second evaluation stage, using Baseline Assessment of children in their reception year, demonstrated significantly improved performance on reading scores for Bookstart children. The final evaluation used the SATS tests at the end of Key Stage 1. Results for each group showed that Bookstart children were on average between 20 to 30 per cent. superior in their 'reading task' and 'reading comprehension' scores.

A copy of the research study, "A Sure Start with Books", by Barrie Wade and Maggie Moore, has been placed in the House Libraries.

Child Minding: EC Law

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of European Regulation (EC)

No. 852/2004 of levels of unemployment among childminders; [136680]

(2) what inspections of childminders under European Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 have taken place. [136681]

Caroline Flint *[holding answers 14 May 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment in respect of Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 was produced and refined at various stages during development of the regulation. This assessed its impact in terms of costs, benefits and risks which could affect businesses, charities or the voluntary sector. No specific assessment has been made of the impact on levels of unemployment among child minders.

The enforcement of food law in the United Kingdom is delegated primarily to local authorities which carry out inspections of food businesses within their area of jurisdiction.

The Food Standards Agency does collect information on local authority enforcement activity, but not at a level of detail sufficient to allow individual food business types such as child minders to be identified. The information requested could be obtained only from individual local authorities and, therefore, can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service budget is for 2007-08; what its projected expenditure is for that year; and whether he plans to ensure that any overspend on the budget is met. [140267]

Mr. Dhanda: At a time of budget restrictions the Government have maintained the budget for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and it was increased to £106,698,000 (net of receipts) in 2007-08. CAFCASS expects to manage within this budget, and the Government plan to ensure that CAFCASS continues to be adequately funded.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether he has any plans to increase the number of persons referred by the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to mediation. [140271]

Mr. Dhanda: Mediation is a process of dispute resolution which aims to avoid the need to initiate court proceedings. Where it is safe to do so, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) undertakes dispute resolution with separating parents when they have been unable to reach agreement over arrangements for their children and court proceedings have been initiated. CAFCASS has no power to refer people to mediation, but, its officers do advise separating parents about taking up, or returning to, mediation. Many CAFCASS teams work closely with local mediation services, deciding which service is most likely to be successful in individual cases.

Children in Care

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the proposed time scale is for the publication of the White Paper following the Green Paper "Care Matters: Transforming the Lives of Children and Young People in Care". [138115]

Mr. Dhanda: As the Secretary of State announced when he launched the consultation responses to the Green Paper, the "Care Matters" White Paper will be published in the summer.

Children: Day Care

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of eligible parents took up their full entitlement to child care support in 2006-07. [138832]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested. Data on eligibility and take-up of free or subsidised child care overall are not available centrally.

The 2006 Early Years and Annual Schools Censuses show the number of part-time early education places funded by the free entitlement for three and four-year-olds in England was 1,029,700[1] or 92 per 100 three and four-year-old children. Figures for January 2006 show that 96 per cent. of three-year-olds and all four-year-old children benefit from some free early-years education.

Childcare used by parents can be subsidised in a variety of ways, including the childcare element of the working tax credit, local authority subsidies, Jobcentre Plus new deals, care to learn, learner support funds and NHS child care allowances.

[1] The number of children benefiting from some form of free early education can exceed the number of free part-time early education places taken up by children as a place may be taken up by more than one child.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he plans to take to inform parents of the Voluntary Ofsted Childcare Register introduced from April this year. [140274]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is planning a range of communication activities to support the introduction of the voluntary part of the Ofsted Childcare Register (vOCR) from the summer onwards. This will include online advice and information aimed at raising awareness, and helping parents and childcare providers understand the requirements and benefits of registration. Ofsted's leaflet for parents on using childcare services now includes information on the vOCR, the text of which is on its website.

Education: Carers

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* educational bodies and *(b)* carers'

organisations on improving access and skills opportunities for unpaid carers; and if he will make a statement. [138770]

Phil Hope: Officials in the Department and in the Learning and Skills Council have discussed with Skills for Care, the Sector Skills Council for the care sector, how the national employer training programme in England, Train to Gain, could be made more relevant to the needs of employers and employees within the care sector, and are currently considering proposals.

In England, Train to Gain offers employers in all sectors easy access, via a free skills brokerage service, to a full range of training provision including fully subsidised training leading to a Skills for Life or first full level 2 qualification, such as a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at level 2.

From September 2006, all adults in England who do not have a full qualification at level 2 are entitled to free tuition to get one, even if they do not work for an employer who is involved with the Train to Gain programme. They can access this level 2 entitlement through their local further education college or a range of other publicly funded training providers. There is also an entitlement to free literacy and numeracy training.

Every Child Counts Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what progress has been made in achieving the Government's aim of providing one-to-one tuition for 300,000 under-attaining pupils a year in mathematics as announced in the Budget 2007; [139888]

(2) what the *(a)* value and *(b)* recipient is of each payment to external consultancies as part of developing and implementing the Every Child Counts initiative; [139889]

(3) how many staff in his Department are working on the Every Child Counts initiative, broken down by pay band; [139890]

(4) how many schools have been consulted on the Every Child Counts initiative; [139891]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost of providing guidance to schools on the Every Child Counts initiative; [139892]

(6) how much was allocated to provide 300,000 pupils with one-to-one tuition in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics by 2010-11, broken down by financial year, as announced in his Department's Comprehensive Spending Review Settlement on 21 March 2007. [140152]

Jim Knight: The Department is planning two separate but related one-to-one tuition programmes, which will raise standards in maths:

one-to-one tuition to help 300,000 children who have fallen behind in English and mathematics by 2010-11. Such support is being trialled in the 'Making Good Progress' pilot; and

a more intensive initiative specifically designed for early intervention in mathematics; a counterpart to the 'Every Child a Reader' literacy programme, on which we are already committed to nationwide roll-out.

The Treasury allocates resources to Departments on a three-year cycle through spending reviews. The DfES received the settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 in the 2007 Budget. We are now thoroughly evaluating the financial implications and are working to allocate funding as effectively as possible. Detailed allocations have not yet been announced but we will ensure that allocations are announced as soon as possible.

We are currently in the process of planning the scope, resources and roll-out of the early intervention programme and analysing which areas of maths require most support. Given the very early stage we are at, no consultants or schools have been consulted in the development of the initial plans. One member of staff (a senior executive officer) is currently leading the development of the programme with the support of colleagues and senior management. We will consult the maths community as we develop our plans and make a more detailed announcement in due course. Delivery is expected to begin during 2008.

Extended Schools: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what allocation has been made to each local education authority in England for extended school provision in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [138679]

(2) what the projected expenditure per head is on extended schools in the secondary sector in each local education authority for 2007-08; [138680]

(3) what the allocation to each secondary school in London was for extended schools development in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; [138681]

(4) what percentage of Government allocation for extended schools was withheld for central administration and support in each London local education authority in 2006-07; [138682]

(5) what guidance he has issued on charging policies for *(a)* extended schools and *(b)* other out-of-school facilities; and what specific arrangements are in place for schools serving populations with high levels of deprivation. [138683]

Beverley Hughes: The Government have allocated a total of £384 million to local authorities in England over the period 2006-08 to support the development and provision of extended schools. These allocations are set out in the annex.

The Department for Education and Skills does not hold information on how much funding each London secondary school was allocated, their projected expenditure per head or what percentage of Government allocation was withheld for central administration and support in each London local authority, and the information requested can be supplied only at disproportionate cost. The Department for Education and Skills encourages all local authorities to devolve their extended schools funding to their schools. This should be done in line with their plan for rolling out extended schools which they will have drawn up in discussion with all schools in their area.

The Department for Education and Skills issued guidance about planning and funding extended schools in June 2006. The guidance provides information on

charging for extended activities for those who can afford it, and recognises that children and young people from low-income families will benefit from free access to some extended school activities. To ensure this since 2006-07 schools have been able to use their School Standards Grant to support the development and delivery of extended services including supporting access for their most disadvantaged children and young people to extended activities. By 2010-11 an additional £217 million will be invested so that disadvantaged children and young people will be able to access at least two hours a week of extended activities and some activities during the school holidays.

Annex

LA	Total funding 2006/07	2007/08
Barking and Dagenham	737,345	951,069
Barnet	964,178	1,196,661
Barnsley	814,149	1,020,410
Bath and NE Somerset	734,038	818,657
Bedfordshire	1,118,420	1,424,510
Bexley	788,035	906,694
Birmingham	3,577,705	5,121,810
Blackburn with Darwen	654,042	838,659
Blackpool	563,887	697,065
Bolton	950,348	1,162,847
Bournemouth	662,836	725,805
Bracknell Forest	575,002	616,252
Bradford	1,789,116	2,385,752
Brent	893,125	1,178,651
Brighton and Hove	837,951	992,089
Bromley	1,126,564	1,439,831
Buckinghamshire	1,055,645	1,220,805
Bury	1,424,580	1,688,227
Calderdale	748,118	856,514
Cambridgeshire	891,595	1,072,837
Camden	1,795,249	2,231,655
Cheshire	579,459	795,505
City of Bristol	2,042,456	2,530,196
City of London	50,000	50,000
Cornwall	1,557,683	2,064,350
Coventry	1,058,563	1,327,700
Croydon	1,124,215	1,412,070
Cumbria	1,655,847	2,278,173
Darlington	524,659	620,343
Derby	868,604	1,071,685
Derbyshire	2,294,745	2,900,076
Devon	2,229,739	2,964,951
Doncaster	1,051,723	1,364,328
Dorset	1,239,838	1,531,576
Dudley	1,193,867	1,408,935
Durham	1,674,463	2,239,225
Ealing	968,909	1,273,348
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,094,792	1,424,486
East Sussex	1,498,094	1,830,136
Enfield	1,040,550	1,346,451
Essex	3,797,326	4,667,039
Gateshead	702,247	888,295
Gloucestershire	1,697,428	2,118,412
Greenwich	852,563	1,174,571
Hackney	729,689	1,012,630
Halton	536,088	677,714
Hammersmith	490,653	673,270
Hampshire	3,414,149	4,116,348
Haringey	857,888	1,194,133
Harrow	816,945	951,329
Hartlepool	462,891	569,451
Havering	794,191	910,709
Herefordshire	650,074	859,576
Hertfordshire	3,204,991	3,774,002
Hillingdon	888,381	1,084,794
Hounslow	772,498	978,727
Isle of Wight	555,149	678,230
Isles of Scilly	150,000	150,000
Islington	662,536	925,628
Kensington and Chelsea	387,224	494,535
Kent	3,995,795	4,967,897
Kingston upon Thames	939,885	1,218,110
Kingston-upon-Hull	646,577	697,885
Kirklees	1,372,545	1,738,546
Knowsley	724,828	993,519
Lambeth	790,026	1,089,192
Lancashire	3,531,061	4,515,291
Leeds	2,144,841	2,761,511
Leicester	1,079,113	1,407,637
Leicestershire	1,980,150	2,343,795
Lewisham	861,330	1,139,319
Lincolnshire	2,112,980	2,766,561
Liverpool	1,527,307	2,164,824
Luton	758,724	959,640
Manchester	1,635,156	2,421,213
Medway Towns	917,640	1,088,495
Merton	663,578	760,966
Middlesbrough	590,771	756,402
Milton Keynes	806,933	960,351
Newcastle upon Tyne	868,780	1,173,788
Newham	1,206,549	1,732,501
Norfolk	2,448,290	3,283,723
North East Lincolnshire	779,234	944,604
North Lincolnshire	623,788	787,818
North Somerset	648,309	772,058
North Tyneside	693,010	847,350
North Yorkshire	2,021,908	2,738,473
Northamptonshire	2,053,639	2,549,150
Northumberland	1,084,773	1,456,415
Nottingham City	956,247	1,290,071
Nottinghamshire	2,434,868	3,018,607
Oldham	915,033	1,168,151
Oxfordshire	1,657,520	2,057,992
Peterborough	669,867	834,687
Plymouth	953,563	1,128,931
Poole	635,125	667,190
Portsmouth	638,630	763,314
Reading	459,842	535,722
Redbridge	916,124	1,099,720
Redcar and Cleveland	601,252	773,435

Annex

LA	Total funding 2006/07	2007/08
Richmond upon Thames	682,745	752,169
Rochdale	836,108	1,076,381
Rotherham	971,182	1,212,822
Rutland	398,086	434,511
Salford	845,056	1,106,226
Sandwell	1,127,731	1,455,553
Sefton	959,510	1,184,746
Sheffield	1,555,418	1,977,005
Shropshire	946,177	1,253,388
Slough	491,383	585,843
Solihull	803,339	942,727
Somerset	1,495,918	1,932,778
South Gloucestershire	1,026,755	1,160,142
South Tyneside	603,531	775,162
Southampton	795,995	952,952
Southend-on-Sea	716,094	827,087
Southwark	931,518	1,296,140
St. Helens	681,143	838,880
Staffordshire	2,537,634	3,121,417
Stockport	908,857	1,056,525
Stockton-on-Tees	723,166	900,828
Stoke-on-Trent	862,786	1,125,827
Suffolk	2,037,125	2,665,837
Sunderland	993,968	1,250,885
Surrey	2,732,066	3,142,681
Sutton	789,036	881,497
Swindon	697,933	815,212
Tameside	821,066	1,006,162
Telford and Wrekin	774,994	937,800
Thurrock	577,380	678,537
Torbay	583,668	676,349
Tower Hamlets	993,708	1,554,467
Trafford	886,097	1,012,145
Wakefield	1,203,051	1,453,835
Walsall	993,804	1,221,933
Waltham Forest	808,949	1,063,201
Wandsworth	705,640	927,109
Warrington	870,072	967,729
Warwickshire	1,687,088	2,052,631
West Berkshire	731,194	845,252
West Sussex	2,146,316	2,489,787
Westminster	537,907	736,506
Wigan	1,064,623	1,286,810
Wiltshire	1,557,099	1,959,285
Windsor and Maidenhead	604,940	660,990
Wirral	1,141,393	1,529,894
Wokingham	699,731	752,602
Wolverhampton	895,516	1,138,045
Worcestershire	1,658,211	2,002,709
York	747,225	835,751

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the amount of funding secured by universities from *(a)* charitable and *(b)* philanthropic sources in funding and improving universities. [140155]

Bill Rammell: The annual Ross Group survey suggests that higher education institutions raise approximately £200 million a year in donations from charitable and philanthropic sources. However, we will shortly be consulting higher education providers about the assessment of the current level of voluntary giving.

In February, the Government announced that they would provide £200 million over three years for a matched funding scheme to encourage additional charitable and philanthropic giving to higher education.

Nannies: Vetting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that any person named on the List 99, the Protection of Children Act list, the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list and the disqualification disorders regime is barred from *(a)* working as a nanny and *(b)* working in a nursery; [140278]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that the same pre-employment vetting and checks are applied to nannies as to other child care workers; [140277]

(3) for what reasons a person does not have to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check before taking up employment to work as a nanny; [140275]

(4) what communications campaign he has planned to advise parents of the vetting procedures and checks before a nanny commences employment; and what funds his Department is making available for this campaign; [140276]

(5) when he expects the planned communications campaign to advise parents of their responsibility for ensuring their children are safe while in the care of those they employ to look after them to begin. [140273]

Mr. Dhanda: Under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 it is an offence for an individual disqualified from working with children, by means of listing upon the Protection of Children Act (PoCA) List or List 99, to work in a regulated child care position. A regulated child care position would include an individual working as a nanny.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act which will be implemented from autumn 2008 provides the legislative framework to introduce a single list of those barred from working with children. This will replace List 99, the PoCA list, and the disqualification orders regime thus providing a more integrated system for vetting and barring. Individuals who are barred under the children's list will commit an offence if they seek to work as a nanny or in child care.

Those who employ an individual in a child care setting, such as a nursery, will commit an offence if they fail to check that their employee or a volunteer they use is a member of the vetting and barring scheme. An individual will need to become a member of the vetting and barring scheme before they seek work in a nursery.

While the SVG Act enables those employing people to work with children or vulnerable adults in domestic arrangements (e.g. nannies and care workers) to check the individual's status in the scheme, it does not place a 'requirement' to check status in the scheme on parents

using a nanny. Nor does it require nannies to become members of the new scheme. We believe it would not be appropriate or proportionate to regulate family life in this way and that parents are best placed to determine the suitability of nannies whom they are employing to work in their own home. We believe a sustained communications campaign to parents is preferable to a requirement, clearly explaining to parents their responsibility for ensuring their children are safe when they employ people to work with them, and setting out how the scheme can help them with this. It is likely that it will become desirable for those who work as nannies to become members of the scheme so that they may offer that reassurance to parents.

The Government have begun an extensive programme of communications, planned to culminate in summer to autumn 2008 with a campaign to ensure that all those subject to the requirements of the new vetting and barring scheme are aware of their responsibilities. There are many groups, organisations and individuals who need to know about the new scheme, so a range of ways of communicating nationally, regionally and locally will be used. Just one part of this task will be to work with parents' groups, organisations involved in providing child care, child care professionals and others to raise parents' awareness of the opportunities afforded by the scheme. Further information on the scheme and details of a programme of information sessions already running across the country can be found at

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/vettingandbarring/

Personal Social and Health Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools offer sex education or additional personal, social and health education as part of their extended hours provision. [140357]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Department does not hold this information.

Pre-school Education: Teachers

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent representations he has received on local authority funding and provision of training for early years staff. [139275]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* We have not received any specific recent representations about funding for training. We do, however, recognise the need for additional support in the run-up to the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008. We have made £7 million available to local authorities through the Standards Fund and the General Sure Start Grant to fund additional training for early years staff in schools and private, voluntary and independent sector providers.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many hours of training per early years worker he expects to be provided in England in the next 12 months. [139276]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* We do not set our expectations for training in this way. However, over the next 12 months, we fully expect the early years work force to receive the training it requires to prepare for the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage in September 2008. To this end, we have recently made £7 million available to local authorities to fund training for early years workers in schools and private, voluntary and independent sector providers. This is additional to funding already available for training through the Transformation Fund, the General Sure Start Grant and the Standards Fund.

Pupils: Eating Disorders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of eating disorders on the academic achievement of children with such disorders. [139121]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The Department for Education and Skills has not made a specific assessment of the impact of eating disorders on the academic achievement of children with such disorders.

Research shows that self-esteem and self-confidence have an impact on attainment. The 2001 DfES guidance, "Promoting Children's Mental Health within Early Years and Schools Settings" emphasises the important role that schools can play in helping young people to develop confidence and self-esteem, manage the way in which they think about themselves, and thus contribute to ensuring they eat properly.

The promotion of physical health and emotional well-being already forms part of many DfES policies including the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, the National Healthy Schools Programme, the Improving Behaviour and Attendance Programme, and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) curriculum materials. Schools tell us that such programmes have brought sustained improvement in behaviour and standards of work.

School Meals: Take-up

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures he plans to take in response to trends in secondary school meal take-up following the introduction of new standards for school food. [139765]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has asked the School Food Trust, a non-departmental public body established by the DfES as its key delivery partner for school food, to develop a strategy to increase demand for school lunches by at least four percentage points by March 2008 and 10 percentage points by autumn 2009. These targets apply across the maintained sector.

The trust is taking forward a range of measures to help improve take-up. Examples include publication early in June of guidance to help schools improve the lunchtime experience. The guide provides recommendations and "top tips" on providing a positive meal experience for children, young people and schools. The trust has

also published guidance for schools and parents on the new standards for school food and has good practice case studies on its website.

Special Educational Needs: Dyspraxia

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many local education authorities in England and Wales have qualified specialists in dyspraxia; and whether the two local education authorities serving Ashton-under-Lyne constituency have specialists in this area. [139128]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Languages

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to provide more modern language teachers in primary schools. [139798]

Jim Knight: The Department is working with partner organisations to implement measures to support and train existing and new teachers to teach primary languages. We have trained over 2,000 new primary teachers with a languages specialism since 2002, and plan to train a further 1,000 each year until 2010—around 6,000 by 2010.

We have given additional funding to Specialist Language Colleges to work with local primary schools to build capacity and embed primary languages in the curriculum.

We published the Key Stage 2 Framework for languages in 2005, providing advice and guidance for both existing and new primary teachers, and have recently launched the Primary Languages Zone, an interactive website for teachers and school leaders implementing primary languages. CILT, the National Centre for Languages, is training regional primary languages trainers, and delivering a continuous professional development programme for primary teachers over the next year.

JUSTICE

Belmarsh Prison: Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many laptop computers are available for use by offenders in HMP Belmarsh. [139896]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I am informed that 41 laptop computers are currently available for use by prisoners at HMP Belmarsh.

Brixton Prison: Death

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will initiate an official investigation into the recent deaths at HM Prison Brixton; and if she will make a statement. [139573]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All deaths in prison custody are subject to a police investigation, an independent investigation by the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman and a coroner's inquest before a jury.

Community Justice Centres: Public Appointments

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to her letter of 20 April 2007 to the hon. Member for Nottingham, North, what discussions her officials have had with senior judiciary on how the community might be involved in the deployment of judges and magistrates to the new community justice initiatives; and if she will make a statement. [138976]

Ms Harman: It is important for the community to be involved in all aspects of community justice. Judicial deployment is the responsibility of the judiciary under the Constitutional Reform Act 2005. For magistrates, local people are involved in the advisory committees that make recommendations on appointments. For district judges, the final decision is taken by the judiciary after the district judge has met the community and has reported with the senior local official for the initiative to the presiding judges on whether the scheme will be workable. The district judge in Nottingham will be announced shortly.

Community Service Orders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of community sentences being used in place of custodial sentences of less than 12 months. [139803]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Reoffending rates for custodial and community sentences are published in "Re-offending of Adults: Results from the 2004 Cohort" (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 06/07). Figure 10 in this report suggests that community punishment orders and community punishment and rehabilitation orders may be more effective than prison sentences in reducing reoffending. Proven reoffending rates for all community sentences have been steadily improving since 2000 and now stand at 51 per cent. This compares with proven reoffending rates of over 70 per cent. for those given short custodial sentences, although the difference can be partially explained by differences in offender characteristics. However, only a limited range of offender characteristics are currently accounted for in the figures used. Further evidence that will explicitly investigate the effectiveness of sentencing will be provided by our current research programme. This includes a major study of sentencing that will provide more information about the relative effectiveness of sentencing than currently available from central statistics and reconviction studies.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans there are for multi-agency public protection arrangements to *(a)* promote public awareness and *(b)* provide access to advice for the public about the management of offenders in the community. [140387]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In May 2006, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) issued a national multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) communications strategy to each of the 42 MAPPA strategic management boards in England and Wales. The aim of the strategy, and the accompanying toolkit,

is to support MAPPA leads to promote MAPPA's work locally, including with the general public. In addition, the national MAPPA guidance is being revised and reissued this year, and a new public information leaflet will accompany it. Finally, the Home Secretary last year commissioned a review into existing arrangements for managing child sex offenders in the community which looked at, among other things, how the arrangements might be strengthened and how information might be better shared with the public. The review is due to be published shortly.

Dartmoor Prison

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many cells are unoccupied in HM Prison Dartmoor; and if she will make a statement. [139509]

Mr. Sutcliffe: At unlock on Thursday 31 May there were no unoccupied habitable cells at HMP Dartmoor.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many times her Department and its predecessor were found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139216]

Vera Baird: The definition of "found to have been in breach" can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by my Department of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the courts or by my Department at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dovegate Prison

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost was to Her Majesty's Prison Service of the deployment of staff to HM Prison Dovegate from other establishments during the disturbance on 2 February. [139706]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no record of an incident occurring at Dovegate prison on 2 February. There is a record of a concerted indiscipline there on 29 January.

The approximate cost of staff salaries in deploying staff from other prisons to that incident is £18,405.60. This is based upon figures set out in the following table.

Column A	*Column B*	*Column C*	*Column D*	*Column E*
Prison establishment Tornado Unit	*Number of staff*	*Salary cost per member of staff per hour (£)*	*Salary cost per Tornado Unit per hour(£)*	*Salary cost of listed Tornado Unit staff (column D x 8 hours) (£)*
Leicester	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Blakenhurst	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Stoke Heath	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Lowdham Grange	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Whatton	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Swinfen Hall	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Stafford	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Nottingham	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Birmingham	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Gartree	15	15.38	230.07	1,840.56
Totals	150	153.80	2,300.70	18,405.60

Notes:

1. Column B is based upon the number of staff per Tornado Unit (12 plus 2 unit commanders plus 1 driver).
2. Column C is the Tornado call out additional allowance (salary gross per hour) made to each member of staff. It does not take into account any extra salary related costs such as superannuation (although such payments are not pensionable) and costs such as travel costs to and from home to the parent establishment for which staff may claim re-imbursement, and subsistence payments.
3. Column E is based upon a 6 hour incident duration at Dovegate plus two hours average travelling time—8 hours. The actual time on and off duty for staff will depend upon travelling distance from the parent prison establishment.
4. The figures quoted only account for the costs of establishment based staff, they do not account for costs incurred by the deployment of other national resources that are not establishment based, or the costs incurred by opening the Gold Command suite.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether an inquiry has taken place following Serco's deployment of staff to HM Prison Dovegate from their other establishments as a result of the disturbance on 2 February. [139707]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An incident of concerted indiscipline took place at HMP Dovegate on 29 January 2007 and not 2 February 2007 as indicated. In accordance with national arrangements for mutual aid, control and restraint teams from 10 establishments were sent to HMP Dovegate. One of these teams was from HMP Lowdham Grange, a Serco-managed establishment.

The regional offender manager for the West Midlands commissioned an investigation of the incident and this was undertaken by the contract director from HMP Kilmarnock. The investigation report was received and accepted by the regional offender manager. Recommendations arising from the report have been enacted.

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice who authorised the deployment of staff from HM Prison Doncaster and HM Prison Lowdham Grange to HM Prison Dovegate on 2 February. [139708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There is no record of an incident occurring at Dovegate prison on 2 February. There is a record of a concerted indiscipline there on 29 January. The Duty Director of Serco authorised the deployment of staff from Doncaster prison and Lowdham Grange prison during this incident. This was ratified by the Prison Service Gold Commander for the incident.

Driving Offences

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many drivers have penalty points on their licences; [139629]

(2) how many drivers have six or more penalty points on their licences. [139630]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not collected by my Department.

I have been advised that the information is available only at disproportionate cost from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many drivers are banned from driving as a result of the totting-up procedure; [139631]

(2) what her estimate is of the number of drivers who will be banned from driving under the totting-up procedure in the 2007 calendar year. [139632]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Available information taken from the 2003 and 2004 (latest available) Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform shows that, as a result of 'totting-up' of points under section 35 of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988, there were 33,286 and 30,934 disqualifications respectively in England and Wales.

2005 data will be available later this year; 2006 data will be available in 2008 and 2007 data will be available in 2009.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what factors may be taken into account when assessing pleas of exceptional hardship entered by drivers seeking to avoid disqualification from driving under the totting-up procedure. [139641]

Mr. Sutcliffe: When a driver faces disqualification under the totting-up procedure, the court has very little discretion other than to disqualify, unless they are satisfied that to do so would cause 'exceptional hardship'.

Whether exceptional hardship would be caused is a matter for the court to decide in each individual case.

The Sentencing Guidelines Council is responsible for magistrates' sentencing guidelines on this issue, and the decisions of the Court of Appeal in any relevant cases will impact on any decisions made.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice who is responsible for specifying the criteria by which magistrates are required to interpret pleas of exceptional hardship entered by drivers seeking to avoid disqualification from driving under the totting-up procedure. [139642]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Sentencing Guidelines Council are responsible for magistrates' sentencing guidelines, along with guidance provided by Court of Appeal judgements. The Sentencing Advisory Panel recently carried out a consultation paper on magistrates sentencing guidelines and responses will be considered in determining the final guidelines.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether *(a)* changes have been made in the last five years to the criteria by which magistrates are required to interpret pleas of exceptional hardship entered by drivers seeking to avoid disqualification from driving under the totting-up procedure and *(b)* any such changes are proposed in the next six months. [139643]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Sentencing Guidelines Council is responsible for magistrates' sentencing guidelines, provided by Court of Appeal judgments.

The Sentencing Guidelines Council is an independent body that was established by the Criminal Justice Act 2003. All courts are required to take the guidelines into account when sentencing all offenders, with the aim of promoting greater consistency in sentencing. In every individual case, the judge or magistrate will continue to make his own decision on the type and length of sentence, but will be required to operate within the Council's guidelines or give reasons for departing from them in a particular case.

The Sentencing Advisory Panel recently carried out a consultation exercise on magistrates' sentencing guidelines and responses will be considered in determining the final guidelines.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what consideration magistrates are permitted to give to the cost of local public transport when considering pleas of exceptional hardship entered by drivers seeking to avoid disqualification from driving under the totting-up procedure. [139644]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The court has very little discretion other than to disqualify under the totting-up procedure, unless they are satisfied that to do so would cause 'exceptional hardship'.

Exceptional hardship is determined by the court under guidelines listed by the Sentencing Guidelines Council. A whole range of circumstances may affect any court decision. The cost of public transport is not listed as a specific factor for consideration although an individual judge may take account of this.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will commission research on the equity of driving bans, with particular reference to the financial effect of bans given the disparate cost of public transport in different areas. [139671]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no plans to commission research on this issue at this time. It would be for the Sentencing Guidelines Council potentially to consider this issue at a future date.

Driving Offences: Foreigners

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* UK licence holders and *(b)* foreign licence holders were (i) prosecuted, (ii) convicted, (iii) banned from driving and (iv) imprisoned for offences relating to (A) fatal road traffic accidents, (B) serious road traffic accidents and (C) minor road traffic accidents in each year since 1997. [139563]

Mr. Sutcliffe: While the Department for Transport monitors details of road traffic accidents, this information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions.

Information collected on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of prosecutions, convictions, custodial sentences and disqualifications for 'accident'

offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 section 170 (4) and (7) does not distinguish between those offences which resulted in injury from those which resulted in damage or both. Neither do the data identify UK/non-UK licence holders in breach of driving licence regulations.

Driving Under Influence: Sentencing

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average prison sentence imposed for the offence of drink driving was in each police authority in the most recent year for which figures are available. [138818]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, for 2004 (latest available) is provided in the following table.

Data for 2005 will be available shortly.

Maximum, minimum and average custodial[1] sentence given for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[2], by police force area, England and Wales, 2004

Police force area	Maximum custodial sentence given (months)	Minimum custodial sentence given (days)	Average sentence length (months)
Avon and Somerset	6	21	2.9
Bedfordshire	6	7	3.0
Cambridgeshire	6	7	3.2
Cheshire	6	7	2.9
Cleveland	6	28	3.2
Cumbria	6	7	2.7
Derbyshire	6	21	2.7
Devon and Cornwall	6	5	2.7
Dorset	6	28	2.7
Durham	6	21	3.4
Essex	6	7	2.2
Gloucestershire	5	7	3.0
Greater Manchester	6	7	3.2
Hampshire	6	5	2.9
Hertfordshire	6	7	2.6
Humberside	6	14	3.3
Kent	6	5	3.0
Lancashire	6	14	3.0
Leicestershire	6	7	3.0
Lincolnshire	6	7	3.2
London, City of	6	30	2.9
Merseyside	6	7	3.1
Metropolitan Police	6	5	2.8
Norfolk	6	5	2.5
Northamptonshire	6	30	3.4
Northumbria	6	5	3.4
North Yorkshire	6	28	2.9
Nottinghamshire	6	28	2.8
South Yorkshire	6	14	3.2
Staffordshire	6	14	3.0
Suffolk	6	7	2.6
Surrey	6	15	3.1
Sussex	6	7	2.7
Thames Valley	6	7	2.9
Warwickshire	6	7	3.0
West Mercia	6	7	3.2
West Midlands	6	10	3.2
West Yorkshire	6	7	2.9
Wiltshire	6	14	3.0
Dyfed-Powys	6	7	3.4
Gwent	6	28	2.9
North Wales	6	28	3.2
South Wales	6	14	3.3

[1] Immediate custody = detention and training order, young offender institution and unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6).

Notes:
1. Maximum sentence for offences = six months or L5 Fine (£5,000).
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Electronic Tagging: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offenders were electronically tagged in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [138410]

Mr. Sutcliffe: According to data submitted by the electronic monitoring supplier Serco, the number of people subject to electronic monitoring in the criminal justice area of Suffolk during the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07 is provided in the table.

The same data for previous periods are not available centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Total electronically-monitored subjects in Suffolk criminal justice area

Financial year	Number
2005-06	578
2006-07	751

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) on how many occasions HM Prison Service has been required to commission an

investigation of the conduct of Governor Andrew Cross of HM Young Offender Institution Feltham; and if she will make a statement; [139568]

(2) whether the investigation allegations of inappropriate behaviour by the Governor of HM Youth Offender Institute Feltham have concluded; if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; and if she will make a statement. [140056]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not Prison Service policy to comment on personnel issues relating to individual members of staff. However, exceptionally, the Governor of Feltham has requested that it be made clear that he has never been the subject of a disciplinary investigation. There has been a completed simple inquiry into a grievance made against him.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many *(a)* violent racist and *(b)* violent incidents took place at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement; [139569]

(2) how many racist incidents were recorded at HM Young Offender Institution Feltham in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [139570]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since the murder of Zahid Mubarek in March 2000 there have been no violent racist incidents at Feltham Young Offender Institution. The number of racist incidents recorded at Feltham since 2000 are as follows:

	Number
2000	134
2001	330
2002	340
2003	490
2004	579
2005	475
2006	521

The rise in reported racist incidents since 2000 is due not to increased racist activity but to a more robust reporting system.

Violent incidents are not recorded separately. However, the number of proven adjudications for fights and assaults are as follows:

	Fights	*Assaults*
2000	564	306
2001	456	250
2002	511	204
2003	611	202
2004	493	217
2005	430	178
2006	376	201
2007 (as at 1 June)	138	62

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) for what reason film footage of HM Young Offender Institute Feltham was not checked prior to broadcast to identify potential security risks; who approved the film footage for broadcast; what disciplinary action has been taken; and if she will make a statement; [140059]

(2) what the total cost was of *(a)* the re-lock exercise at HM Young Offender Institute Feltham and *(b)* the consequent legal proceedings; and if she will make a statement. [140060]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This matter is the subject of ongoing legal action and it would therefore not be appropriate to comment.

Fixed Penalties: Foreigners

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* penalty notices for disorder and *(b)* fixed penalty notices were given to non-British nationals in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) nationality and (ii) offence. [139012]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the nationality or immigration status of offenders issued with penalty notices for disorder and motorists who breach road traffic regulations and are issued with fixed penalty notices is not collected centrally.

Information relating to fixed penalty notices for environmental offences is a matter for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what legislation protects the privacy of correspondence between hon. Members and their constituents; and what complaints her Department has received on failures of existing legislation to ensure appropriate privacy. [139256]

Bridget Prentice: The Data Protection Act 1998 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 contain provisions to protect where appropriate the privacy of correspondence between hon. Members and their constituents. The Human Rights Act 1998 contains provisions to give further effect to the convention rights, which include the right to respect for private life under article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

My Department has received no specific complaints about correspondence between hon. Members and their constituents being inappropriately released.

National Offender Management Service

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* budgets and *(b)* estimates for administrative costs in future financial years have been set for (i) commissioners, (ii) chief executive officers, (iii) directors and their officers and (iv) regional offender managers. [140437]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The allocation of the overall NOMS budget has not yet been set for future years.

Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what proportion of the budget of the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission was spent on the operations of the Commission, as opposed to in payments to lawyers not employed by the Commission, in each year since its establishment. [140235]

Mr. Hanson: The funds provided to the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission for its own administration costs and for the benefit of assisted persons, including lawyers were as follows:

Financial year	*Legal Aid fund (£000)*	*Administration (£000)*	*Administration as percentage of fund*
2003-04	21,091	1,983	9
2004-05	58,599	5,571	10
2005-06	57,179	5,081	9
2006-07	68,522	5,478	8

As the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission was established in November 2003, the figures quoted above for 2003-04 represent the five-month period November 2003 to March 2004.

Pentonville Prison: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will place in the Library a copy of the report of investigations of professional standards at HM Prison Pentonville resulting in disciplinary action against staff found to have acted in a corrupt manner; and if she will make a statement. [139566]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not public-sector Prison Service policy to disclose copies of investigation reports to anyone other than the member of staff being charged with misconduct and/or their representative.

Personation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people have been prosecuted for identity fraud in the last five years; and how many have been convicted. [140488]

Mr. Sutcliffe: For the period in question for which recorded crime figures are available, most cases dealt with by the police, where a person's identity had been used unlawfully to obtain money, credit, services or property, would most likely have been dealt with as deception offences under the Theft Act 1968 (HO recorded crime classification 53B) or the Theft Act 1978. However, it is not possible to tell which of these deception offences relate to identity fraud and therefore no data can be provided.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what forecasts her Department has made of the *(a)* number of cells available and *(b)* population at each (i) prison establishment, (ii) HM Prison Service area and (iii) private-sector prison, broken down by HM Prison Service area in June 2007; and if she will make a statement. [139572]

Mr. Sutcliffe: NOMS regularly reviews the capacity of the prison estate, taking into account accommodation coming in and out of use following refurbishment and the provision of new capacity. The operational capacity of the prison estate on 25 May was 81,458. This includes up to 400 places available as part of Operation Safeguard.

Latest published prison population projections for the end of June each year are presented in 'Prison population projections 2006-2013, England and Wales, HOSB 11/06', published in July 2006 as National Statistics. They break down the population by gender and identify projected remanded and sentenced prisoner numbers. They project the demand at national level only and do not focus on individual establishments or Prison Service areas. The projections are published in a regular cycle with the next publication provisionally planned for August 2007.

Prison Accommodation: Shipping

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what recent *(a)* discussions Ministers and officials from her Department have had and *(b)* representations her Department has received on the use of prison ships to reduce overcrowding in prisons. [138187]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The use of vessels is being considered as part of a package of measures to provide additional custodial capacity. A notice was placed by the Home Office to jointly serve NOMS and the Border and Immigration Agency for proposals to supply vessels of between 200-800 custodial or detention places. This was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union on 20 October 2006.

Tenders have now been received, but no decision to purchase has yet been made.

Representations have been received from the public on general matters and from private companies offering the provision of vessels.

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many former employees of HM Prison Service are serving prison sentences; and if she will make a statement. [140054]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held for former employees of HM Prison Service.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) whether Nick Pascoe is acting as the commissioning authority for the Tasker investigation; and if she will make a statement; [140061]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 84W, on the Prison Service, who the commissioning officer is in respect of the Tasker investigation; and if she will make a statement. [140169]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The original commissioning authority was the recently retired area manager for London. His successor, Nick Pascoe, has taken over this responsibility.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations she has received from *(a)* Michael Spurr and *(b)* HM Prison Service on the Tasker investigation; if she will place in the Library a copy of those representations; and if she will make a statement. [140064]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have received updated briefing on the background to and the timetable for the Tasker investigation. It is not Prison Service policy to disclose the contents of investigations, and a copy of the Tasker report will not be placed in the Library.

Prison Service: Harassment

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* governing governors and *(b)* deputy governors were the subject of sexual harassment allegations in each of the last five years; how many such governors in each category have been transferred to (i) another prison establishment or (ii) HM Prison Service headquarters over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [140057]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not recorded centrally at present. To collect it would involve contacting each establishment individually and this would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations she has received from the Equal Opportunities Commission concerning harassment within HM Prison Service; and if she will make a statement. [140058]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service has entered into a formal agreement with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) to tackle and prevent sexual harassment, which the EOC had raised with the Prison Service as being of concern to them. As a result, the EOC has decided to suspend a formal investigation into these issues. Instead, the EOC will work jointly with the Prison Service to identify and tackle sexual harassment.

As part of this agreement with the EOC, the Prison Service will undertake a series of initiatives including the launch of an independent survey to identify the nature and extent of sexual harassment and develop an action plan to remedy any problems it finds.

Prison Service: Public Appointments

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to her answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on the Prison Service: public appointments, whether the report referred to was the Tasker investigation; and if she will make a statement. [140171]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Yes.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners are foreign nationals; and how many prisoners were foreign nationals on 14 May 1997. [136842]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Figures on the numbers of foreign national prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales at the end of March 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, can be found in the table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to errors with data and processing. Because the detailed population breakdowns have been scaled and also rounded to the nearest whole number, individual components may not add up to the totals.

Prisoners held in all prison establishments in England and Wales 31 March 2007, showing numbers of foreign nationals

	Number
All nationalities	79,745
Foreign national	11,168
UK nationals	67,716
Not recorded	860

Prisons: Computers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) for what purpose laptop computers are issued to prisoners in prisons in England and Wales; [139897]

(2) how many laptop computers were procured in each of the last five years for use by prisoners in England and Wales; and at what cost; [139898]

(3) how many laptop computers are available for use by prisoners in prisons in England and Wales. [139899]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under controlled conditions and in certain circumstances some prisoners may be issued with laptop computers for certain purposes including preparing legal cases and education.

To provide information on the number of laptop computers procured or available for prisoners across the prison system could be done at disproportionate cost only.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what research she has commissioned on the relationship between the availability of drugs within prison establishments and the maintenance of good order and discipline among inmates; and if she will make a statement. [139551]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We have not specifically commissioned research into the links between drugs and good order but available evidence indicates that the supply and use

of drugs in prison can lead to bullying and violence with high levels of aggression and assaults on staff. Prisoners and their families may be coerced into supplying drugs. Keeping drugs out of prisons creates safer, healthier prisons and provides a better environment for the delivery of drug treatment. A comprehensive range of measures are in place to reduce the supply of drugs into prisons.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* members of the clergy and *(b)* other religious ministers have been arrested for trafficking drugs into prison establishments; and if she will make a statement. [140062]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not collected centrally in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Emergencies

John McDonnell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the Prison Service policy is for the deployment of staff in emergency situations at prisons other than their place of employment. [139705]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service Order 1400 contains the policy for incident management. Chapter 5.2 states:

Mutual aid: Operation Tornado

Operation Tornado is the national plan for providing support and mutual aid arrangements between all establishments in the event of:

(i) a serious incident requiring a reinforcement of staff or;

(ii) some other occurrence requiring a need for additional staff, who may not necessarily need to be C and R trained staff.

Prisons: Swimming Pools

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost was of maintaining swimming pools at *(a)* Holloway, *(b)* Portland, *(c)* Aylesbury and Standford Hill and *(d)* Blantyre House prisons between April 2006 and April 2007. [140091]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Portland and Blantyre House have unheated outdoor pools. The cost of maintaining these pools between April 2006 and April 2007 was approximately £3,890 and £2,500-£3,000 respectively. Holloway, Aylesbury and Standford Hill have heated indoor pools. The estimated cost of maintaining these was £20,200 (inclusive of utilities) at Holloway; £22,660 (also inclusive of utilities) at Standford Hill; and £6,800 plus utilities at Aylesbury. It is difficult to calculate the exact effect that these pools have on the establishments' utility bills (electricity, gas and water) as they are not metered separately.

Probation: Expenditure

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost has been of probation commissioning activities to date in 2007-08; and what the outcomes have been of such activities. [140428]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The planned budget for regional offender managers and their teams, and the director of offender management for Wales and her team, is £12.0 million for 2007-08, including the cost of private prison monitors and controllers. The ROMs and the DOM commission probation activities and custodial provision from probation boards, HM Prison Service and private prison providers, as well as engaging in joint commissioning and partnership working with other Government Departments.

So far during 2007-08, ROMs and the DOM have introduced service level agreements with prison and probation areas, including locally negotiated targets for service delivery. The SLAs include a number of targets for the prison and probation providers to meet, including, for example, such measures as the number of offenders going into employment and the number of offenders completing interventions ordered by the courts, which contribute to reducing reoffending. The SLAs are monitored regularly by the ROMs and the DOM to ensure that providers are meeting expectations.

Probation: Finance

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the anticipated national budget shortfall is for the Probation Service in England and Wales for 2007-08, broken down by probation area. [140419]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is currently not available to provide an anticipated variance position against budget by probation board for 2007-08. The Probation boards are required to submit budget monitoring returns on a regular basis which include the budget to date, actual expenditure to date, variance and forecast outturn. For 2007-08 the first set of returns are due in June, with subsequent returns due monthly thereafter.

Probation: Greater London

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps are being taken in the Greater London probation area to keep within budget in 2007-08. [140420]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The London Probation Board, at its meeting on 24 May 2007, approved a balanced budget for the financial year 2007-08. To achieve this, strict financial measures on expenditure were continued from the previous financial year together with a recruitment freeze for non-business critical posts.

Probation: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what job description will be used in contracts for community probation provision in Nottinghamshire. [138997]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Contracts for probation provision, or SLAs as they are currently, are the mechanism by which the Regional Offender Manager holds the probation area to account for the performance elements that constitute the contract or SLA. The

contracts set out the service specifications that the probation area is required to deliver against in return for the resources that the probation area receives. It is a matter for the probation area to deliver the services, using appropriately trained and qualified staff, and within prescribed national standards. The contract/SLA does not and will not include job descriptions.

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has for outsourcing community probation services in Nottinghamshire. [138998]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no specific plans centrally to outsource "community probation services" either in Nottingham or anywhere else. The document 'Improving Prison and Probation Services: Public Value Partnerships', published by NOMS in August 2006, gives a broad indication of the types of probation services that might, in the future, be subject to competitive processes, but is clear in indicating that change will be measured and geared to achieving the best providers of services, without any quotas for any one sector over another. Probation boards do have requirements to achieve levels of expenditure through sub-contracting services to other providers—10 per cent. during 2007-08, up from 5 per cent. in 2006-07—but only if such arrangements offer better value.

Probation: Training

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether a newly trained probation officer who is not offered employment in the area in which they trained and who refuses employment offered in another area will be expected to repay their training fees. [140426]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The decision whether to reclaim tuition fees is a matter for local probation areas to decide.

Reoffenders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the most recent figures are for the rates of reoffending following *(a)* custodial sentences and *(b)* community sentences. [139804]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most recent reoffending rates were published in "Re-offending of Adults: results from the 2004 cohort". This covers offenders who were released from prison or commenced a community penalty in the first quarter of 2004, for England and Wales. The actual reoffending rate is the percentage of offenders who reoffended during a two-year follow-up period and who were subsequently convicted in court. The actual reoffending rate was 64.7 per cent. for custodial sentences and 50.5 per cent. for community sentences for the 2004 cohort. However, the relationship between disposal and reoffending is complex; the disposal given depends upon the characteristics of the offender, which will also affect their chances of reoffending. This is discussed further in the Statistical Bulletin which can be found at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

Sexual Offences: Probation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much funding has been allocated to supervision of convicted sex offenders by the Probation Service for 2007-08. [140384]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The 2007-08 funding is allocated on the basis of a formula model that uses statistical data including population and sentencing data to allocate funding across the 42 Probation Boards. It is up to each Probation board to manage its resources in order to meet its objectives and targets and in order to deliver the effective management of sex offenders under statutory probation supervision.

Tasker Inquiry

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) on what date Ron Tasker interviewed *(a)* Michael Spurr and *(b)* Keith Munns as part of his investigation; what subsequent recommendations Mr. Tasker made in relation to the commissioning of the investigation and to whom; what action was taken in consequence; and if she will make a statement; [140063]

(2) pursuant to her answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1684W, on the Tasker Inquiry, who requested the change in the terms of reference in the Tasker investigation; and if she will make a statement. [140170]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not Prison Service policy to disclose details of investigation reports to third parties.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1684W, on the Tasker Inquiry, on what date the partial report was submitted and to whom; who requested the submission of the partial report; what the purpose was of the partial report; who was provided with access to the partial report; if she will place in the Library a copy of the partial report; and if she will make a statement. [140065]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The first chapter of the report was submitted to the current commissioning authority on 16 April 2007 to enable the commissioning authority to begin reading the background to the report. The previous commissioning authority has also been sent a copy of the first chapter of the report. It is not Prison Service policy to disclose the contents of investigation reports to third parties.

Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many juvenile *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys have been sentenced under sections 226 and 228 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003; what their tariffs are; and how many have been released. [140460]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the number of under-18s received into custody between April 2005 and December 2006 having been sentenced under sections 226 and 228 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003.

This includes those received into prison establishments, secure training centres and secure children's homes.

	Section 226	*Section 228*
Male	50	180
Female	0	10
Total	50	190

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

These figures, which have been rounded, have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

As of May 2007 no under-18s sentenced under section 226 have been released; data on tariffs and on releases of those sentenced under section 228 is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

TRANSPORT

A49: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on maintaining and improving the A49 between Church Stretton and Shrewsbury in each year between 2001 and 2006. [140212]

Dr. Ladyman: Funding for maintenance and improvement is allocated to the Highways Agency's managing agents who undertake works contracts over the entire length of a route within their particular geographical area of responsibility. It is not possible to break down such expenditure for the length of A49 between Church Stretton and Shrewsbury. Figures for the whole of the A49 within Shropshire are given as follows.

	Maintenance	*Improvement*
2001-02	[1]—	[1]—
2002-03	533,608	822,689
2003-04	462,111	0
2004-05	512,943	3,503
2005-06	312,140	121,961
2006-07	95,000	0

[1] Work carried out during 2001-02 was undertaken under a previous contract with a different managing agent. The figures for that year are not available.

Airports: Passengers

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department is aware of any material errors in the information about denied boarding compensation under Regulation (EC) No 261/2004 issued to travellers at UK airports on behalf of the European Commission. [140502]

Gillian Merron: The Department is aware that, in January 2007, the European ombudsman found that some aspects of the information and advice provided by the European Commission to passengers at EU airports, in the form of leaflets and posters, were inaccurate and misleading. The ombudsman considered that the leaflets and posters implied that compensation was payable for all cases of flight cancellation, which is not the case.

The European ombudsman also found that a video produced by the European Commission and available on its website was inaccurate and misleading as it gave the impression that compensation was payable in the event of flight delay, which is not the case.

The ombudsman recommended that the European Commission correct the misleading statements. The Commission has prepared a revised poster and will distribute it to airports shortly.

Birmingham International Airport

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with Birmingham International airport on the construction of a new runway. [140093]

Gillian Merron: Ministers and officials have regular meetings with Birmingham International airport to discuss a range of issues regarding the development and operation of the airport.

Bus Services: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to receive the results of his Bus Subsidy Review; and whether he plans to publish the review. [140167]

Gillian Merron: A review of bus subsidy forms part of our current comprehensive spending review, which is due to be settled in the autumn of 2007. Discussions with stakeholders on the options for a reform of bus subsidy are ongoing, as set out in the Department's document, "Putting Passengers First", published last December.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139203]

Gillian Merron: The definition of 'found to have been in breach' can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, by the Courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139109]

Gillian Merron: Members of staff have the option to declare a disability as part of the Department's diversity monitoring process but there are no

requirements for them to provide details of the specific impairment. Therefore information about the numbers of people with epilepsy employed by the Department is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party-political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on Wednesday 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140134]

Gillian Merron: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the agencies of his Department which advertise 0870 numbers as their contact numbers; and if he will make a statement. [139845]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1458-60W.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage of *(a)* driver and *(b)* vehicle information held on the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database that is inaccurate. [139972]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Regular accuracy figures for drivers data are not maintained, but this is estimated to be 81.5 per cent. (data from 2005 Accuracy Survey). The greatest area in which data is inaccurate is that of current address, as there is frequently a time lag in notification.

(b) Figures for vehicles data are estimated to be less than 2.5 per cent. inaccurate.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were prosecuted for failure to submit updated information to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency in each of the last 10 years. [139973]

Dr. Ladyman: Drivers and vehicle keepers are required to notify the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) when changes occur in personal details and vehicle keepership. It is an offence to fail to notify such changes.

In the main, prosecution of such offences is for the police and comprehensive information on the number of prosecutions relating to these offences is not kept by this Department.

Since 1999, the DVLA has taken forward its own prosecutions under dual notification arrangements, which apply when a vehicle changes hands and require the disposing keeper to notify the DVLA of the details of the new keeper. The following table sets out the numbers of cases settled both out of court and via successful prosecution at the magistrates court.

	Settled out of court	*Successful prosecutions*
1999-2000	1,717	179
2000-01	9,274	934
2001-02	16,844	1,818
2002-03	29,262	4,469
2003-04	24,722	4,663
2004-05	10,546	5,025
2005-06	9,143	5,265
2006-07	7,586	4,948
Totals	109,094	27,301

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Shrewsbury

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to increase the staff numbers at the Shrewsbury Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency local office; and if he will make a statement. [139757]

Dr. Ladyman: Responsibility for staffing of departmental offices is vested in DfT officials who are charged with maintaining adequate levels to meet customer demand. Fluctuations in workloads, especially at times of the peak demand for vehicle registration and licensing between March and May, can result in a need for additional staff. This seasonal demand is met by the appointment of short-term casual employees. There are vacancies at Shrewsbury, and recruitment of staff is under way to return the office to its appropriate full-time complement.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the reasons for the Shrewsbury Driver and Vehicle Licensing agency local office not achieving its 48 hour target for processing registration documents relating to EU imported vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [139759]

Dr. Ladyman: While every effort is made to adhere to published service times, fluctuations in workloads can occasionally result in a failure to meet targets. The period between March and May is a peak time for vehicle registration and licensing transactions and the agency is currently experiencing delays in some local office transactions.

These delays have been exacerbated by industrial action called by the Public and Commercial Services Union which resulted in the loss of a day's processing and a two-week ban on overtime. DVLA apologises to its customers and assures them that every effort is being made to return to normal service times. During this peak period, service times for the processing of

registration documents relating to EU imported vehicles in Shrewsbury DVLA local office fluctuated between two and five working days.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the levels of stress-related illness at the Shrewsbury Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency local office; and if he will make a statement. [139760]

Dr. Ladyman: all Agencies and business areas within the Department for Transport take the well-being of their staff extremely seriously. The DVLA carefully monitors the reasons for absence from work and provides a range of support mechanisms to care for its employees.

Statistics for the Shrewsbury office show an annual sickness absence level of nine days per employee for the period April 2006 to March 2007, of which absences directly attributed to stress account for one day per employee. This is broadly in line with the average for DVLA local offices, and is below the national average for many customer-facing Government services.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will contact staff at the Shrewsbury Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency local office to hear their views on staff conditions; and if he will make a statement. [139761]

Dr. Ladyman: In common with all Government Departments, the Secretary of State vests responsibility for the well-being of staff employed by the Department in his officials. The DVLA has assured me that both the regional operations manager and his area manager have visited Shrewsbury local office on several occasions recently and have held open forums with the staff giving them an opportunity to discuss any areas of concern.

Heathrow Airport: Pollution Control

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on measurement of *(a)* nitrogen oxide and *(b)* carbon dioxide in the area surrounding Heathrow airport; [139577]

(2) what records his Department keeps of carbon dioxide levels in the area surrounding Heathrow airport; and what estimate he has made of projected levels should the capacity of the airport increase to 720,000 movements per year; [139579]

(3) what records his Department keeps of nitrogen oxide levels in the area around Heathrow airport; and what estimate he has made of projected levels should the capacity of the airport increase to 720,000 movements per year. [139578]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 470W. Data on carbon dioxide is not disaggregated by geographical area. The carbon dioxide impacts of additional aircraft movements at Heathrow are being assessed. These will be reported as part of the public consultation later this year, along with figures on local pollutants, including oxides of nitrogen.

Midland Metro

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had on the extension of the Midlands Metro; and if he will make a statement. [140173]

Mr. Tom Harris: My right hon. Friend has not had any recent discussions about extensions to the Midland Metro system. We understand that the West Midland metropolitan authorities intend to include proposals for extensions to the Midland Metro system within a wider package of measures as part of a bid for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund.

Pollution Control: Greater London

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether agencies responsible to his Department will be involved in the enforcement of the London low emission zone. [139560]

Gillian Merron: The London Low Emission Zone is the responsibility of the Mayor of London. Enforcement activities in relation to the Zone will be delivered by Transport for London, with support from the DVLA in the form of vehicle and keeper details, and from the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in the form of vehicle registration marks.

Radar: Radio Spectrum

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to extend administrative incentive pricing of the radio spectrum to maritime and aeronautical radar; [140503]

(2) what assessment he has made of the safety implications of extending administrative incentive pricing of the radio spectrum to maritime and aeronautical radar. [140504]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government made clear in their response to the Independent Audit that safety would remain paramount. Experts in the Department's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and the independent aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), are working closely with Ofcom on the safety factors to be taken into account when considering the application of administered incentive pricing to maritime and aeronautical radar. The precise details of future pricing arrangements for this service will be proposed by Ofcom and will be subject to consultation.

Railways: Freight

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of extra capacity available on UK railways for rail freight; and what assessment he has made of how available capacity could be utilised to ease road congestion. [139786]

Mr. Tom Harris: Network Rail is currently undertaking Route Utilisation Strategies (RUSs). All RUSs assess and seek to balance capacity, passenger and freight demand, operational performance and cost. The RUSs will form a key input to the basis for the

development and delivery of timetables, infrastructure and renewals of the network. The Freight RUS was published in March 2007, using forecasts by the rail freight industry. It established that there was extra capacity for freight growth in some areas and made recommendations for using available capacity as efficiently as possible.

Railways: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he is having with the Rail Regulator on the possible introduction of a direct rail service between Shrewsbury and London. [140225]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Office of Rail Regulation is due to announce, within the next few weeks, its decision on an application for track access rights to operate direct rail services between Shrewsbury and London Marylebone. It is not appropriate for the Department to interfere with the decision-making process of an independent regulatory body, although it may offer comments. The Department's comments on this particular application are publicly available on the ORR website at

www.rail-reg.gov.uk/.

Rolling Stock

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of upgrading the UK rail network to 9 ft 6in standards. [139787]

Mr. Tom Harris: Rail transport of 9ft 6in high sea-freight containers requires that the route be at least 'W10' gauge, unless specialised low-height rolling stock is used. Parts of the network are already cleared to this standard. Network Rail's Freight Utilisation Strategy (March 2007) sets out a strategy for accommodating predicted freight growth, including proposals for selective extension of W10 gauge. The Department for Transport has announced that it is considering a number of schemes of this type for financial assistance from the Transport Innovation Fund.

Shipping: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what risk assessment has been made of the possible effect of the change in numbers of awards of certificates of equivalent competency to foreign officers on UK-flagged ships on potential environmental and marine hazards; and if he will make a statement; [140100]

(2) what progress has been made in assessing the impact on the training and employment of UK seafarers of the change in numbers of awards of certificates of equivalent competency to foreign officers on UK-flagged ships; and if he will make a statement. [140103]

Dr. Ladyman: The MCA established a working group to assess the current system for issuing Certificates of Equivalent Competency (CECs). The group had its first meeting in January and consists of representatives of Government, industry, the unions and academia. The group will be looking into all aspects of CECs and will report to me in due course.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact on safety and environmental standards of the decision of the Marine and Coastguard Agency to contract out Vessel Traffic Services; and if he will make a statement. [140227]

Dr. Ladyman: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is the Competent Authority for Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) in UK waters. VTS facilities are provided by port authorities within port limits and, to date, where required outside port limits. They have been provided by port authorities on behalf of the MCA under the terms of Memorandums of Understanding. To ensure that safety and environmental standards are maintained, these agreements provide for auditing and monitoring of the service provider and the service provided.

A revision of the routeing measures at the Sunk Precautionary Area has been adopted at the International Maritime Organisation and will come into effect on 1 July 2007. This coincides with the expiry of the agreement between the Harwich Haven Authority and the MCA for provision of VTS for the Sunk. In anticipation that the enlarged routeing measure may require additional resources to manage the vessel traffic, the provision of the VTS facility has been offered on a competitive tendering basis in accordance with Government procurement rules. The evaluation of tenders will include assessment of the potential contractors' ability to meet safety and environmental standards. As the Competent Authority, the MCA will, of course, retain ultimate responsibility for the conduct of the VTS.

South West Trains: Fares

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what studies he has undertaken on the impact of the change to off peak fares announced by South West Trains to take effect on 20 May; and what representations he has received on that matter. [139873]

Mr. Tom Harris: These fares are unregulated and a matter for South West Trains. The Secretary of State has received a small number or representations from hon. Members including an early-day motion, and a small number of representations from members of the public.

South West Trains: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to monitor levels of passenger comfort on the new carriages introduced by South West Trains on their inter-city routes. [139730]

Mr. Tom Harris: The introduction of the Class 450s has meant that older trains have been replaced with newer stock on wider sections of the network, leading to an increase in overall capacity. This allows greater numbers of passengers to have a seat during their journey.

SSWT advises that the Class 450s fully comply with all health and safety requirements.

Tolls

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much revenue he estimates local authority road pricing schemes will be unable to collect because vehicles using the scheme are unregistered; and what measures are expected to be taken to ensure that revenue is collected from the drivers of such vehicles; [139827]

(2) what enforcement measures are planned to be developed for the recovery of charges imposed by local road pricing schemes on transitory vehicles registered outside the UK; [139828]

(3) what proportion of operational costs of local authority road pricing schemes is expected to be devoted to *(a)* administration and *(b)* enforcement; [139829]

(4) whether a maximum daily cap is planned on charges levied on any one vehicle as part of local authority road pricing schemes; [139836]

(5) whether local authorities will be required to make a surplus from local authority road pricing schemes; [139838]

(6) who will be responsible for *(a)* the maintenance and upkeep of electronic on board units fitted to vehicles using local authority road pricing schemes and *(b)* the costs incurred thereby; [139842]

(7) what provisions will be made to allow use of areas covered by local authority road pricing schemes by persons who are bankrupt or otherwise prohibited from using or unable to use credit accounts and are unable to pay charges through normal electronic transfer mechanisms; [139843]

(8) whether local authorities will be encouraged to consider satellite positioning systems as the basis for their road pricing schemes; and whether his Department has any preference for any particular system; [139848]

(9) whether he plans to require any specific technical systems as the basis of any local authority road pricing schemes as a condition for approval of these schemes; [139849]

(10) whether drivers who register with local authority road pricing schemes which require the fitting of electronic on board units will be charged for *(a)* those units and *(b)* the fitting of those units. [140202]

Dr. Ladyman: The Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance sets out the Government's position on these points.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether failure to pay road user charges to local authority road pricing schemes is planned to be made a criminal offence. [139830]

Dr. Ladyman: Current legislation and our draft Local Transport Bill treat failure to pay a road user charge as a civil contravention, and we have no plans to make it a criminal offence.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authorities will be allowed to retain 100 per cent. of the funds raised by local road pricing schemes; and what use will be permitted of surplus funds raised by such schemes. [139831]

Dr. Ladyman: Our draft Local Transport Bill contains provisions that will have the effect that all the net proceeds of all local charging schemes are to be used for local transport purposes. (See notes on clause 82.)

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether vehicles registered in local authorities running local road pricing schemes will receive a rebate on *(a)* vehicle excise duty and *(b)* road fund tax. [139832]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 20-21W.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether local authorities will be required to provide differential charging for *(a)* those using high occupancy vehicle lanes, *(b)* low emission vehicles, *(c)* public transport vehicles and *(d)* emergency service vehicles under local authority road pricing schemes; [139834]

(2) what classes of vehicles local authorities will be *(a)* allowed and *(b)* required to exempt from charges under road pricing schemes. [139835]

Dr. Ladyman: On 8 February the Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance sets out the Government's position on these points. Current legislation does not require differential charging, nor would the proposals in the draft Local Transport Bill, but local authorities have flexibility to apply differential charging if they wish to.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which body will be responsible for the repayment of any debts incurred by local authority road pricing schemes. [139839]

Dr. Ladyman: Local authorities seeking funding from the congestion element of the Transport Innovation Fund will need to develop a sound financial plan and set out the costs of the road pricing scheme and how they propose to finance the scheme. It would be the responsibility of local authorities to ensure that their scheme was cost-effective and financially viable.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the timetable of 2012 for the implementation of the European Electronic Toll

Service for cars using road pricing schemes is expected to be met; [139847]

(2) whether it will be a condition for the approval of any local authority road pricing schemes that the technical provisions conform with EC Directive 2004/52, on the interoperability of electronic toll collection systems. [139850]

Dr. Ladyman: EC Directive 2004/52 requires that the European electronic tolling service is defined by a Commission Decision. The directive requires full implementation of the service within three years of the date of the Commission decision for heavy vehicles and within five years of the decision for other vehicles. No Commission decision has yet been taken.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the implications of the delay and increase in costs of establishing the Galileo satellite positioning system for local authority road pricing schemes; [139851]

(2) what assessment he has made of the implications of the delays to the Galileo for the Eddington proposal to establish comprehensive national road pricing by 2015. [139855]

Dr. Ladyman: We do not expect local pricing schemes to be affected by any delays to Galileo. No assessment has been made of the potential impact on any future national road pricing system.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the latest date is by which local authority road pricing schemes will have to be fully operational in order to adhere to the Eddington timetable of establishing comprehensive road pricing by 2015; [139856]

(2) how long it is expected to take to evaluate the lessons learned from local authority road pricing schemes for a national road pricing scheme from the time the schemes are fully operational; [139857]

(3) what criteria he plans to use to evaluate the lessons learned from local authority road pricing schemes for a national road pricing scheme. [140206]

Dr. Ladyman: No decisions have been taken on whether to introduce a national road pricing scheme. Local schemes will be evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness in tackling congestion and wider impacts. We expect lessons to be learned during the development phase as well as after introduction.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he intends to bring the London road congestion charging scheme into the same technical framework as will apply to new local authority road pricing schemes. [140070]

Dr. Ladyman: The operation of the London congestion charging scheme is a matter for the Mayor and Transport for London.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the technical standards for the European Electronic Toll Service have been agreed. [140183]

Dr. Ladyman: Technical requirements for the EETS will be defined in a Commission Decision made under Articles 4(4) and 4(6) of the Directive. No such decision has yet been taken.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authority road pricing schemes will be required to integrate with the European Electronic Toll Service. [140200]

Dr. Ladyman: Any local charging scheme that falls within the scope of Directive 2004/52 will be required to accommodate users of the European Electronic Toll Service.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether individual local authorities implementing road pricing schemes will be set specific congestion reduction targets. [140201]

Dr. Ladyman: On 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The 'Business case requirements for Programme Entry' section of this guidance set out the Government's position on this point.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to evaluate the impact on motorways of local road pricing schemes. [140205]

Dr. Ladyman: The business case for any local road pricing scheme should include an assessment of the impact on all surrounding roads, including motorways. Specific guidance on the appraisal of road pricing schemes is provided in WebTAG, the Department for Transport's transport analysis guidance.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to take steps to allow satellite-based local authority road pricing systems to integrate signals from different satellite systems. [140208]

Dr. Ladyman: There are currently no proposals from local authorities for satellite based charging systems. The integration of signals from different systems will be dependent on the technology selected at the time that any such scheme was proposed.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether local authorities will be *(a)* required and *(b)* permitted to carry out local referendums before implementing road pricing schemes. [140226]

Dr. Ladyman: There is no requirement to hold a referendum but the Government attach considerable importance to full local consultation on the details of each charging scheme. The Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement, 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund

(TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance sets out the Government's position on this point.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he plans to allocate from the Transport Innovation Fund to each of the local authorities whose bids for local road pricing schemes are successful. [140228]

Dr. Ladyman: No decisions have been taken on areas to take forward local road pricing or how funding should be allocated.

We are making available up to £200 million per annum from the Transport Innovation Fund to support packages that address local congestion problems combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport; potentially more if suitable schemes to a higher value come forward.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to improve alternative modes of transport for those unable to afford charges for local authority road pricing schemes. [140229]

Dr. Ladyman: It is for the local authority to decide whether to propose a local road pricing scheme and supporting transport measures.

We are making available up to £200 million per annum from the Transport Innovation Fund to support packages that address local congestion problems combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport; potentially more if suitable schemes to a higher value come forward.

These packages will need to address problems in a way that supports economic growth, and supports other objectives for environmental protection, safety and social inclusion.

Tolls: Motorways

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport why motorways will be exempt from local authority road pricing schemes. [139833]

Dr. Ladyman: Current legislation allows local authorities to propose pricing on trunk roads as part of a local scheme, subject to approval by the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance sets out the Government's position on this point.

HOME DEPARTMENT

999 Text Message

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will set up a nationwide 999 text message service for deaf people who cannot telephone the emergency services. [114916]

Mr. Coaker: An emergency text relay service is already available to give the deaf and hard of hearing access to the emergency services. In addition a working group, including representatives from the emergency services and the mobile operators, has been set up by the 999 liaison committee to see whether short message service emergency number service can be provided.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of levels of perception of antisocial behaviour in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* West Bromwich East constituency in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [139598]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The perception of antisocial behaviour is measured by the British crime survey. In 2005-06 the percentage of people perceiving a high level of antisocial behaviour according to the BCS in England and Wales was 17 per cent. In 2004-05 the figure was 17 per cent. and in 2003-04 the figure was 16 per cent.

The BCS data is not broken down to constituency level, and only figures for the police force area are available. These figures show that for the West Midlands police force area the percentage of people perceiving a high level of antisocial behaviour was 26 per cent. in 2005-06 and 21 per cent. in 2004-05. There are no published figures for the perceptions data for the West Midlands police force area in 2003-04 as at that time the reporting of antisocial behaviour was measured using five strands of behaviour rather than the seven strands used currently. However, the BCS detected no statistically significant changes in the overall level of antisocial behaviour between 2003-04 and 2004-05 in the West Midlands police force area.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued in each year since 2001 in each police force area, broken down by those given to people aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 25, *(d)* 26 to 50 and *(e)* 51 years and over. [138119]

Mr. Coaker: The available information (up to 31 December 2005, latest available) is given in the following tables:

Table A2: Persons all ages and unknown—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999 to December 2005

CJS area	*Total issued*	*Apr1999-May 2000*	*Jun-Dec 2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Avon and Somerset	222	9	3	19	10	31
Bedfordshire	82	0	0	4	4	16
Cambridgeshire	101	5	1	2	2	15

Table A2: Persons all ages and unknown—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999 to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	Apr1999-May 2000	Jun-Dec 2000	2001	2002	2003
Cheshire	208	0	0	2	13	33
Cleveland	116	1	4	4	5	14
Cumbria	116	1	1	1	13	20
Derbyshire	128	3	7	6	2	10
Devon and Cornwall	178	1	0	10	3	12
Dorset	77	0	2	3	0	17
Durham	96	0	5	9	8	16
Essex	149	0	0	0	2	16
Gloucestershire	68	0	2	2	1	7
Greater London	1,172	9	19	15	21	139
Greater Manchester	1,237	10	2	25	78	236
Hampshire	273	1	2	6	10	43
Hertfordshire	146	1	1	9	6	17
Humberside	236	0	9	4	4	10
Kent	159	0	3	17	16	25
Lancashire	362	5	5	11	13	54
Leicestershire	121	1	4	0	1	15
Lincolnshire	43	0	0	2	2	7
Merseyside	308	8	3	7	22	44
Norfolk	123	6	0	12	9	7
Northamptonshire	85	1	2	5	1	6
Northumbria	309	7	5	9	16	25
North Yorkshire	95	4	0	7	0	9
Nottinghamshire	256	1	4	11	2	21
South Yorkshire	248	3	1	7	19	34
Staffordshire	170	0	4	6	12	30
Suffolk	168	3	0	4	5	25
Surrey	110	0	2	2	2	7
Sussex	248	3	4	3	16	31
Thames Valley	163	1	1	7	6	16
Warwickshire	87	0	1	2	15	11
West Mercia	236	5	8	39	30	28
West Midlands	787	11	28	58	30	119
West Yorkshire	696	4	2	14	14	97
Wiltshire	52	0	0	0	1	9
England	9,431	104	135	344	414	1,272
Dyfed Powys	35	0	0	0	0	12
Gwent	72	0	0	2	2	8
North Wales	168	0	1	0	7	15
South Wales	147	0	1	4	3	29
Wales	422	0	2	6	12	64
Total England and Wales	9,853	104	137	350	426	1,336

	2004					2005				
CJS area	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Avon and Somerset	16	20	32	21	89	27	12	11	11	61
Bedfordshire	1	4	9	4	18	5	19	6	10	40
Cambridgeshire	8	6	9	3	26	14	15	11	10	50
Cheshire	8	20	14	20	62	27	30	29	12	98
Cleveland	4	3	7	14	28	15	13	17	15	60
Cumbria	4	8	9	10	31	11	15	14	9	49
Derbyshire	9	17	12	8	46	16	13	11	14	54
Devon and Cornwall	3	22	31	24	80	30	16	18	8	72
Dorset	6	6	18	6	36	3	6	6	4	19
Durham	9	8	4	10	31	4	10	6	7	27
Essex	11	9	15	24	59	26	25	15	6	72
Gloucestershire	3	5	8	10	26	14	12	3	1	30

CJS area	2004 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	2005 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Greater London	84	94	133	130	441	154	143	118	113	528
Greater Manchester	101	100	114	115	430	124	133	115	84	456
Hampshire	17	27	28	27	99	32	34	27	19	112
Hertfordshire	13	11	12	4	40	21	17	20	14	72
Humberside	4	14	27	27	72	36	36	36	29	137
Kent	6	19	11	18	54	14	12	10	8	44
Lancashire	27	25	38	36	126	33	38	44	33	148
Leicestershire	6	4	10	21	41	28	16	4	11	59
Lincolnshire	5	1	4	2	12	5	5	5	5	20
Merseyside	24	20	25	27	96	39	41	21	27	128
Norfolk	7	8	17	11	43	13	13	12	8	46
Northamptonshire	3	12	8	16	39	13	8	9	1	31
Northumbria	10	16	16	32	74	51	53	42	27	173
North Yorkshire	8	9	11	13	41	10	3	11	10	34
Nottinghamshire	14	18	22	37	91	41	28	34	23	126
South Yorkshire	9	20	25	26	80	34	25	17	28	104
Staffordshire	13	8	25	13	59	14	21	16	8	59
Suffolk	11	16	25	26	78	11	18	10	14	53
Surrey	7	13	13	15	48	14	13	12	10	49
Sussex	6	34	25	32	97	22	29	22	21	94
Thames Valley	12	18	31	16	77	16	12	12	15	55
Warwickshire	9	5	6	8	28	6	9	11	4	30
West Mercia	8	13	15	20	56	10	24	18	18	70
West Midlands	36	51	63	88	238	92	81	83	47	303
West Yorkshire	86	80	69	70	305	58	61	65	76	260
Wiltshire	6	6	4	4	20	7	8	5	2	22
England	614	770	945	988	3,317	1,090	1,067	926	762	3,845
Dyfed Powys	4	2	2	0	8	1	2	5	7	15
Gwent	4	5	9	9	27	7	14	7	5	33
North Wales	9	6	12	15	42	23	31	29	20	103
South Wales	4	12	18	12	46	15	15	18	16	64
Wales	21	25	41	36	123	46	62	59	48	215
Total England and Wales	635	795	986	1,024	3,440	1,136	1,129	985	810	4,060

Notes:
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prepared by RDS-OCJR

Table A2: Persons aged 10-17—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	Apr 1999-May 2000	Jun-Dec 2000	2001	2002	2003
Avon and Somerset	71	[1]—	2	7	4	10
Bedfordshire	28	[1]—	0	1	2	8
Cambridgeshire	30	[1]—	0	1	2	10
Cheshire	81	[1]—	0	2	5	14
Cleveland	64	[1]—	4	3	5	9
Cumbria	50	[1]—	0	0	5	7
Derbyshire	44	[1]—	0	3	2	3
Devon and Cornwall	33	[1]—	0	5	1	3
Dorset	41	[1]—	2	3	0	10
Durham	44	[1]—	2	5	5	8
Essex	71	[1]—	0	0	2	4
Gloucestershire	39	[1]—	1	2	0	5
Greater London	359	[1]—	10	10	4	41
Greater Manchester	626	[1]—	2	17	54	145
Hampshire	123	[1]—	0	3	8	22

Table A2: Persons aged 10-17—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	Apr 1999-May 2000	Jun-Dec 2000	2001	2002	2003
Hertfordshire	64	[1]—	1	4	6	11
Humberside	112	[1]—	2	3	2	5
Kent	77	[1]—	2	15	4	12
Lancashire	155	[1]—	2	4	12	36
Leicestershire	45	[1]—	4	0	0	7
Lincolnshire	16	[1]—	0	2	1	3
Merseyside	151	[1]—	1	4	18	23
Norfolk	37	[1]—	0	6	3	4
Northamptonshire	28	[1]—	2	4	1	3
Northumbria	125	[1]—	2	3	12	9
North Yorkshire	27	[1]—	0	4	0	4
Nottinghamshire	106	[1]—	3	2	1	11
South Yorkshire	110	[1]—	1	4	10	12
Staffordshire	78	[1]—	0	3	7	12
Suffolk	59	[1]—	0	3	5	9
Surrey	48	[1]—	0	2	2	3
Sussex	116	[1]—	4	2	10	16
Thames Valley	39	[1]—	0	3	2	5
Warwickshire	40	[1]—	0	2	10	6
West Mercia	96	[1]—	3	21	12	13
West Midlands	216	[1]—	9	28	13	23
West Yorkshire	354	[1]—	2	9	11	60
Wiltshire	16	[1]—	0	0	1	4
England	3,819	[1]—	61	190	242	590
Dyfed Powys	6	[1]—	0	0	0	0
Gwent	40	[1]—	0	2	2	4
North Wales	77	[1]—	1	0	4	9
South Wales	55	[1]—	0	1	1	17
Wales	178	[1]—	1	3	7	30
Total England and Wales	3,997	[1]—	62	193	249	620

	2004					2005				
CJS area	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Avon and Somerset	5	5	11	9	30	10	2	3	3	18
Bedfordshire	1	2	2	1	6	2	5	2	2	11
Cambridgeshire	1	0	1	1	3	1	7	3	3	14
Cheshire	3	11	5	9	28	5	15	7	5	32
Cleveland	3	0	2	10	15	5	5	8	10	28
Cumbria	2	3	3	4	12	4	8	9	5	26
Derbyshire	1	5	5	3	14	4	4	8	6	22
Devon and Cornwall	1	3	0	3	7	7	3	4	3	17
Dorset	2	6	7	2	17	2	2	2	3	9
Durham	4	3	2	4	13	2	4	4	1	11
Essex	4	5	11	10	30	15	9	9	2	35
Gloucestershire	3	2	3	6	14	10	6	1	0	17
Greater London	16	20	30	40	106	46	65	36	41	188
Greater Manchester	48	52	51	56	207	52	57	53	39	201
Hampshire	8	13	15	10	46	16	11	9	8	44
Hertfordshire	7	5	3	1	16	6	3	13	4	26
Humberside	3	9	13	10	35	19	19	13	14	65
Kent	2	9	4	7	22	10	6	4	2	22
Lancashire	7	10	18	18	53	14	13	11	10	48
Leicestershire	1	4	3	4	9	14	8	1	2	25
Lincolnshire	0	0	1	1	2	4	3	1	0	8
Merseyside	11	8	12	17	48	18	14	14	11	57
Norfolk	1	5	4	2	12	6	2	2	2	12
Northamptonshire	2	2	5	2	11	2	1	3	1	7

CJS area	2004 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	2005 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Northumbria	3	11	8	14	36	22	19	15	7	63
North Yorkshire	5	0	2	6	13	1	1	2	2	6
Nottinghamshire	2	3	12	11	28	16	13	15	17	61
South Yorkshire	4	11	12	14	41	13	10	7	12	42
Staffordshire	2	2	19	5	28	8	6	9	5	28
Suffolk	2	6	7	9	24	6	5	4	3	18
Surrey	3	7	5	10	25	6	7	1	2	16
Sussex	3	18	10	14	45	6	10	7	16	39
Thames Valley	1	8	8	4	21	1	3	1	3	8
Warwickshire	3	2	2	4	11	4	2	2	3	11
West Mercia	4	6	11	4	25	7	4	9	2	22
West Midlands	8	8	22	17	55	27	23	22	16	88
West Yorkshire	42	49	34	31	156	26	27	30	33	116
Wiltshire	2	1	0	2	5	2	0	2	2	6
England	220	311	363	375	1,269	419	402	346	300	1,467
Dyfed Powys	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	1	2	4
Gwent	3	3	3	3	12	6	6	5	3	20
North Wales	7	2	5	9	23	12	9	12	7	40
South Wales	3	2	4	3	12	9	5	7	3	24
Wales	13	8	13	15	49	27	21	25	15	88
Total England and Wales	233	319	376	390	1,318	446	423	371	315	1,555

[1] No age details available for the period April 1999 to May 2000.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prepared by RDS-OCJR

Table A2: Persons aged 18+—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	Apr 1999-May 2000	Jun-Dec 2000	2001	2002	2003
Avon and Somerset	135	[1]—	1	11	6	21
Bedfordshire	54	[1]—	0	3	2	8
Cambridgeshire	64	[1]—	1	1	0	5
Cheshire	125	[1]—	0	0	8	19
Cleveland	51	[1]—	0	1	0	5
Cumbria	63	[1]—	1	1	8	12
Derbyshire	79	[1]—	7	3	0	7
Devon and Cornwall	137	[1]—	0	5	2	9
Dorset	36	[1]—	0	0	0	7
Durham	50	[1]—	2	4	3	8
Essex	78	[1]—	0	0	0	12
Gloucestershire	27	[1]—	1	0	1	2
Greater London	757	[1]—	8	3	11	96
Greater Manchester	573	[1]—	0	8	24	88
Hampshire	145	[1]—	2	3	2	18
Hertfordshire	75	[1]—	0	5	0	6
Humberside	123	[1]—	6	1	2	5
Kent	80	[1]—	1	2	12	13
Lancashire	194	[1]—	3	5	1	17
Leicestershire	71	[1]—	0	0	1	7
Lincolnshire	23	[1]—	0	0	1	3
Merseyside	145	[1]—	2	3	4	21
Norfolk	76	[1]—	0	4	5	3
Northamptonshire	55	[1]—	0	1	0	3
Northumbria	172	[1]—	3	6	4	16
North Yorkshire	64	[1]—	0	3	0	5

Table A2: Persons aged 18+—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999[1] to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	Apr 1999-May 2000	Jun-Dec 2000	2001	2002	2003
Nottinghamshire	145	[1]—	1	9	1	10
South Yorkshire	131	[1]—	0	3	9	20
Staffordshire	89	[1]—	4	2	5	18
Suffolk	106	[1]—	0	1	0	16
Surrey	60	[1]—	2	0	0	4
Sussex	126	[1]—	0	1	6	15
Thames Valley	114	[1]—	1	3	3	10
Warwickshire	46	[1]—	1	0	5	5
West Mercia	132	[1]—	5	18	18	15
West Midlands	534	[1]—	10	26	17	93
West Yorkshire	335	[1]—	0	5	3	37
Wiltshire	36	[1]—	0	0	0	5
England	5,306	[1]—	62	141	164	664
Dyfed Powys	29	[1]—	0	0	0	12
Gwent	31	[1]—	0	0	0	4
North Wales	89	[1]—	0	0	3	6
South Wales	92	[1]—	1	3	2	12
Wales	241	[1]—	1	3	5	34
Total England and Wales	5,547	[1]—	63	144	169	698

	2004					2005				
CJS area	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Avon and Somerset	11	15	19	12	57	16	9	7	7	39
Bedfordshire	0	2	7	3	12	3	14	4	8	29
Cambridgeshire	7	6	8	2	23	13	8	8	5	34
Cheshire	5	9	9	11	34	22	15	20	7	64
Cleveland	1	3	5	4	13	10	8	9	5	32
Cumbria	2	4	6	6	18	7	7	5	4	23
Derbyshire	6	12	7	5	30	12	9	3	8	32
Devon and Cornwall	2	18	30	21	71	22	10	14	4	50
Dorset	4	0	11	4	19	1	4	4	1	10
Durham	5	5	2	6	18	2	6	2	5	15
Essex	7	4	4	14	29	11	16	6	4	37
Gloucestershire	0	2	4	4	10	4	6	2	1	13
Greater London	65	72	97	86	320	103	78	71	67	319
Greater Manchester	53	46	58	52	209	68	71	60	45	244
Hampshire	9	13	13	17	52	16	23	18	11	68
Hertfordshire	6	6	9	3	24	12	14	6	8	40
Humberside	1	5	14	17	37	17	17	23	15	72
Kent	4	10	7	11	32	4	5	5	6	20
Lancashire	19	15	19	17	70	17	25	33	23	98
Leicestershire	5	3	6	17	31	14	8	2	8	32
Lincolnshire	5	1	3	0	9	1	0	4	5	10
Merseyside	13	12	10	10	45	20	27	7	16	70
Norfolk	6	3	12	9	30	7	11	10	6	34
Northamptonshire	1	10	3	14	28	11	7	5	0	23
Northumbria	7	5	7	17	36	27	34	26	20	107
North Yorkshire	3	9	9	7	28	9	2	9	8	28
Nottinghamshire	12	14	10	26	62	23	15	18	6	62
South Yorkshire	5	9	13	12	39	21	15	10	14	60
Staffordshire	11	4	6	8	29	6	15	7	3	31
Suffolk	9	10	18	17	54	5	13	6	11	35
Surrey	4	6	8	5	23	8	6	11	6	31
Sussex	3	14	15	18	50	16	18	15	5	54
Thames Valley	11	10	22	10	53	14	8	10	12	44
Warwickshire	6	3	4	4	17	2	6	9	1	18
West Mercia	4	7	4	16	31	3	19	9	14	45

	2004					2005				
CJS area	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Total*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Total*
West Midlands	28	43	37	70	178	61	57	61	31	210
West Yorkshire	44	31	34	39	148	32	34	35	41	142
Wiltshire	4	5	4	2	15	5	8	3	0	16
England	388	446	554	596	1,984	645	648	557	441	2,291
Dyfed Powys	4	1	1	0	6	1	1	4	5	11
Gwent	1	2	5	6	14	1	8	2	2	13
North Wales	2	4	7	6	19	11	22	16	12	61
South Wales	1	10	14	9	34	6	10	11	13	40
Wales	8	17	27	21	73	19	41	33	32	125
Total England and Wales	396	463	581	617	2,057	664	689	590	473	2,416

[1] No age details available for the period April 1999 to May 2000.

Notes:

1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Prepared by RDS-OCJR

Table A2: Persons Age Unknown—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999 to December 2005

CJS area	*Total issued*	*April 1999-May 2000*	*Jun-Dec 2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*
Avon and Somerset	16	9	0	1	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	7	5	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	2	0	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	3	1	0	0	0	1
Derbyshire	5	3	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	8	1	0	0	0	0
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	2	0	1	0	0	0
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	2	0	0	0	0	0
Greater London	56	9	1	2	6	2
Greater Manchester	38	10	0	0	0	3
Hampshire	5	1	0	0	0	3
Hertfordshire	7	1	0	0	0	0
Humberside	1	0	1	0	0	0
Kent	2	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	13	5	0	2	0	1
Leicestershire	5	1	0	0	0	1
Lincolnshire	4	0	0	0	0	1
Merseyside	12	8	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	10	6	0	2	1	0
Northamptonshire	2	1	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	12	7	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	5	1	0	0	0	0
South Yorkshire	7	3	0	0	0	2
Staffordshire	3	0	0	1	0	0
Suffolk	3	3	0	0	0	0
Surrey	2	0	0	0	0	0
Sussex	6	3	0	0	0	0
Thames Valley	10	1	0	1	1	1
Warwickshire	1	0	0	0	0	0
West Mercia	8	5	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	37	11	9	4	0	3
West Yorkshire	7	4	0	0	0	0

Table A2: Persons Age Unknown—Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by area and year, April 1999 to December 2005

CJS area	Total issued	April 1999-May 2000	Jun-Dec 2000	2001	2002	2003
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	306	104	12	13	8	18
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	1	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	2	0	0	0	0	0
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	3	0	0	0	0	0
Total England and Wales	309	104	12	13	8	18

	2004					2005				
CJS area	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Avon and Somerset	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	4
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Devon and Cornwall	0	1	1	0	2	1	3	0	1	5
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Essex	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Greater London	3	2	6	4	15	5	0	11	5	21
Greater Manchester	0	2	5	7	14	4	5	2	0	11
Hampshire	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	2	6
Humberside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Lancashire	1	0	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	2
Leicestershire	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	2
Merseyside	0	0	3	0	3	1	0	0	0	1
Norfolk	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Northumbria	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	1	0	3
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	3
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Staffordshire	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Sussex	0	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
Thames Valley	0	0	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	3
Warwickshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
West Midlands	0	0	4	1	5	4	1	0	0	5
West Yorkshire	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
England	6	13	28	17	64	26	17	23	21	87
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
South Wales	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2

CJS area	2004 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	2005 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Total England and Wales	6	13	29	17	65	26	17	24	22	89

Notes
1. Previously issued data have been revised following joint Home Office/Court Service data reconciliation exercises.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Prepared by RDS-OCJR

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted to Warrington borough council or Golden Gates Housing in the last year for which figures are available. [139926]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not held centrally. However, in 2005 18 antisocial behaviour orders were made in the local authority area of Warrington by all applicant authorities, which can include the police, local authority and social housing providers.

Arson: Young Offenders

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of offenders found guilty of arson were aged between 15 and 19 years in each of the last five years. [139497]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested covering the years 2001-05, is provided in the following table. Data for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Percentage of offenders found guilty at all courts for arson who were aged 15-19, England and Wales 2001-05[1,2]

	Percentage
2001	31
2002	29
2003	29
2004	29
2005	29

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has carried out on the *(a)* accuracy and *(b)* utility of facial recognition technology using CCTV footage. [137458]

John Reid: The Home Office recognises the potential of automated facial recognition technologies as applied to CCTV systems in order to support effective policing, security and counter terrorism activities. The Department has undertaken limited assessments to determine the accuracy and utility of these technologies. Recent advances in the performance of face recognition hardware and software have led to the formation of a special interest group representing stakeholders in these activities to determine the way forward, chaired by the biometric centre of expertise at the Home Office scientific development branch.

Crime

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded crimes there were in *(a)* Devon and Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England and Wales in each year since 1979, broken down by type of crime. [140397]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the tables.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in selected areas 1979-1997

Number of offences

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling
Devon and Cornwall					
1979	1,979	575	91	7,712	25,758
1980	1,999	5[illegible]	88	8,913	29,064
1981	2,024	46[illegible]	118	10,434	31,218
1982	2,174	48[illegible]	131	11,705	34,445
1983	2,354	612	133	12,036	33,538
1984	2,325	557	126	13,324	34,675
1985	2,566	605	124	13,459	38,020
1986	2,642	582	162	15,189	40,649
1987	2,910	613	172	15,800	40,894
1988	3,407	618	167	16,204	39,524
1989	3,837	702	200	15,831	41,334
1990	3,633	831	173	21,758	48,651
1991	3,742	886	295	25,708	57,965
1992	3,926	645	310	28,728	60,658
1993	4,114	985	423	32,578	62,082
1994	4,603	892	403	30,266	54,843
1995	4,709	792	444	26,400	51,651
1996	6,184	772	493	24,841	51,549
1997	6,549	808	389	20,017	48,211
South West					
1979	5,865	1,767	387	27,575	91,974
1980	6,339	1,567	446	32,855	98,667
1981	6,519	1,592	615	38,329	109,835
1982	7,393	1,507	646	41,651	122,128
1983	7,686	1,665	574	41,911	118,916
1984	7,871	1,612	618	46,642	125,888
1985	8,422	1,765	635	49,045	135,146
1986	8,893	1,825	943	56,297	146,040

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police in selected areas 1979-1997

Number of offences

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling
1987	10,231	1,838	1,056	57,658	153,313
1988	11,640	2,136	1,080	52,141	146,783
1989	13,485	2,243	1,230	52,888	153,760
1990	14,152	2,509	1,556	71,536	188,526
1991	14,486	2,538	2,044	89,715	227,430
1992	14,798	2,340	2,197	107,476	247,909
1993	16,002	2,897	2,871	109,270	245,682
1994	17,906	3,255	2,720	101,031	230,321
1995	18,569	2,841	2,667	94,822	210,995
1996	20,835	2,757	3,280	90,455	206,487
1997	21,930	2,799	2,690	77,594	188,575
England and Wales					
1979	94,960	21,843	12,482	549,138	1,416,143
1980	97,246	21,107	15,006	622,647	1,463,469
1981	100,207	19,424	20,282	723,218	1,603,151
1982	108,695	19,729	22,837	810,586	1,755,853
1983	111,342	20,410	22,119	813,386	1,705,924
1984	114,187	20,222	24,890	897,466	1,807,981
1985	121,731	21,456	27,463	871,261	1,884,069
1986	125,499	22,684	30,020	931,620	2,003,873
1987	141,042	25,154	32,633	900,104	2,052,005
1988	158,248	26,529	31,437	817,792	1,931,274
1989	176,962	29,733	33,163	825,930	2,012,760
1990	184,665	29,044	36,195	1,006,813	2,374,409
1991	190,339	29,423	45,323	1,219,464	2,761,119
1992	201,777	29,528	52,894	1,355,274	2,851,638
1993	205,102	31,284	57,845	1,369,584	2,751,901
1994	219,744	31,987	60,016	1,261,387	2,560,705
1995	212,588	30,274	68,074	1,239,484	2,452,109
1996	239,342	31,391	74,035	1,164,583	2,383,946
1997	250,827	33,165	63,072	1,015,075	2,164,952

Number of offences

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences[1]	Other offences	Total
Devon and Cornwall					
1979	2,289	5,020	—	56	43,480
1980	2,504	5,704	—	51	47,860
1981	2,490	6,149	—	61	52,961
1982	3,217	6,556	—	43	58,812
1983	3,628	7,118	129	55	59,603
1984	4,116	7,593	227	55	62,998
1985	4,210	8,546	353	63	67,946
1986	3,409	9,349	325	167	72,474
1987	3,849	9,786	279	192	74,495
1988	3,606	10,055	193	203	73,067
1989	3,459	11,191	171	266	76,991
1990	3,703	12,940	174	264	92,127
1991	4,175	14,975	226	316	106,208
1992	3,601	15,936	363	488	114,675
1993	3,837	15 847	583	577	121,026
1994	3,258	13,780	666	685	109,396
1995	2,674	14,177	703	643	102,193
1996	2,374	15,545	691	672	103,121
1997	2,232	15,232	637	753	84,828

Number of offences

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences[1]	Other offences	Total
South West					
1979	8,956	18,427	—	256	155,207
1980	8,959	21,252	—	246	170,331
1981	8,672	22,255	—	258	188,075
1982	10,342	24,192	—	224	208,083
1983	11,212	25,311	436	289	208,080
1984	12,629	27,498	639	284	223,681
1985	12,559	30,760	1,126	298	239,776
1986	12,230	33,418	875	665	261,126
1987	14,417	34,992	1,033	911	275,449
1988	15,800	36,592	631	1,178	267,901
1989	15,314	38,838	673	1,396	279,827
1990	16,675	45,790	750	1,569	343,063
1991	18,790	51,153	923	1,752	408,831
1992	16,824	50,483	1,261	1,859	445,147
1993	16,354	54,872	1,561	2,150	451,659
1994	14,536	57,516	1,876	2,430	431,591
1995	11,190	56,326	1,938	2,189	401,537
1996	10,542	60,629	1,842	2,168	398,995
1997	9,463	55,753	1,705	2,123	362,632
England and Wales					
1979	118,033	320,469	—	3,669	2,536,737
1980	105,246	359,450	—	4,064	2,688,235
1981	106,671	386,727	—	4,081	2,963,761
1982	123,101	417,814	—	3,807	3,262,422
1983	121,791	443,316	4,994	3,748	3,247,030
1984	126,093	497,840	6,589	3,839	3,499,107
1985	134,767	538,964	8,050	4,122	3,611,883
1986	133,431	583,588	7,332	9,363	3,847,410
1987	132,976	588,961	7,137	12,189	3,892,201
1988	133,873	593,923	7,793	14,898	3,715,767
1989	134,490	630,084	9,201	18,425	3,870,748
1990	147,909	733,445	9,998	21,133	4,543,611
1991	174,742	821,141	11,379	23,243	5,276,173
1992	168,600	892,623	13,809	25,574	5,591,717
1993	162,836	906,746	14,840	26,117	5,526,255
1994	146,144	930,447	17,569	30,140	5,258,139
1995	133,016	913,991	21,272	29,433	5,100,241
1996	136,225	951,274	22,122	33,635	5,036,553
1997	134,398	877,042	23,153	36,643	4,598,327

[1] Includes offences of trafficking of controlled drugs from 1983 onwards.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in selected areas 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling
Devon and Cornwall					
1998-99	11,758	876	462	17,808	49,787
1999-2000	12,479	936	487	17,307	48,566
2000-01	11,992	911	452	15,606	44,369
2001-02	12,434	960	474	15,257	41,494
South West					
1998-99	34,517	2,759	2,966	72,444	186,122
1999-2000	37,646	2,682	3,658	68,603	183,739
2000-01	40,840	2,850	4,082	62,066	173,206
2001-02	44,198	3,134	6,474	70,303	184,870

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police in selected areas 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling
England and Wales					
1998-99	502,788	36,174	66,835	953,184	2,191,439
1999-2000	581,036	37,792	84,277	906,468	2,223,620
2000-01	600,909	37,311	95,154	836,027	2,145,372
2001-02	650,330	41,432	121,359	878,509	2,266,964

Number of offences

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences[1]	Other offences	Total
Devon and Cornwall					
1998-99	7,064	17,722	3,873	1,294	110,644
1999-2000	6,925	18,490	3,784	1,387	110,361
2000-01	6,564	18,284	3,374	1,301	102,853
2001-02	5,560	19,875	4,079	1,292	101,425
South West					
1998-99	27,808	59,844	9,471	3,952	399,883
1999-2000	26,679	62,558	9,637	4,049	399,251
2000-01	26,125	66,721	8,922	4,041	388,853
2001-02	24,870	75,269	9,628	3,939	422,685
England and Wales					
1998-99	279,503	879,586	135,945	63,635	5,109,089
1999-2000	334,773	945,682	121,866	65,671	5,301,185
2000-01	319,324	960,087	113,458	63,201	5,170,843
2001-02	314,859	1,064,495	121,393	65,683	5,525,024

Notes:
1. Includes offences of trafficking and possession of controlled drugs and other drug offences from 1998-99 onwards.
2. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
3. The data in this table is prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in selected areas 2002-03 to 2005-06

Number of offences

	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Theft and handling
Devon and Cornwall					
2002-03	23,722	1,149	710	15,700	50,713
2003-04	25,969	1,336	562	14,024	47,156
2004-05	28,334	1,564	541	14,012	46,702
2005-06	25,305	1,527	566	12,519	43,437
South West					
2002-03	66,763	4,184	5,508	68,173	193,808
2003-04	76,252	4,418	4,784	61,204	178,990
2004-05	86,100	5,231	3,760	54,100	163,807
2005-06	85,715	5,112	3,634	48,183	156,925
England and Wales[1]					
2002-03	845,085	49,243	110,271	890,099	2,411,583
2003-04	967,234	52,740	103,736	820,013	2,312,890
2004-05	1,048,160	62,084	90,747	681,082	2,069,417
2005-06	1,059,913	62,081	98,204	645,118	2,019,284

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police in selected areas 2002-03 to 2005-06

Number of offences

	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences	Total
Devon and Cornwall					
2002-03	23,722	1,149	710	15,700	50,713
2003-04	25,969	1,336	562	14,024	47,156
2004-05	28,334	1,564	541	14,012	46,702
2005-06	25,305	1,527	566	12,519	43,437
South West					
2002-03	66,763	4,184	5,508	68,173	193,808
2003-04	76,252	4,418	4,784	61,204	178,990
2004-05	86,100	5,231	3,760	54,100	163,807
2005-06	85,715	5,112	3,634	48,183	156,925
England and Wales[1]					
2002-03	331,098	1,120,610	143,320	73,651	5,974,960
2003-04	319,647	1,218,524	143,511	75,464	6,013,759
2004-05	280,451	1,198,160	145,546	64,926	5,640,573
2005-06	233,005	1,184,683	178,502	75,723	5,556,513

[1] Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03 onwards.

Notes:
1. The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
2. The Sexual Offences Act 2003, introduced in May 2004, altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

Crime: Surveys

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which external survey research company his Department commissions to carry out the British crime survey; and if he will make a statement. [140685]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office currently commission BMRB Social Research to carry out the British crime survey.

Drugs: Smuggling

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the central drugs trafficking database; and what the estimated cost is of the establishment and maintenance of the database. [138692]

Mr. Coaker: The central drugs trafficking database is a Metropolitan police project that is in the process of being developed using funding from Metropolitan police budgets.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his estimate is of the number

of people who stayed in the UK after their tourist visa expired in each of the last three years; and what his estimate is of the number of such people who were based in London. [135994]

Mr. Byrne: As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case. The Home Secretary has set a clear goal of reintroducing systems to count everyone in and out of Britain.

Parliament Square: Protests

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Metropolitan Police Commissioner on the number of semi-permanent dwellings in Parliament square and the consequences of such obstructions if an air ambulance attempted to land. [139935]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is in regular discussion with the Metropolitan police service and the Greater London Authority about the presence of the tents on Parliament square.

While the presence of the tents is an operational matter for both the Metropolitan police service and the GLA working within the framework of relevant legislation, the Home Office is providing appropriate co-ordination in response to a number of parliamentary and public requests.

We have not specifically discussed the consequences of the tents causing an obstruction to an air ambulance attempting to land on Parliament square. The responsibility of landing the air ambulance is with the pilot, who will take into account all risks before and during landing and take off.

Serious Organised Crime Agency

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* immigration officers are on secondment to the Serious Organised Crime Agency. [124766]

John Reid: As of 1 May 2007, 76 police officers were seconded to SOCA. No immigration officers are on secondment to SOCA.

Shoplifting: Ribble Valley

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many small businesses in the Ribble Valley reported incidents of shop-lifting in the last five years. [140487]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The available information relates to offences of theft from shops recorded by the police and is given in the table. Information on the type of business in which shop-lifting offences occur is not available centrally.

Offences of theft from shops recorded by the police in the Ribble Valley Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area

	Number
2001-02	65
2002-03	51
2003-04	84
2004-05	73
2005-06	74

Television Licence Evasion

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 798W, on television licence evasion, how many people were charged with such evasion in each police force area in each of the last five years. [134217]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Local information on charging is not centrally held.

Data from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to television licence evasion in police force areas in England and Wales in the years 2001 to 2005 can be found in the table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to TV licence evasion in police force areas in England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
Force	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*
Avon and Somerset	1,558	1,381	2,183	1,826	1,766	1,436	1,870	1,475	[4]—	[4]—
Bedfordshire	387	321	247	212	353	286	207	171	[4]—	[4]—
Cambridgeshire	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
Cheshire	2,478	2,166	3,777	3,395	3,036	2,727	3,211	2,906	2,902	2,653
Cleveland	3,514	3,084	3,565	3,394	2,716	2,712	2,999	2,993	3,591	3,365
Cumbria	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	761	676	677	592	749	701
Derbyshire	2,969	2,657	2,621	2,255	2,379	2,024	2,058	1,825	2,226	1,967
Devon and Cornwall	2,042	1,828	1,420	1,222	1,516	1,217	2,001	1,529	2,490	2,067
Dorset	724	621	410	364	462	360	496	410	676	546
Durham	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
Essex	2,644	2,326	2,997	2,571	2,768	2,236	2,420	1,868	[4]—	[4]—
Gloucestershire	590	499	593	508	318	281	714	603	905	845

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences relating to TV licence evasion in police force areas in England and Wales, 2001 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

	2001		2002		2003		2004		2005	
Force	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*	*P*	*G*
Greater Manchester	3,039	2,594	5,685	4,831	4,483	3,827	10,904	9,491	10,721	9,355
Hampshire	3,392	2,985	2,311	2,056	1,891	1,498	1,889	1,539	2,520	2,106
Hertfordshire	690	566	310	249	599	475	1,486	1,184	1,711	1,402
Humberside	2,958	2,617	3,453	3,112	3,868	3,474	3,527	3,119	4,425	4,062
Kent	903	814	852	734	1,821	1,529	1,538	1,227	[4]	[4]
Lancashire	4,720	4,292	5,058	4,753	3,824	3,444	4,145	3,733	6,270	5,762
Leicestershire	2,291	2,069	2,624	2,376	1,681	1,486	2,120	1,879	3,076	2,743
Lincolnshire	1,295	1,165	1,187	1,071	1,128	985	1,262	1,040	1,287	1,138
Merseyside	4,733	4,217	7,849	7,374	6,238	5,623	6,057	5,501	8,651	8,024
Metropolitan Police	7,817	6,349	13,209	10,877	9,460	7,243	16,768	12,318	[4]	[4]
Norfolk	900	769	626	549	506	436	661	576	[4]	[4]
North Yorkshire	463	413	905	762	308	238	472	419	470	386
Northamptonshire	1,828	1,578	1,318	1,164	1,608	1,408	1,218	1,045	[4]	[4]
Northumbria	7,686	6,765	5,634	5,071	5,929	5,236	4,597	4,141	6,293	5,656
Nottinghamshire	3,588	2,972	3,100	2,764	2,780	2,416	3,283	2,771	4,719	4,132
South Yorkshire	2,529	2,207	5,908	5,058	2,635	2,171	3,847	3,374	5,369	4,620
Staffordshire	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]
Suffolk	708	637	882	757	624	474	978	756	[4]	[4]
Surrey	614	514	611	491	419	255	455	316	723	518
Sussex	2,441	2,147	1,761	1,401	1,740	1,316	1,981	1,608	2,344	1,947
Thames Valley	1,216	1,013	1,822	1,516	1,388	1,091	3,152	2,482	3,330	2,704
Warwickshire	484	421	334	278	[4]	[4]	674	589	616	581
West Mercia	1,918	1,667	2,253	1,920	1,733	1,521	1,949	1,762	2,269	2,066
West Midlands	9,081	7,737	8,244	7,173	7,874	6,838	10,945	9,394	12,604	11,071
West Yorkshire	5,975	5,254	6,612	5,915	5,822	4,913	5,179	4,411	5,333	4,781
Wiltshire	838	719	886	730	678	523	665	557	855	749
Dyfed-Powys	907	764	969	855	1,040	844	857	753	631	552
Gwent	1,699	1,435	2,316	2,041	2,052	1,753	1,758	1,625	2,448	2,277
North Wales	1,782	1,556	2,400	2,100	1,683	1,451	1,630	1,480	2,067	1,835
South Wales	2,877	2,464	3,127	2,776	3,867	3,320	4,810	4,132	5,476	5,005
Total	96,278	83,583	110,059	96,501	93,754	79,743	115,461	97,594	107,747	95,616

P = Prosecuted
G = Guilty
[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts, and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The TV licensing provisions of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 were replaced by new provisions in the Communications Act 2003 which came into effect 1 April 2004.
[4] Following quality checks these data are not considered reliable enough for publication.
Note:
England and Wales totals excludes those police force areas with data quality issues.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Tickets: Touting

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for (i) online and (ii) offline offences there were of ticket touts under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since it came into effect. [138878]

Mr. Coaker: The law on ticket touting in respect of football matches was amended to cover internet transactions within England and Wales in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006. Prior to that amendment, internet ticket touting was not a criminal offence. Detailed information on football-related arrests and convictions has been collated by the Football Banning Orders Authority since the football season 2001-02 when the existing banning order framework was introduced. The following table provides details of convictions in respect of ticket touting offences.

Convictions under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, England and Wales, 2001-06

Football Season	*Convictions*
2001-02	28
2002-03	25
2003-04	25
2004-05	28
2005-06	24

Source: Football Banning Orders Authority.

Written Questions

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will write to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East with the information requested in Question 68481, on prisoner deportation, tabled on 2 May 2006. [127575]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 March 2007]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 2 May 2007.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the consistency of Sir George Alberti's statement in the report to NHS London Review of Clinical Case for Change: Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy, that nationally, it is apparent that one accident and emergency department can serve 400,000 to 500,000 population and two sites would be appropriate for the catchment population of 900,000 with the White Paper, Our Health, Our Care, Our Say; [140542]

(2) what assessment she has made of the consistency of Sir George Alberti's report to NHS London Review of Clinical Case for Change: Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Clinical Strategy with the White Paper, Our Health, Our Care, Our Say. [140543]

Andy Burnham: None. This was a report from Sir George Alberti to NHS London.

Air Ambulance Services: Parliament Square

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to ensure that the physical obstructions in Parliament square do not prevent an air ambulance landing at that location if required. [139934]

Gillian Merron: I have been asked to reply.

The London Air Ambulance (Virgin HEMS) has strict operating protocols regarding ad hoc landings in the congested area of London that take into consideration the size of the site, surrounding obstructions and the performance of the aircraft. A possible landing in Parliament square would be no different, in this regard, to landing at any other congested area site.

Arthritis: Drugs

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her estimate is of the number of deaths there were in the UK directly resulting from the prescription of the rheumatoid arthritis drug methotrexate in each of the last three years; [135343]

(2) what her estimate is of the number of deaths there were in the UK directly resulting from the prescription of the rheumatoid arthritis drug leflunomide in each of the last three years; [135344]

(3) what her estimate is of the number of deaths there were in the UK directly resulting from the prescription of the rheumatoid arthritis drugs methotrexate and leflunomide in conjunction in each of the last three years. [135345]

Caroline Flint: Methotrexate is used in the treatment of a variety of conditions, such as rheumatoid arthritis and cancers (including leukaemias, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and head and neck cancer). Leflunomide (Arava) is used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and psoriatic arthritis. Leflunomide is not authorised for use in conjunction with any other disease-modifying medicine, such as methotrexate.

Reports of suspected adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Commission for Human Medicines (CHM) through the spontaneous reporting scheme, the yellow card scheme.

For the three year period up to 30 April 2007, the MHRA/CHM had received a total of 19 spontaneous reports of suspected ADRs with a fatal outcome in association with methotrexate when used in the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. In the majority of the 19 reports the cause of death was attributed to lung disorders (such as pulmonary fibrosis and pneumonitis) and infections (septicaemia/septic shock). There were seven reports with a fatal outcome that were reported in association with leflunomide therapy. The cause of death in the seven reports was attributed to liver failure (one), lung disorder (two), heart attack (one), chest infection (one) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (two). The MHRA has not received any ADR reports with a fatal outcome associated with the combined use of methotrexate and leflunomide.

It is important to note that the submission of a suspected ADR report does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medications and the patient's underlying disease. Patients with rheumatoid arthritis are at increased risk of developing serious infections and lung disorders as part of the natural disease process even in the absence of drug treatment.

The product information for methotrexate and leflunomide which is provided to doctors and patients has extensive information regarding the risk of developing serious lung disorders and infections. The product information also mentions the need for patients to have a full blood count and liver function tests before starting treatment and at regular intervals thereafter to detect potential adverse effects on the blood and liver. As with all medicines, the MHRA and CHM will continue to closely monitor the safe use of methotrexate and leflunomide.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many breast screenings were undertaken by each primary care trust in each of the last five years, broken down by age group; how many invitations were sent out by each PCT for breast screening in each of the last five years; and what estimate her Department

has made of the attendance take-up rate of breast screenings for each PCT. [138415]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data requested has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Health Services

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to establish a cancer centre in Liverpool; and if she will make a statement. [139278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The board of Liverpool primary care trust decided on 22 May 2007 that breast cancer services for the city would be centralised at the Royal Liverpool University hospital. The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University hospitals NHS trust is now planning to build a dedicated ward for breast cancer care.

Childbirth

Angela Browning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on compliance with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendation on monitoring foetal heart beats in the first and second stages of labour in hospital maternity units; and if she will make a statement. [140578]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* None. The national service framework for children, young people and maternity services states that maternity services should comply with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for the provision of high quality clinical care including the provision of ante-natal, intrapartum and post-partum and caesarean sections, as and when they are available and updated.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussion her Department has had with the Medical Research Council on funding for biomedical research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. [138398]

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has made to the Medical Research Council on funding into bio-medical research on myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if she will make a statement. [139025]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has held any discussions with the Medical Research Council on funding for biomedical research into myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome. [139576]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following the publications of the report of his independent working group on chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) in 2002, the chief medical officer asked the Medical Research Council to develop a research strategy to advance biomedical and health services research in this area. The MRC responded in May 2003 with the publication of a "Research Strategy for CFS/ME" developed by an independent scientific research advisory group.

Sir David Cooksey's report "A review of UK health research funding" recommended a single health research fund and the establishment of the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research to act as a central co-ordinating body for health research. The MRC and the Department's National Institute for Health Research will in future be subject to these new oversight and funding arrangements.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to ensure the continuance of specialist services for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome following the movement from primary care trust baseline budgets to the NHS bundle. [139755]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: From 2006-07, money's previously held within central budgets for allocation to the national health service have now been included within a single budget (the NHS bundle) as a block sum for strategic health authorities to manage. To ensure that the desired outcomes are achieved, the 2007-08 bundle is supplemented by a service level agreement, which includes details of the services to be provided from the bundle, including services for myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome, and the governance and accountability arrangements.

Chronically Sick: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland have long-term illnesses. [139840]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally.

Dental Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full and *(b)* partial dentures have been provided by NHS dentists in each quarter since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority. [138747]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 March 2006 has been placed in the Library.

The information requested is only available until 31 March 2006. The information was collected as part of the previous remuneration system in place until April 2006. Dentists no longer submit claims for individual items of service but report overall courses of treatment delivered.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many denture repairs were provided by the NHS in each quarter since 1997; and at what cost in each quarter; [138748]

(2) how many units of dental activity were expended on denture repairs in each quarter since 1 April 2006. [138749]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information on numbers of denture repairs and their cost is provided in the following table for the period 1 January 1998 to 31 March 2006.

The information requested is only available until 31 March 2006. The information was collected as part of the previous remuneration system in place until April 2006. Dentists no longer submit claims for individual items of service but report overall courses of treatment delivered.

Information therefore cannot be provided on the number of denture repairs, their cost, or the units of dental activity used to provide such denture repairs since 1 April 2006.

Denture repair treatment and cost of treatment carried out by national health service dentists for each quarter in England from 1 January 1998 to 31 March 2006

	Denture repairs treatments	*Cost (£)*	*Denture relining or adjustments treatments*	*Cost (£)*
January-March 1998	118,273	1,407,021	28,206	800,548
April-June 1998	114,184	1,395,472	28,197	820,208
July-September 1998	109,531	1,362,453	27,956	824,892
October-December 1998	114,213	1,425,089	29,680	878,600
January-March 1999	111,093	1,393,633	26,120	778,177
April-June 1999	103,465	1,319,852	30,815	826,008
July-September 1999	102,963	1,365,690	37,704	910,963
October-December 1999	106,765	1,379,631	35,945	940,835
January-March 2000	102,044	1,315,794	24,613	750,986
April-June 2000	103,290	1,358,346	27,502	835,315
July-September 2000	98,704	1,317,454	27,316	836,364
October-December 2000	97,046	1,295,135	27,167	837,356
January-March 2001	95,411	1,271,837	23,486	725,943
April-June 2001	94,872	1,292,267	24,524	783,937
July-September 2001	91,511	1,268,707	24,763	811,515
October-December 2001	93,743	1,298,810	27,605	860,490
January-March 2002	89,115	1,235,349	24,297	739,403
April-June 2002	90,738	1,282,070	24,414	784,069
July-September 2002	87,843	1,262,638	22,143	760,304
October-December 2002	89,527	1,289,283	23,308	800,751
January-March 2003	84,718	1,221,262	19,856	680,961
April-June 2003	86,091	1,244,682	21,191	728,213
July-September 2003	82,828	1,223,015	21,251	741,809
October-December 2003	84,932	1,263,229	21,995	777,455
January-March 2004	81,427	1,212,089	18,747	658,133
April-June 2004	78,618	1,178,550	19,697	696,104
July-September 2004	73,520	1,124,692	18,674	668,735
October-December 2004	77,138	1,182,991	20,165	725,292
January-March 2005	74,521	1,141,723	17,524	627,877
April-June 2005	73,239	1,146,519	18,755	688,770
July-September 2005	68,042	1,076,791	18,069	671,954
October-December 2005	68,217	1,084,676	18,813	701,295
January-March 2006	64,756	1,026,163	16,695	621,349

Notes:
1. Claims are allocated to the quarter in which they were reported and processed and not necessarily when the work was carried out.
2. Data only includes treatments reported and processed up to 31 March 2006.
3. Denture repairs are described as following treatment codes in the Statement of Dental Remuneration: 2801, 2802, 2811, 2812, 5501, 5502, 5503, 5504, 5511, 5512
4. Dental Relining and Adjustment are described as following treatments codes in Statement of Dental Remuneration: 2851, 2852, 2853, 2854, 2855, 2856, 5531, 5532, 5541, 5543, 5551, 5552, 5553, 5554, 5555, 5556.
5. These have been counted as the number of treatments performed on a claim. (If the same treatment code appears twice on the claim it will be counted twice).
6. Treatment cost (£) is the cost of the treatments.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care Business Services Authority (BSA) Dental Practice Division.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the unit of dental activity payment fee is in each primary care trust in England. [138864]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data collected by the Department centrally does not identify the value of units of dental activity in each primary care trust. UDA values will vary because of a number of factors, including differences in treatment patterns and treatment needs in different areas, the contract values negotiated locally by PCTs and dental practices, and the degree to which PCTs and practices may have agreed service outputs that cannot be measured through patient courses of treatment.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what target is set by her Department for the average number of units of dental activity per hour that a dentist is expected to achieve. [138897]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has set no targets for the level of activity, hourly or otherwise, that a dentist is expected to achieve. Local contracts, agreed between primary care trusts and dental providers, specify the overall level of patient services to be delivered over a 12 month period. Annual service levels are expressed in terms of the number of courses of treatment provided to patients, with a weighting to reflect the relative complexity of different courses of treatment.

Dental Services: Funding

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1596W, on dental service funding, how much dental service increment for teaching funding was allocated to the national dental workforce unit; what proportion of this funding was allocated to each National Health Service trust; and if she will make a statement. [138773]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The amount allocated to the national dental workforce unit to fund the dental service increment for teaching in 2006-07 was £76,736,869.

The amounts allocated to individual national health service trusts by the national dental workforce unit in 2006-07 are shown in the following table.

NHS trust	*Funding allocated by national dental workforce unit (£)*
South Birmingham Primary Care Trust	8,478,548
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	6,077,412
Guy's and St Thomas1 NHS Foundation Trust	13,527,491
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	6,976,263
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	7,001,932
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital NHS Trust	7,062,039
Bart's and the London NHS Trust	8,019,465
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospital NHS Trust	5,766,793
Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	8,030,884
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6,609,435
Peninsula Dental Sch[illegible], Universities of Exeter and Plymouth	1,000,000
National Dental Workforce Unit administrative costs	220,000
Total	[1]78,770,262

[1] The total funding allocated by the National Dental Workforce Unit (NDWU) exceeded the 2006-07 allocation from the Department. The balance was funded by reserves that the NDWU had accumulated.

Dentistry: Taxation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs on the tax and national insurance status of dentists. [139868]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's only recent discussions with HM Revenue and Customs were to clarify that the nature of the contracts to provide national health service dental services introduced from 1 April 2006 between primary dental care providers and primary care trusts would not affect the employment status of independent dental practitioners. Tax and national insurance issues for dentists who are not NHS salaried employees are a matter between the individual dentist and HMRC. The employment arrangements for dentists working within independent dental practices is a matter for the dental provider which employs or engages them.

Disabled Children (Family Support) Bill

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make it her policy to support the Disabled Children (Family Support) Bill; and if she will make a statement. [117123]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The recent report from HM Treasury and the Department for Education and Skills "Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families" (May 2007) sets out the actions and proposals that the Government believe will make a real difference to all disabled children and their families. The actions and proposals are supported by a funding package of £340 million which is to be spent over the next Comprehensive spending review period.

A copy of the report can be downloaded from the Every Child Matters website:

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/news/?asset=News&id=64688

Doctors: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors were appointed to specialist registrar training posts in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006, broken down by deanery. [137203]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Drugs: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people addicted to illegal drugs in each London borough. [138500]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Estimates of the number of people addicted to all types of illegal drug are not available. However, estimates of the number of problem heroin and crack users in 2004-05 are available at the local and national level and the estimates for the London Drug Action Team areas are shown in the following table. These estimates cover individuals who use opiates (e.g. heroin or morphine) and/or crack cocaine, including all who 'use' as well as those that 'misuse' or 'abuse' these types of drugs, but a large proportion of them will be addicted. Estimates are for those aged 15 to 64.

Estimate of problem drug use among 15 to 64-year-olds (opiate and/or crack cocaine use) for London GOR based on data relating to 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

DAT area	*Estimate*[1]	*95 per cent. confidence interval*	
		Lower limit	*Upper limit*
Barking and Dagenham	871	684	1,168
Barnet	1,290	802	2,477
Bexley	593	447	907
Brent	2,621	1,853	5,379
Bromley	1,857	1,326	3,128
Camden	4,218	3,420	5,516
City of London	50	22	78
Croydon	3,096	2,240	4,723
Ealing	2,725	2,202	3,743
Enfield	1,409	675	2,142
Greenwich	1,751	1,395	2,280
Hackney	4,586	3,806	5,904
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,020	2,153	4,430
Haringey	2,485	1,965	3,235
Harrow	742	583	1,083

Estimate of problem drug use among 15 to 64-year-olds (opiate and/or crack cocaine use) for London GOR based on data relating to 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

DAT area	Estimate[1]	95 per cent. confidence interval	
		Lower limit	Upper limit
Havering	843	545	1,418
Hillingdon	918	695	1,302
Hounslow	1,838	1,399	2,675
Islington	4,667	3,638	6,675
Kensington and Chelsea	3,173	2,589	3,757
Kingston upon Thames	559	410	886
Lambeth	5,029	4,191	5,867
Lewisham	2,816	2,272	3,518
Merton	1,225	833	2,068
Newham	2,338	1,843	3,526
Redbridge	1,157	860	1,699
Richmond upon Thames	649	383	1,921
Southwark	4,836	3,988	6,043
Sutton	976	714	1,369
Tower Hamlets	3,640	3,083	4,395
Waltham Forest	1,814	1,206	2,422
Wandsworth	2,439	1,945	3,361
Westminster	4,186	3,358	5,014
London GOR	74,417	71,845	81,299

[1] As with all statistical estimates, these estimates contain an element of uncertainty. The 95 per cent. confidence interval shows the range within which the true estimate is likely to lie although it should be noted that the true estimate is most likely to be close to the best estimate shown in the table.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the percentage of patients in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust who are satisfied with the GP out-of-hours service. [138615]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts have a responsibility to ensure they provide, or secure provision of a high quality, sustainable service for their local population.

Health Hazards: Noise

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she plans to introduce an upper or overall noise exposure limit for members of the public attending *(a)* indoor and *(b)* outdoor venues where loud music is played; and if she will make a statement; [139162]

(2) what research she has undertaken on the use of regulations in other countries to set upper and overall noise exposure limits for members of the public attending *(a)* indoor and *(b)* outdoor venues where loud music is played; and if she will make a statement. [139166]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are planning to introduce a 'permitted level' for night noise (11 pm to 7 am) from licensed premises, through the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, later this year. This power will enable local authorities to take action once a warning notice has been served, with the option to offer the opportunity to discharge the offence through payment of a fixed penalty notice of £500. This will be a power for local authorities, not a duty. In addition, local authorities have a duty to deal with statutory noise nuisance from premises under Part 3 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

No research has been undertaken specifically on the use of similar legislation in other countries in this area. However, the World Health Organisation recommends that a general outdoor daytime limit of 55 decibels (A) Leq is desirable to prevent any significant community annoyance. The WHO also recommends that, for good sleep, the sound-level should not exceed 30 decibels (A) for continuous background noise, and individual noises events exceeding 45 decibels (A) should be avoided.

The code of practice on environmental noise control at concerts recommends that music noise levels should not exceed guidelines at one metre from the façade of any noise sensitive premises or events held between the hours of 9 am and 11 pm. These guidelines are set out in the following table.

Concert days per calendar year, per venue	Venue category	Guideline
One to three	Urban stadiums or arenas.	The MNL should not exceed 75dB(A) over a 15 minute period.
One to three	Other urban and rural venues	The MNL should not exceed 65dB(A) over a 15 minute period.
Four to 12	All venues	The MNL should not exceed the background noise level by more than 15dB(A) over a 15 minute period.

Health Services: Barnsley

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the total allocation of funding to *(a)* Barnsley health authority and *(b)* Barnsley primary care trust for orthodontic services was for each year between 2000 and 2006; [138732]

(2) what the total allocation of funding for orthodontic services for *(a)* Barnsley, *(b)* Doncaster, *(c)* Rotherham and *(d)* St. Helens was in each year between 1997 and 2006. [138733]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Most national health service orthodontic care in the primary sector is provided by dental practitioners working as independent contractors. Prior to April 2006, most orthodontic services were provided under general dental services arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much NHS work they chose to undertake. Primary care trusts were not awarded fixed funding allocations for GDS.

PCTs only assumed full responsibility for local commissioning of primary care dentistry and received devolved budgets with effect from 1 April 2006. A table listing the primary dental service resource allocations for 2006-07 for all PCTs in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. Those allocations reflected the most current data on levels of expenditure on general and orthodontic services by dental contractors in each area. Subject to offering contracts to all serving contractors, PCTs were free to vary the balance of resources committed to either general or orthodontic care, or to supplement provision from within their total NHS resources, if they considered this an appropriate local priority.

Latex: Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much the Government spent on promoting awareness of latex allergies in each of the last five years; [140531]

(2) what assistance her Department provides to those with latex allergies; [140532]

(3) how many people in England have latex allergies. [140533]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answers 4 June 2007]:* The number of people in England living with latex allergy is not collected.

The national health service provides a range of health and social care services for people suffering from latex allergy, based on an individual assessment of need.

The Department and the NHS promotes awareness of latex allergies in many ways to health professionals, the public and other stakeholders. This includes the provision of information through NHS Direct, and through the publication of clinical knowledge summaries, formerly known as prodigy guidance, on the NHS Library website at:

www.cks.library.nhs.uk

A breakdown of the specific expenditure on latex allergy awareness is not held centrally.

Learning Disability

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the national audit of services for people with learning disabilities commenced; and when she expects it to report. [139006]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Healthcare Commission is carrying out the national audit of services for people with learning disabilities which commenced on 10 January 2007.

The Healthcare Commission will be reporting the results in the autumn.

Maternity Services: Barnet Hospital

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports she has received on the service provided by the Barnet hospital maternity unit; what assessment she has made of the impact of the transfer of maternity services from Chase Farm hospital to Barnet hospital on the services provided; and if she will make a statement. [138856]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 23 April 2007]:* It is for the local national health service to decide upon the best way to provide health services to the community it serves.

Mental Health Services: Sexual Offences

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1607W, on mental health services: sexual offences, what steps she has taken to ensure that patients making allegations of rape or sexual assault receive counselling and support; and if she will make a statement. [137871]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As set out in the Department's guidance entitled "Safety, privacy and dignity in mental health units", national health service trust boards are responsible for putting in place policies and procedures to address patient safety, privacy and dignity including those for preventing and dealing with all forms of harassment and abuse. This responsibility is enshrined in "Standards for Better Health" thus, is a crucial part of the performance assessment framework of NHS trusts.

In line with the standard care planning process, and indeed with good professional practice, mental health service users' clinical needs should be regularly assessed and their care plans updated accordingly. Service users should then be offered effective treatments, including psychological interventions, to meet those needs.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to the NHS in 2007-08; how much was spent, in equivalent terms, on the NHS in 1996-97; and if she will make a statement. [139992]

Andy Burnham: The following table shows expected net expenditure in the national health service for 2007-08 and net expenditure in 1996-97 in actual and equivalent terms.

NHS net expenditure: England

£ billion

	Actual	*2007-08 Prices*
1996-97	33.0	43.2
2007-08	90.7	90.7

Notes:

1. Expenditure pre 1999-2000 is on a cash basis.
2. Expenditure figures from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 are based on a Stage 1 Resource Budgeting.
3. Expenditure figures from 2003-04 to 2007-08 are based on Stage 2 Resource Budgeting.
4. Figures are not consistent over the period due to technical adjustments.
5. Expenditure is net of non-trust depreciation.
6. Calculations based on GDP deflator as at 28 March 2007.

NHS: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in how many private finance initiative projects in the National Health Service have leases

for land and property been granted to commercial organisations which exceed the length of the project; and if she will make a statement. [140615]

Andy Burnham: There are five major private finance initiative schemes which have leases for the land on which the hospital is constructed that exceed the length of the contract.

Scheme	Contract length (break options exist where over 30 years)	Length of lease
		Years
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals National Health Service Trust	45	125
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	60	75
Queen Elizabeth Hospitals NHS Trust	60	125
Hereford NHS Trust	30	125
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	30	45

In the case of County Durham and Dartford and Gravesham, the leases terminate either on expiry of the contract period or on an earlier termination at a break point. In any event, the excess lease period is of insufficient length to be of any commercial value. While the trusts have the right to abandon the site at the end of the contract period to the private sector, at present the only situation in which it is envisaged that the trust would want to abandon the site was if the land and buildings had a negative value and there was no health care use.

Given that this is highly unlikely, the trust will almost inevitably exercise its right to take the site back into public ownership, thus automatically terminating the lease.

In the case of Hereford, on termination at the end of the contract period the trust has four options, three of which result in it retaining the land at no cost and one where the private sector retain their long lease. The only scenario where the head lease would continue in the private sector's hands is if the trust itself wants to let it continue. Given that the trust has the option to terminate and use the land as it wishes, it is again difficult to envisage why the trust would ever want to exercise this option.

The position at North Cumbria and Greenwich is less straightforward. At Carlisle, if the contracts continue for the full 45-year term, the head lease falls away at the end of term. If, however, the trust terminates the contract at the 30-year break point, the trust must either compensate the special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the residual value of the contract (essentially any profits foregone and any unrecovered costs that would have been covered if the lease had run its full term), or it could simply vacate the site and the SPV could then retain the lease for the remainder of the 125-year period.

It is not possible to determine what decisions the trust would make at the 30-year point, but it will be primarily dependent on operational need as if the hospital was still required, renewing the lease for 15 years would result in its full term being served. If there was no operational need for the hospital or the site, the relative costs and benefits of the termination payment would be compared to those of surrendering of the lease, and the most beneficial option for the taxpayer selected. However, given the remote location of the hospital, it is unlikely that there will be no need for the hospital in 20 years' time (30 years from 1997).

The contract at Greenwich (Queen Elizabeth hospitals) has a base term of 60 years, with a head lease of 125 years. If the contracts run for the full 60-year term, the trust has the option to cancel the head lease provided there is a healthcare purpose either for the land or for the cash proceeds from any sale. It is impossible to see how the trust would not exercise this option.

At the breakpoint of 30 and 45 years, the trust can terminate the private finance initiative (PFI) contract, but the SPV would have the right to retain the head lease for the land for the remainder of the 125-year period. However, at the 30 and 45-year point, the availability payments fall away and the trust will make no building related payments. At the same time all domestic and support services are re-tendered and the trust need only pay for what it specifies at that point.

Again, it is not possible to predict with certainty what will happen in many years time. If there was a health care need the contract would be renewed after the re-tendering. However, if there was no health care need, in the area, decisions would be taken on the basis of best value for money for the taxpayer.

In all cases, the freehold of the land remains with the NHS, unless it resolves to sell or vacate it.

These variations arose because, in the early days of PFI, each trust developed its own contract, and there were differences in the way leases were managed. In all contracts after these five, contracts and head leases are coterminous and the head lease automatically falls away with the contract.

NHS: Uniforms

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons the measurable standards of laundering for workwear worn by workers in NHS hospital kitchens and workwear worn by nurses on NHS hospital wards dealing direct with patients are not comparable; [138649]

(2) what guidance is given to NHS trusts on the standards of laundering for *(a)* nurses' workwear and *(b)* kitchen staff workwear; and if she will make a statement; [138650]

(3) when she intends to publish the conclusions of the uniform and laundry review group on the code of practice for prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections. [138651]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Setting standards for the laundering of staff clothing is a matter for local determination and the Department has not issued any standards in this area. However, duty 4(h) of the Health Act 2006 code of practice requires that clothing worn by staff when carrying out their duties (including uniforms) is clean and fit for purpose.

A uniform and laundry review group has been deliberating this issue, and will shortly publish evidence-based good practice statements to help trusts develop local policies. Additionally, health service guideline HSG(95)18 sets out the procedures to be applied when dealing with used and infected linen; this guideline is currently under review.

Paramedical Staff: Manpower

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paramedics were employed in each strategic health authority area in (*a*) 2001, (*b*) 2002, (*c*) 2003, (*d*) 2004 and (*e*) 2005; and if she will make a statement. [137278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

National health service hospital and community health services ambulance paramedics in England by strategic health authority (SHA) as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England	7,075	7,147	7,241	7,536	8,311
North East SHA area	273	255	276	301	322
North West SHA area	966	902	1,037	1,037	1,181
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA area	707	683	770	804	836
East Midlands SHA area	509	501	485	500	521
West Midlands SHA area	810	885	858	869	1,178
East of England SHA area	1,020	1,051	749	795	870
London SHA area	744	771	830	875	961
South East SHA area	579	597	619	650	649
South Central SHA area	485	470	540	557	629
South West SHA area	982	1,032	1,077	1,144	1,164
Special health authorities and other statutory bodies	—	—	—	4	—

Note:
2005 data are as reported by the ambulance trusts.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical workforce census.

Pregnant Women: Domestic Violence

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on implementation of her Department's guidance on questioning pregnant women about experiences of abuse and domestic violence to identify cases of adult abuse and help prevent children's exposure to abuse and violence. [140611]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: Following publication of "Responding to Domestic Abuse: A handbook for health professionals" (January 2006) the Department has supported the work of the national domestic abuse co-ordinator in a range of domestic abuse policy implementation activities at national, regional and primary care trust-level. Specifically in June and July 2006 regional strategic breakfasts were held with the Home Office involving the former regional offices with the aim of strengthening local partnerships. The events enabled the sharing of good practice in this area.

The co-ordinator is also training and supporting specialist health visitors in an intensive parenting intervention project. Work is also in hand to develop a template with embedded diagnostic codes for domestic abuse.

Primary Health Care: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which electoral wards in Nottinghamshire have the lowest numbers of people registered with (*a*) general practitioners and (*b*) dentists. [138827]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

York Hospital: Maternity Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the number of beds available in maternity facilities at York Hospital. [139713]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has received no representations on the number of beds available in maternity facilities at York hospital. Officials have, however, received one letter which refers to maternity services in Yorkshire.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Iraq

13. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if she will make a statement on the security situation in Iraq. [140322]

Dr. Kim Howells: The security situation varies across Iraq. Sectarian violence and attacks by terrorist groups represent the biggest challenge around Baghdad. In the south, the most serious problem is competition among Shi'i militias and criminal gangs. In Basra, most attacks are against coalition forces. In provinces where the Iraqi authorities have assumed responsibility, they have shown themselves capable of dealing with security challenges. We continue to support them in developing their security capability.

23. **Mr. Stewart Jackson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she last discussed Iraq with the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [140333]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discusses Iraq and a range of foreign policy issues with Cabinet colleagues on a regular basis.

India

14. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent discussions she has had with her Indian counterpart on relations between India and Burma. [140324]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs raised Burma with the Indian Government in June and November last year. He urged the Indian Government to use their influence to help bring peace, stability and democracy to Burma.

Lebanon

15. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Lebanon. [140325]

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of political stability in Lebanon. [140331]

Dr. Howells: The Government have serious concerns about the political stability of Lebanon. Following months of political deadlock the recent upsurge of violence is a worrying development. We fully support the Government of Lebanon in its efforts to bring the situation under control. We urge them to minimise civilian casualties and prioritise the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians.

We welcome UN Security Council Resolution 1757 establishing the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. We call on all parties to move forward on this basis.

Kitty Ussher: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political and security situation in Lebanon. [140316]

Dr. Howells: The Government have serious concerns about the political and security situation in Lebanon. Following months of political deadlock, the recent upsurge of violence is a worrying development. We fully support the Government of Lebanon in its efforts to bring the situation under control. We urge them to minimise civilian casualties and prioritise the humanitarian needs of the Palestinians.

We welcome UN Security Council Resolution 1757 establishing the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. We call on all parties to move forward on this basis.

Aviation Training: United States

16. **Alan Simpson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether she has had discussions with the US Administration on the treatment of British citizens of Asian descent in respect of aviation training in the US. [140326]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the US Administration on this subject, and there is no indication that British citizens of Asian descent are treated differently than any other group seeking aviation training in the US.

Afghanistan

17. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, if she will make a statement on women's rights in Afghanistan. [140327]

Dr. Howells: The UK has regular discussions with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the UN and the EU on women's rights. Much progress has been made since the fall of the Taliban, but more needs to be done.

We recognise that serious problems remain but our goal remains the full participation of women in all sectors of society. Further details can be obtained from the FCO's human rights report, 2006.

Pakistan

19. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what support the Government have provided to help facilitate free and fair elections in Pakistan in 2007. [140329]

Dr. Howells: In January, the Department for International Development announced the allocation of £3.5 million to support the electoral process during Pakistan's forthcoming general elections.

We look forward to free and fair elections in Pakistan in 2007. We have welcomed the appointment of an independent electoral commissioner, and are pleased to provide support for the electoral process.

EU Constitution

20. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on proposals for the EU constitution under the German presidency. [140330]

Mr. Hoon: Following an extended period of reflection, EU institutional reform will be discussed at the forthcoming European Council.

As part of the continuing negotiations in the run up to that meeting, we have made clear to our EU partners that the EU should agree an amending treaty that makes the EU more effective and better able to deliver practical benefits to EU citizens. Such an approach would be consistent with how treaty change has been agreed in the past.

Human Trafficking

22. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which EU counterparts she has discussed the extent of trafficking of women and children within the EU in the last 12 months. [140332]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed this issue with EU counterparts in the months before the accession of Romania and Bulgaria to the EU. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary also raised the issue with EU colleagues in

March, when the UK signed the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking Human Beings and published its action plan on tackling human trafficking.

The UK remains concerned about all forms of people trafficking globally and is committed to tackling it.

Afghanistan: Russia

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Russian counterpart on the Russian relationship with Afghanistan and its current diplomatic activity in the country. [137327]

Margaret Beckett: I discussed the situation in Afghanistan with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov at the two most recent meetings of G8 Foreign Ministers—22 September 2006 and 29 June 2006. The G8 countries have repeatedly stated their commitment to assisting Afghanistan's development and we welcome Russian diplomatic activity to further this goal. During a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council on 26 April, Foreign Ministers welcomed practical co-operation between NATO and Russia to counter the Afghan narcotics threat.

Albania: EC Enlargement

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Albanian counterpart on EU accession for that country. [140216]

Mr. Hoon: The Government have regular discussions with the Government of Albania on EU accession. I last met the Albanian ambassador on 8 March and discussed, among other things, Albania's EU stabilisation and association agreement and the progress Albania was making towards EU integration. On 14 May our ambassador in Tirana called on Albania's new Foreign Minister, Lulzim Basha, and discussed a range of issues including EU integration.

Bangladesh: Press Freedom

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the arrest of Bangladeshi journalist Tasneem Khalil by security forces; and what representations the Government is making on due process in this case. [140168]

Dr. Howells: Our High Commission in Dhaka has raised the case of Tasneem Khalil with the Bangladeshi caretaker government and continues to monitor developments.

We have consistently urged the caretaker government and the armed forces in Bangladesh to respect human rights and the rule of law. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised these issues with the Foreign Adviser on 19 April.

Bank Sepah

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by the United Kingdom following UN Security Council Resolution 1747's designation of Iranian state-owned Bank Sepah and Bank Sepah International; and if she will make a statement. [139611]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

Bank Sepah Iran and Bank Sepah International (its UK subsidiary) were designated at the United Nations on 24 March 2007. Following the adoption of UNSCR 1747, their assets in the UK were frozen immediately under the terms of the UK's Iran (Financial Sanctions) Order 2007. The Bank of England, at the Treasury's direction, provided public notification of the sanctions via its website.

UNSCR 1737 provides that payments due to third parties under prior contracts (i.e. those concluded before the designation) are exempt from the asset freeze, where the relevant state has determined that the payments are not connected with proliferation or designated persons. The resolution also makes provision for the licensing of basic and extraordinary expenses, subject to UN approval.

The Treasury has been working to give effect to these provisions in a way that ensures that sanctions are applied robustly, while minimising the impact on innocent third parties. Having notified the UN, and, where appropriate, obtained its approval, on 17 April the Treasury issued a licence allowing Bank Sepah International to make routine payments, such as staff salaries or payment of suppliers. The licence included a number of safeguards to ensure no prohibited payments are made.

On 24 May, the Treasury issued a number of licences allowing Bank Sepah International to make payments under certain letters of credit issued by the bank prior to its designation and to certain high-value depositors, subject to safeguards.

On 31 May, HM Treasury granted a general licence authorising UK companies and individuals to receive payments due to them under prior contracts with branches of Bank Sepah in the European economic area, where these payments have been duly authorised by the competent authority in the EEA state concerned.

Information notices on Iranian financial sanctions are published on HM Treasury's website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/financial_services/money/fin_crime_sanctions.cfm

Botswana: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she is making to the government of Botswana on its adherence to the 2006 High Court ruling to allow the Bushmen of the Kalahari to return to their ancestral homeland in the central Kalahari game reserve. [140371]

Mr. Hoon: We welcome the government of Botswana's early decision to accept the court's determination over the return of the San (bushmen) to the central Kalahari game reserve. We encourage them to take an inclusive approach to finding a sustainable solution to the future use of the CKGR through dialogue and negotiation with the San people. Our high

commission in Gaborone raised this most recently on 12 April. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, will also discuss this matter during his planned trip to Botswana from 7 to 8 June.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* officials in the European Union and *(b)* the head of the delegation to Botswana, Mr. Paul Malin, on the treatment of the Kalahari bushmen by the Botswanan government. [140573]

Mr. Hoon: Our high commission in Gaborone is in regular contact with EU colleagues, including the head of the EC delegation, Mr. Paul Malin, over this issue. EU representatives in Botswana have jointly held discussions with the government of Botswana on the treatment of the San (bushmen) people by the Botswana government and have developed a co-ordinated approach to this issue.

Burma

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with other European Foreign Ministers on the situation in Burma; and if she will make a statement. [140328]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and her EU colleagues issued a statement at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting in Luxembourg on 23 April expressing their deep concern over the situation in Burma. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs joined EU Ministers and Asian counterparts in issuing a further statement about Burma at the Asia/Europe Foreign Ministers' meeting in Hamburg on 29 May.

Burma: EC External Trade

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Burma will be included in the trade agreement being negotiated between the EU and ASEAN; and if she will make a statement. [140109]

Mr. Hoon: Burma will not benefit from the proposed EU-Association of South East Asian Nations free trade agreement under its current regime. The mandate to negotiate the FTA was agreed by the EU at the 23 April General Affairs and External Relations Council. The UK and like-minded member states were instrumental in securing language within the Council conclusions and the mandate which will have the effect of excluding Burma from the EU/ASEAN FTA.

Central Asia: Diplomatic Service

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in each UK mission in each of the five central Asian republics are dedicated to commercial activity. [140092]

Mr. Hoon: There are currently around three staff (full-time equivalents) dealing with commercial matters in Kazakhstan. There are no staff engaged on UK trade and investment work in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan or Turkmenistan.

Chevening Scholarships Programme

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Chevening scholarships were awarded to overseas students in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [140094]

Mr. Hoon: In financial year 2004-05 a total of 2,211 Chevening scholarships were awarded to overseas students. In FY 2005-06 the total was 1,885.

China: Human Rights

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Chinese counterpart on human rights in China; and if she will make a statement. [140323]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise human rights with the Chinese government, including at the highest levels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised a number of human rights concerns during her visit to China in May, where she again met with Chinese Premier Wen and also with the newly appointed Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, raised human rights in his introductory meeting with the new Chinese ambassador at the end of May.

Cuba: EC External Relations

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position the Government plans to take on the review of the European Union's common position on Cuba; and whether it expects to seek to maintain existing sanctions against the Cuban government. [139936]

Mr. Hoon: The UK's policy towards Cuba, which is shared with our EU partners, is set out in the EU common position of 1996. The main objective of the common position is to encourage a peaceful transition to pluralist democracy in Cuba. We continue to be committed to a twin-track approach to dialogue with Cuba; engaging both government and civil society.

The UK is maintaining a close dialogue with EU partners ahead of the review of the EU common position later this month. We have been monitoring closely developments in the political and human rights situation in Cuba over the last year. We will take this into account in the forthcoming review of the common position.

The diplomatic measures taken by the EU in 2003, in response to human rights violations in Cuba, have been suspended since January 2005 and will also be reviewed later this month, when we will seek to ensure, along with our EU partners, that the EU responds proportionately to the current human right situation in Cuba.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times her Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139212]

Mr. Hoon: Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by her Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139404]

Margaret Beckett: The amount spent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on legal fees in respect of counsel and solicitors in private practice by way of disbursements through the Treasury Solicitor, the bulk of our external legal costs, in each of the past five years is as follows:

	£
2002-03	697,878.22
2003-04	204,366.75
2004-05	331,731.68
2005-06	328,378.29
2006-07	387,591.16

The FCO does not hold information on aggregate amounts of other external fees.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139316]

Mr. Hoon: The following amounts were raised from the sale of Foreign and Commonwealth Office property in each of the last five financial years. 100 per cent. of the FCO's estate sales receipts have been reinvested in the estate since 2005-06:

Financial year	Total sale receipts
2002-03	12,378,000
2003-04	26,107,000
2004-05	10,574,000
2005-06	17,798,000
2006-07[1]	55,520,000

[1] Sale of properties until 31 December 2006.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was received by her Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139335]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has service level agreements with other Government Departments that set out the basis on which it charges for accommodation and related services at our posts overseas. Where appropriate, iwe also sign separate leases covering individual lettings under the general terms of the SLAs. There are also cases when we grant leases to individual tenants.

The total amounts received under these leases are listed as follows:

Financial year	Costs identified from leasing agreements (£)
2001-02	1,221,000
2002-03	1,530,000
2003-04	2,679,000
2004-05	1,836,000
2005-06	1,626,000

In addition to the figures in the table, the FCO recovered £713,000 from other Government' Departments in capital and depreciation charges in lieu of rent for property lettings in financial year 2005-06. Details of the amounts recovered in the previous four years are not held centrally and to calculate them would incur disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what properties her Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139356]

Mr. Hoon: The following table details the number of properties owned and rented centrally by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office over the last five financial years. Details on locally leased staff houses and flats are not included. These are locally leased by posts and compiling the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Financial Year	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented
Offices	189	222	193	228	198	220	201	221	206	211
Residence of a Head of Post	167	77	159	85	158	86	152	79	147	71
Other residential	1,163	14	1,130	9	1,123	9	1,103	11	1,128	14
Ancillary or amenity	263	94	298	74	314	75	370	79	424	92

Financial Year	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented	Owned	Rented
Total	1,782	407	1,780	396	1,793	390	1,826	390	1,905	388

Note:
Owned includes freehold and ground leasehold properties;
Rented includes operating leases and loaned properties;

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139378]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's estate was valued at £1.2 billion as at 31 March.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139458]

Mr. Hoon: The total amount paid in rent for office space, residential accommodation and other buildings for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Wilton Park Executive Agency for the last five financial years for which figures are available are listed in the table. FCO Services became an Executive Agency of the FCO on 1 April 2006 and is included in the FCO figures.

£

	FCO Overseas	FCO UK	Wilton Park
2001-02	61,495,000	1,136,000	75,000
2002-03	61,817,000	1,238,000	77,500
2003-04	65,124,000	1,439,000	80,000
2004-05	63,682,000	1,867,000	82,500
2005-06	68,963,000	1,004,000	85,000

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140036]

Mr. Hoon: The following costs relate to services provided by consultants to both the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and FCO Services (an executive agency of the FCO):

	Costs (£)
April 2001 to March 2002	
FCO Services recruitment	94,487
FCO recruitment	1,437,389
April 2002 to March 2003	
FCO Services recruitment	40,873
FCO recruitment	666,630
April 2003 to March 2004	
FCO Services recruitment	17,855
FCO recruitment	763,675
April 2004 to March 2005	
FCO Services recruitment	42,334
FCO recruitment	314,741
April 2005 to March 2006	
FCO Services recruitment	64,717
FCO recruitment	854,853
April 2006 to March 2007	
FCO Services recruitment	101,892
FCO recruitment	1,294,359

Information on recruitment consultants costs prior to April 2001 have not been provided as this would incur disproportionate cost.

Egypt: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the ability of opposition political parties in Egypt to be able to operate freely in accord with accepted international standards. [140144]

Dr. Howells: The picture is mixed: while there have been some positive developments, opposition parties are in practice considerably more constrained than the ruling National Democratic party.

Specifically, several new parties were licensed in 2004 and 2005 and in May this year a licence was granted to the new Democratic Front party. But applications from a number of other parties were refused earlier in the year on the grounds that they did not meet the technical requirements. Most political parties operate their own newspapers. All licensed parties were allowed to put forward a candidate in the presidential elections in 2005. Other political movements have managed to secure election to the People's Assembly as "independents". A number of parties have declined to run candidates in the Shura Council elections this June.

Estonia: Russia

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with representatives of the Estonian government on Estonia's relations with Russia. [140081]

Mr. Hoon: The Estonian Foreign Minister briefed my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other EU Foreign Ministers on Estonia's relations with Russia at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 May. Our ambassador in

Tallinn has held more detailed discussions with the Estonian Government on relations with Russia.

Global Opportunities Fund

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries were eligible for human rights projects funding under the Global Opportunities Fund in each of the last five years. [139948]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: The current Foreign and Commonwealth Office global opportunities fund human rights programme is global. Priority countries are identified through strategies on the key human rights issues the programme addresses: abolition of the death penalty, child rights, criminal justice and freedom of expression. In 2007-08, over 50 countries are eligible as priorities for one or more of the key issues. A full list can be found in the GOF human rights strategy at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/Files/kfile/GOF_%20HR_ProgrammeStrategy07-08.pdf

The GOF sustainable development programme (2005-07) had 30 eligible countries for human rights projects. The GOF human rights, democracy and good governance programme (2004-05) targeted countries under each of its thematic priorities, but did not establish a list of eligible countries.

All GOF programmes have the flexibility to be able to respond to project proposals from any country, if the proposal has a clear regional impact or can act as a pilot project.

Several other GOF programmes such as Reuniting Europe and Engaging with the Islamic World also support some human rights projects. Funding for human rights related activities is also provided from our public diplomacy fund, Chevening programme, the global conflict prevention pool and directorate programme budgets. The FCO also provides grant-in-aid to organisations that carry out human rights related activity such as the BBC World Service, the British Council and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

Ilois: Resettlement

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will review the Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory in the light of the recent Appeal Court decision concerning the Chagos islanders; and if she will make a statement. [140123]

Mr. Hoon: Ministers will consider the 23 May judgment of the Court of Appeal carefully and have in this regard asked officials for further advice. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reserves the right to petition the House of Lords to grant permission to appeal, as she is entitled to do within one month. The Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore remains the subject of possible ongoing legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Chagossians will be permitted to return to the Chagos islands. [140481]

Mr. Hoon: The effect of the 23 May judgement of the Court of Appeal is that the Chagossians may return to the Chagos islands without prior authorisation, with the exception of Diego Garcia.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will take steps to ensure that the inhabitants of the Chagos islands who were deported will be given the opportunity for *(a)* compensation and *(b)* other remedy. [140482]

Mr. Hoon: The Chagossians have already received compensation to the value of £14.5 million at today's prices through two payments made in the early 1970s and 1982.

In 2004, the Court of Appeal accepted these payments as being in full and final settlement of all claims.

Iraq: Capital Punishment

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the government of Iraq on its use of the death penalty. [139779]

Dr. Howells: Since the Iraqi interim Government re-introduced the death penalty with effect from 7 August 2004, the United Kingdom, together with the European Union, has regularly raised our policy of opposition to the use of the death penalty at the highest level, including with the Iraqi President and Prime Minister. Most recently we have pressed the government of Iraq regarding the cases of a number of women sentenced to death and following Amnesty International's 2007 report (published in April) which highlighted the increasing use of the death penalty in Iraq.

Iraq: Internally Displaced Persons

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to assist Iraqis who are currently displaced inside and outside Iraq. [139780]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

We are very concerned about the increasing number of people displaced by the Iraq conflict. We are working closely with the UN and the Red Cross to ensure that humanitarian agencies are adequately resourced.

In 2007, DFID has provided £10 million in support of humanitarian relief efforts to help vulnerable groups, including those displaced in Iraq and across the region. This includes a £7 million contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross;a £1 million contribution to the International Organization for Migration to support internally displaced people; a £1.5 million contribution to the UN High Commission for Refugees'

appeal to support displaced Iraqis in the region; and a £500,000 contribution towards the setting up of a UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs coordination office in Amman and Baghdad, to help support the Iraqi government's efforts and facilitate a coherent international response to the situation. Since 2003, we have contributed over £125 million for humanitarian assistance to Iraq.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the United States Administration on the future of Ashraf city, Iraq. [139226]

Dr. Howells: Officials from our embassy in Baghdad have discussed the future of Camp Ashraf in the course of regular contacts with their US counterparts. We have made it clear both to the US and to the Government of Iraq that any future action taken in relation to the camp should respect the rights of the individuals involved.

Japan: Dolphins

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she last spoke to her Japanese counterpart about the killing of dolphins by Japanese fishermen in Taiji; and if she will make a statement. [140390]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with her Japanese counterpart about the killing of dolphins by Japanese fishermen in Taiji.

Japan: Whales

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she had about whaling and the forthcoming International Whaling Commission meeting with the Japanese government during her recent visit to Japan; and if she will make a statement. [139925]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had no discussions about whaling during her recent visit to Japan.

Kashmir

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with European counterparts on the recent European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee report on Kashmir. [140321]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the European Parliament Report with any of her European counterparts. The report represents the views of the European Parliament.

Kosovo

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her Serbian counterpart on the future of Kosovo. [140217]

Mr. Hoon: I discussed the Kosovo status process with President Tadic, Prime Minister Kostùnica and Foreign Minister Draskovic in Belgrade on 7 February. I also spoke to President Tadic following the formation of Serbia's new Government on 15 May. The political director at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office discussed Kosovo with President Tadic, Prime Minister Kostunica and several of Serbia's new ministerial team during a visit to Belgrade on 21 May.

Nuclear Weapons: Treaties

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to sign up to the draft nuclear weapons convention lodged with the UN. [140243]

Dr. Howells: The Government consider the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) to be the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and the framework for nuclear disarmament. The UK has an excellent record in implementing its disarmament obligations under article VI of the NPT and is committed to working towards a safer world in which there is no requirement for nuclear weapons. The Government do not support any new process, including a nuclear weapons convention, which could risk cutting across the existing NPT regime.

Overseas Aid: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which sources of funding are available for human rights and good governance work within her Department's budget; and how much was provided under each budget line in each of the last five years. [139949]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* For financial year 2007-08, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office global opportunities fund human rights programme has a budget of £3.2 million. Its predecessor, the GOF sustainable development fund had a budget of £3.2 million in 2006-07 and £3.5 million in 2005-06. The GOF human rights, democracy and good governance programme had a budget of £3.5 million in 2004-05. The human rights project fund had a budget of £8.5 million in 2003-04 and £7.4 million in 2002-03.

Since the establishment of the GOF, some of the regional GOF programmes such as Reuniting Europe and Engaging with the Islamic World have also supported human rights work as well as the human rights programme itself.

Funding for human rights related activities is also provided from our public diplomacy fund, Chevening programme, the global conflict prevention pool and directorate programme budgets. The FCO also provides grant-in-aid to organisations that carry out

human rights related activity such as the BBC World Service, the British Council and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The Westminster Foundation for Democracy received £4.16 million as a grant-in-aid in 2002-03 and has received £4.1 million in each subsequent year.

All of these funds contribute to and support the FCO's lobbying and advocacy work for human rights through our network of embassies and missions around the world.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the Government of Pakistan on the draft Apostasy Bill in that country. [140554]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our human rights concerns with the Government of Pakistan, including those pertaining to legislation affecting religious minorities. Officials from our high commission in Islamabad will continue to monitor the progress of the draft Apostasy Bill. Together with our EU partners, we will continue to encourage the Government of Pakistan to treat all citizens fairly in the interests of equality.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to the Government of Pakistan over the treatment of Christians in Charsadda, North-West Frontier Province. [140555]

Dr. Howells: We regularly raise our concerns over the situation of religious minorities with the Government of Pakistan, bilaterally and together with our EU partners. Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our high commission in Islamabad are aware of this case, and will continue to monitor the situation.

Radovan Karadzic

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the detection and arrest of Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic; and whether the Government are providing assistance to achieve their arrest. [139625]

Margaret Beckett: Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic are accused of some of the most appalling crimes committed in Europe since World War II and we are committed to seeing them arrested and transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in the Hague. We continue to work closely with the ICTY and the international community to bring all indicted war criminals to justice. We also continue to make clear to countries of the region their obligation to co-operate fully with the Tribunal, as emphasised in UN Security Council Resolutions 1534.

Sri Lanka: Foreign Relations

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the UK's relations with Sri Lanka. [139963]

Dr. Howells: As I told the House on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1557, Britain is a friend of Sri Lanka but greatly concerned about the situation there. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have stated our willingness to help find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Sri Lanka that can offer a bright future for all the people of the country. The Government of Sri Lanka welcome our engagement. We are ready to talk to all parties to the conflict if this can help.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. [139965]

Dr. Howells: As I told the House during the debate on Sri Lanka on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1551-57, repeated incidents of intimidation, disappearances, extra-judicial killings and violence by paramilitary groups in Sri Lanka are a matter of serious concern to the UK and our international partners. Tragically, it is innocent civilians who continue to bear the brunt of the deteriorating human rights situation.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have made clear to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to bring to an end the culture of impunity and to investigate fully and transparently allegations of human rights violations to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. We shall continue to raise our concerns with the Sri Lankan Government and to draw attention to the shameful human rights record of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the prospects for a resumption of peace talks in Sri Lanka; and if she will make a statement. [139964]

Dr. Howells: The escalation of the conflict in Sri Lanka is deeply worrying. The ongoing violence has created an atmosphere of extreme mistrust and polarisation, which fuels further antagonism. We stand ready to talk to all parties to the conflict if that can help with the search for a solution. We have made clear our strong belief that peace must be pursued through political means. Both sides must accept that military victory is not possible. There must be an end to the culture of impunity. We continue to stress to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to set out a credible framework for a negotiated settlement that can satisfy the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the political situation in Sri Lanka. [139793]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement I made to the House on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1551-57).

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in deploying an effective peacekeeping force to protect civilians in Darfur. [139291]

Mr. Hoon: An effective peacekeeping force is needed to protect citizens in Darfur. All parties agreed in Addis Ababa in November last year that this would involve a phased increase of UN support to the African Union mission in Sudan (AMIS) culminating in a joint AU-UN hybrid force. We are pressing the AU and UN to ensure that this force is effective and deployed as soon as possible.

The initial stage of UN assistance to AMIS (the light support package) is approximately 80 per cent. deployed. The Government of Sudan have agreed the 3,000 strong second stage (the heavy support package) and the UN is generating the required personnel and assets.

The details of the hybrid force are being agreed between the AU and UN. The Government of Sudan must accept the hybrid and facilitate its deployment. If they do not co-operate, we will be prepared to introduce tougher sanctions.

Zimbabwe: UN Commission on Sustainable Development

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her European counterparts on the election of the Zimbabwean Environment and Tourism Minister, Francis Nhema, as Chairman of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development; whether he remains subject to a travel ban under the EU Council Common Position 2007/120/CFSP, 19 February 2007; and whether Mr. Nhema will be denied entry to, or transit through, European Union member states when travelling on UNCSD business. [138567]

Margaret Beckett: The EU called for the vote against the nomination of Francis Nhema as chairman of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the UK, with 20 other EU and like-minded states, voted against his candidacy. On behalf of all EU member states, the EU presidency made a statement following the vote which expressed deep concern that a representative from Zimbabwe should become chair as this will have a negative impact on the Commission's work and on the Commission's credibility. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, and my hon. Friend the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Ian Pearson, on behalf of the Government, have since publicly condemned the decision to appoint a Zimbabwe Minister to this position.

Francis Nhema remains subject to a travel ban under the EU common position and will be denied a visa to visit or transit EU member states, unless one of the exemptions covered by article 4 of the Council common position 2004/161/CFSP applies. A copy of this document will be placed in the Library of the House.

TREASURY

British Corps

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in developing the British Corps to work on global environmental challenges referred to in his announcement of 31 January 2005. [140140]

Mr. Timms: On 31 January 2005, the Chancellor gave a speech at the HM Treasury volunteering conference, marking the beginning of the Year of the Volunteer. The Chancellor referred to a number of volunteering initiatives, including the work of the Russell commission on how to inspire 1 million more young volunteers. The Russell commission reported in March 2005 and the Government are implementing the recommendations through investment in a new youth volunteering organisation, v. In its first year, v generated 100,000 volunteering opportunities for young people.

Debts: Developing Countries

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had on vulture funds at the recent G8 finance meeting; and if he will make a statement. [139600]

Ed Balls: As the Chancellor set out in his parliamentary statement of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 16WS, the Government deplore the actions of so-called vulture funds and is determined to limit the damage done by such funds.

The Chancellor raised this issue with his G8 colleagues at their meeting in Potsdam on 19 May, and set out the Government's proposals for action. G8 Ministers expressed their concern about the actions of some litigating creditors against heavily indebted poor countries, and agreed to work together to identify measures to tackle this problem, based on the work of the Paris Club.

The Paris Club met on 22 May and discussed the issues. They have confirmed their commitment to the full implementation of the heavily indebted poor countries initiative; to avoiding selling their claims on HIPC countries to other creditors who do not intend to provide debt relief under the HIPC initiative; and, in co-operation with the relevant international institutions, Paris Club creditors have agreed to intensify their work on this issue with a view to identify concrete measures to tackle this problem. See:

http://www.clubdeparis.org/sections/services/communiques/communique-presse-du/viewLanguage/en

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what loans have received debt relief from the UK; and if he will make a statement; [139601]

(2) what outstanding UK Government loans to other states there are. [139602]

Ed Balls: The UK Government are committed to the full implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, going beyond the requirements of the initiative by giving 100 per cent. flow relief at decision point and 100 per cent. debt stock cancellation at completion point. The UK also holds in trust any loan repayments made since 2000 by HIPC countries, who have not yet begun to receive debt relief under the HIPC initiative, and returns them at HIPC completion Point.

The Department for International Development no longer gives official development assistance in the form of loans. The Government cancelled existing aid loans to the poorest countries under its retrospective terms adjustment policy, and under the Commonwealth debt initiative delivers debt relief to the poorest Commonwealth countries committed to poverty reduction. The few outstanding loans are to countries that were middle or high income countries at the time the loans were cancelled.

In 1999, a portfolio of loans to public sector and parastatal bodies previously held by the Commonwealth development corporation were transferred to DFID following CDC's part privatisation. For HIPC countries, repayments are held in trust until countries qualify for the HIPC Initiative, then payments are suspended and the loans are cancelled once they complete the HIPC process.

The UK's Export Credit Guarantee Department does not make loans to other states. ECGD guarantees payment for specific contracts involving UK suppliers. Over time, ECGD has made a number of corresponding payments to lenders in respect of these guarantees, and some of these have been consolidated into debt agreements with particular debtor countries, although these do not constitute loans. In this regard ECGD has delivered significant amounts of debt relief through the Paris Club.

I also refer the hon. Member to my answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 474W, which sets out the debt cancellation granted by ECGD since 2004, and the answers given by the Secretary of State for International Development on 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 743W, which sets out the debt cancellation that the CDC group and the Department for International Development have given since 2004.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the responsible lenders charter. [139603]

Ed Balls: The UK has been a leading proponent of international efforts to relieve the debt burden of the poorest and most heavily indebted countries, to free up resources for poverty reduction. Over the last 10 years, 30 heavily indebted poor countries have received debt relief worth more than $100 million, and another 10 countries could qualify for debt relief when they meet the criteria.

Access to new finance can play an important role in supporting economic growth in HIPC countries. Borrowers and lenders have a joint responsibility in ensuring that new lending supports sustainable economic development. In this context, we welcome the development of a charter for responsible lending and will continue to work with our international partners to take this forward.

Departments: Capital Investment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has given to Government Departments on assessing the through life costs of capital projects. [140049]

John Healey: Guidance on cost benefit appraisal and evaluation in central Government is set out in 'The Green Book'. Chapter 5 covers appraising the options. Paragraph 5.10 advises that

"costs and benefits should normally be extended to cover the period of the useful lifetime of the assets encompassed by the options under consideration".

The Treasury's PFI value for money assessment guidance also provides information on how whole life costs should be assessed in appraisal of PFI and conventional procurement.

Departments: Correspondence

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from Reverend Brian Fortnum of St. Mark's church, Tunbridge Wells, dated 23 March 2007, on the impact of the budget on Gift Aid. [140608]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* There is no record of this correspondence being received. A copy of Mr. Fortnum's letter has been provided by the hon. Member and a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139204]

John Healey: None.

Departments: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many leak inquiries his Department has initiated since May 1997. [140004]

John Healey: The Treasury does not comment on leak inquiries.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22(iii) of the Code of Conduct for special advisers on 16 May; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140115]

John Healey: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers, including section 22(iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Private Companies

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what acquisitions there were of private companies by the Government in each of the last five years; and what the cost was of each. [140095]

John Healey: The Treasury does not hold this information centrally.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139306]

John Healey: The amounts raised by HM Treasury from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years are listed in the table as follows.

	Amount raised (£)
2002-03	n/a
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	22,325,581
2005-06	n/a
2006-07	n/a

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139345]

John Healey: HM Treasury owns 1 Horse Guards road, London and until 2004-05 it also owned 100 Parliament street, London.

HM Treasury rents 11 Downing street, London from the Cabinet Office and also rents a disaster recovery site at 51 Nine Elms lane, London from the Stationery Office. Until 2002-03, it rented Allington towers, London.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in each year between 1997-98 and 2005-06. [139995]

John Healey: During 2005-06, all of the 7,594,476 kWh of electricity consumed in 1 Horse Guards road, which houses the Treasury and other occupiers, was obtained from renewable sources. For previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) and to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 19 July 2004, *Official Report*, column 38W and 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 288, respectively.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies; what services can be accessed by calling each of them; and what revenue was received from them in each year since 1997. [140002]

John Healey: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for how long records of visitors to his Department are stored. [140138]

John Healey: The Treasury does not comment on security matters.

Departments: Water

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the water consumption in cubic metres was of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each year since 1997-98. [139939]

John Healey: The amount of water supplied to 1 Horse Guards Road, occupied by the Treasury and other Departments, was as follows:

2004-05: 19,737,000 cubic metres

2005-06: 22,041,000 cubic metres

2006-07: 18,307,000 cubic metres

Information for the Treasury for previous years is not available. The debt management office, as tenants in a managed building, pay, a service charge, which includes water and other utilities; separate consumption figures are not available.

EC Budget

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was contributed to the EU budget by each country that is a member of the European free trade area in each of the last five years. [140455]

Ed Balls: The Treasury does not compile statistics on the contributions to the EC budget which are made by members of the European Free Trade Association. Statistics on such contributions can be found in the annual reports of the EFTA secretariat which can be found on the EFTA website:

www.efta.int.

Employment: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the economic activity rate was in the North West in *(a)* 1996-97, *(b)* 1997-98, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06 and *(e)* 2006-07. [140233]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the economic activity rates in the North West in (a) 1996-97, (b) 1997-98, (c) 2004-05, (d) 2005-06 and (e) 2006-07. (140233)

The attached table gives the economic activity rates for people of working age, who are resident in the North West region, for the three months ending March of each year. These estimates are seasonally adjusted.

Economic activity levels and rates are published each month in the Labour Market Statistics Regional Releases. The latest Regional Release for the North West can be found at

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/onlineproducts/lms_regional.asp

The economic activity rates are taken from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Economic activity rates[1] for people of working age[2] resident in the North West, seasonally adjusted

Three months ending March each year	*Economic Activity rates (percentage)*
1996	75.2
1997	76.1
1998	75.0
1999	75.6
2000	76.9
2001	76.5
2002	76.2
2003	77.2
2004	77.5
2005	77.0
2006	77.3
2007	77.0

[1] Total economically active as a percentage of all persons for those of working age.
[2] Includes men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.
Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Foreign Workers

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the most recent estimates were from the labour force survey of the numbers of workers from other countries in the UK labour market; and from which countries they came. [140178]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the number of workers from other countries in the UK labour market. I am replying in her absence. (140178)

The attached table shows the number of people of working age in employment by their country of birth. The table gives an average estimate for the 12 months to December 2006.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Labour Force Survey (LFS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas for the following reasons:

The LFS sample covers people living in private households, those in National Health Service (NHS) accommodation, and students living in halls of residence who have a UK-resident parent. Students living in halls of residence who do not have a UK-resident parent are not covered by the sample.

The LFS does not cover people living in other types of communal establishment (such as hostels, hotels, boarding houses, or mobile home sites).

Individuals living at sampled addresses are generally included in the survey only if they regard the address as their main residence. Those who have been living at the address for less than six months are not eligible to take part in the survey.

The survey results are weighted to estimates of the 'usually resident' UK population living in private households, NHS accommodation and student halls of residence. The population figures cover long-term international migrants (people who change their country of usual residence for 12 months or more). They do not include people moving to the UK for less than 12 months, nor do they exclude from the usually resident population people moving out of the UK for less than 12 months.

The LFS estimates at this detailed level are only consistent with the UK population estimates published in February and March 2003 and they do not incorporate the more recent population estimates that are used in the headline LFS series.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty, particularly for such small sub-groups of the population.

Numbers in employment by country of birth for people of working age[1], United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Average of 12 months ending December 2006	*Thousand*
Total[2]	27,269
United Kingdom/Great Britain	24,244
All born overseas[2]	3,021
Europe	
Total	902
EU countries	
Total	770
Austria	6
Belgium	11
Cyprus	35
Czech Republic	15
Denmark	11
Estonia	3
Finland	5
Former Czechoslovakia	3
France	68
Germany	151
Greece	11
Hungary	9
Italy	38
Latvia	11
Lithuania	31
Luxembourg	[3]—
Malta	16
Netherlands	30
Norway	5
Poland	177
Portugal (including Azores and Madeira)	37
Republic of Ireland	21
Slovak Republic	26
Slovenia	[3]—
Spain (including Balearic and Canary Islands)	33

Numbers in employment by country of birth for people of working age[1]. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Average of 12 months ending December 2006	*Thousand*
Sweden	13
Other European countries	
Total	132
Albania	6
Andorra	0
Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia	[2]
Belarus	[2]
Bosnia(Yugoslavia)	2
Bulgaria	16
Croatia	3
Former USSR etc	8
Gibraltar	5
Iceland	2
Liechtenstein	[2]
Macedonia (Yugoslavia)	[2]
Moldova	[2]
Romania	14
Russia Federation of Russian States	18
San Marino	[2]
Switzerland	7
Turkey	27
Ukraine	11
Vatican City	[2]
(Other) Yugoslavia	9
Americas and the Caribbean	
Total	320
Argentina	7
Barbados	9
Belize	[2]
Bermuda	[2]
Brazil	25
Canada, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia	39
Caribbean Commonwealth Islands	12
Chile	2
Columbia	14
Cuba	0
Greenland	0
Guyana	11
Jamaica	58
Mexico	3
Other Caribbean	2
Other central America	[2]
Other south America	8
St. Pierre and Miquelon	[3]
Trinidad and Tobago	19
United States	95
Uruguay	0
Venezuela	3
West Indies (Island given)	7
West Indies (So Stated)	2
Africa	
Total	640
Algeria	5

Numbers in employment by country of birth for people of working age[1]. United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Average of 12 months ending December 2006	*Thousand*
Angola	5
Botswana	4
Egypt	11
Ethiopia	4
Gambia	4
Ghana	67
Kenya	84
Libya	4
Malawi Nyasaland (Malawi)	11
Mauritius	17
Morocco	7
Nigeria	81
Other Africa	30
Seychelles	[2]
Sierra Leone	9
Somalia	9
South Africa	131
Sudan	6
Tunisia	3
Uganda	35
Zaire	[2]
Zambia	19
Zanzibar (Tanzania)	19
Zimbabwe	73
Middle East and Asia	
Total	830
Bangladesh	80
Burma Myanmar	3
Cambodia (Khmer Republic)	[2]
China	6
Hong Kong Kowloon	8
India	305
Indonesia	[2]
Indonesia	2
Iran	25
Iraq	17
Israel	5
Japan	14
Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan	[2]
Korea	3
Laos	0
Lebanon	7
Macao Macau	[2]
Malaysia	32
Other Asia	32
Other Asia	2
Other Middle East	27
Pakistan	111
Philippines	59
Singapore	23
Sri Lanka	55
Taiwan	0
Thailand	[2]
Vietnam	10
Australasia	
Total	125

Numbers in employment by country of birth for people of working age[1], United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Average of 12 months ending December 2006	*Thousand*
Australia	84
New Zealand	40
Micronesia	0
Other countries	
Total	8
Other New Commonwealth	7
Rest of the world	[3]
At sea/in the air	0
Stateless	0

[1] Includes men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59.
[2] Includes those who did not state their country of birth.
[3] Estimates are taken from the LFS. Samples sizes are too small to provide estimates.

Note:
It should also be noted that the country of birth question in the LFS is an undercount because:
it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months;
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent;
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc);
it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more;
microdata is only grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring 2003 which are significantly lower than the latest population estimates.

Source:
ONS Labour Force Survey (LFS)

General Registry Office

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the proportion of information held by the General Registry Office that is inaccurate; [139969]

(2) what estimate he has made of the extent of fraudulent registrations recorded by the General Registry Office; [139970]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* births and *(b)* deaths that were not registered with the General Registry Office in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139971]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 5 June 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding fraudulent registrations, inaccurate information held by the General Register Office and the number of births and deaths that are unregistered for the last five years. (139969, 139970, 139971)

Very small numbers of births are found to be improperly registered either because no birth has taken place or the person registering the birth is falsely claiming to be a parent. We are aware of no more than 50 instances of one kind or the other in the last 4 years.

Births and deaths registration information held by the General Register Office is generally provided by a family member who has knowledge of the facts. In the event of any inaccurate information being brought to the General Register Office's attention the law provides for corrections to be made. In the period 2005/06 General Register Office received 4292 applications for corrections to birth entries and 1553 applications for corrections to death entries.

The NHS issues a birth notification to the General Register Office for each birth it is aware of. This provides a check against births registered and enables follow up of any that remain unregistered. The number of births notified in the last 5 years that remain unregistered is as follows:

	Number
2002	79
2003	73
2004	29
2005	33
2006	55

Known unregistered deaths most often occur where the family are in dispute, for example with a hospital, regarding the treatment received or the cause of death, and are therefore unwilling to sign the death entry. Cases also occur where a body is found and the coroner is unable to provide sufficient information. The number of known deaths in the last five years that remain unregistered is as follows:

	Number
2002	1
2003	2
2004	8
2005	3
2006	7

Gift Aid

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what level of take-up of Gift Aid tax relief is assumed in the projected current receipts for 2007-08 contained in the 2007 Red Book. [139703]

Mr. Timms: The Red Book estimates of current receipts for income tax in 2007-08 allow for both Gift Aid basic rate repayments to charities (£0.9 billion) and higher rate relief to donors who are higher rate taxpayers (£0.2 billion).

HM Revenue and Customs: Carlisle

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each grade and business stream will be transferred from existing HM Revenue and Customs offices within daily travelling distance of Carlisle to the Carlisle office before 2008; how many new staff of each grade and business stream will be employed at the Carlisle office; and what work will be transferred to the Carlisle office. [139264]

John Healey: HMRC is reviewing all its accommodation to bring it into line with future business requirements. On current plans the review of the Carlisle office will not begin until April 2008.

Imports: Burma

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what products were imported from Burma in each of the last five years; and what the value was of those imports; [140164]

(2) what the level of British imports was from Burma in each of the last five years. [140165]

John Healey: Information available on the imports from Burma into the UK are published in the overseas trade statistics by HM Revenue and Customs, which are available in the Library of the House and via www.uktradeinfo.com.

Pensioners: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pensioners there are *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the north-east; and what percentage of the population in these areas is made up of pensioners. [139938]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding how many pensioners there are (a) in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, (b) on Teesside and (c) in the North East; and what percentage of the population in these areas is made up of pensioners. I am replying in her absence. (139938)

I am unable to provide an estimate of the number of pensioners in (a) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency and (b) Teesside as population estimates are not available for these areas.

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of the North East Government Office Region resident population aged over state pension age. These data are calculated from the estimates of the population at mid-2005 and are the latest available.

Table 1: North East GOR—Total population, number and percentage of the population of pensionable age

Area	Total population	Population over state pension age[1]	Percentage of population over state pension age[1]
North East	2,558,000	498,000	19

[1] Females aged 60 and over and males aged 65 and over

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Pensions

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government have taken to protect and regulate pensions since 1997. [133848]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1282W, to the hon. Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham).

Personal Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average income was in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south-west, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1979. [140558]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about average income in Cornwall, the South West, England and the United Kingdom. I am replying in her absence. (140558)

The Office for National Statistics published estimates of income for the household sector[1] for regions and local areas of the UK in March 2007. Estimates are available back to 1995 and the latest year available is 2005. Published estimates for Cornwall alone do not exist. Figures for the NUTS2 region Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are supplied instead.

Table A, attached below, contains estimates of total incomes per head and gross disposable household income (GDHI) per head for the four regions over the period 1995-2005.

[1] The household sector is the combination of households and non-profit institutions serving households.

Table A

£ per head[2]

	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly NUTS2		South West NUTS1		England		United Kingdom	
	Total income[2]	GDHI[3]	Total income[2]	GDHI[3]	Total income[2]	GDHI[3]	Total income[2]	GDHI[3]
1995	11,222	7,737	12,811	8,604	13,215	8,679	12,974	8,576
1996	11,662	8,127	13,318	9,061	13,768	9,174	13,506	9,050
1997	12,082	8,516	13,910	9,567	14,476	9,751	14,177	9,602
1998	12,690	8,768	14,738	9,906	15,413	10,135	15,067	9,966
1999	13,045	9,083	15,262	10,301	16,026	10,564	15,650	10,377
2000	13,800	9,570	16,138	10,806	17,014	11,124	16,611	10,926
2001	14,609	10,277	17,011	11,508	17,906	11,819	17,485	11,610
2002	15,105	10,665	17,537	11,868	18,399	12,151	17,988	11,953
2003	15,773	11,152	18,312	12,367	19,167	12,630	18,750	12,432

Table A

£ per head[4]

	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly NUTS2		*South West NUTS1*		*England*		*United Kingdom*	
	Total income[2]	*GDHI*[3]	*Total income*[2]	*GDHI*[3]	*Total income*[2]	*GDHI*[3]	*Total income*[2]	*GDHI*[3]
2004	16,510	11,518	19,137	12,718	20,037	12,990	19,605	12,797
2005	17,586	12,074	20,326	13,258	21,223	13,494	20,775	13,302

[1] Population measure is based upon mid-year estimate for total population.
[2] All household income including employers' social contributions, imputed social contributions, social benefits and other current transfers received.
[3] Gross disposable household income (GDHI) is the amount of money that households have available for spending or saving after deductions and expenditure associated with income, e.g. taxes and social contributions, and provision for future pension income.
Note:
NUTS—Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics.

Post Office Card Account

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the successor to the Post Office card account will be able to pay tax credits. [140180]

Mr. Timms: Tax credit and child benefit customers will be able to receive their payments through the successor to the existing Post Office card account.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research he has commissioned on costs of closure of *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* schools financed by (i) Government debt and (ii) private finance initiative schemes. [140050]

John Healey: The Treasury has not commissioned research into the costs of closure of schools and hospitals that have been procured through PFI or through conventional procurement.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to monitor information on sales of equity stakes in private finance initiative contracts; and if he will make a statement. [140616]

Mr. Timms: The Treasury does, and will continue to, examine developments in the secondary equity market both through its relations with other Departments and key participants in the PFI market.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to discuss with the National Audit Office increasing the transparency of private finance initiative schemes; and if he will make a statement. [140617]

Mr. Timms: "Standardisation of PFI Contracts 4", published alongside Budget 2007, gives the NAO the right to examine such documentation as it may reasonably require from companies involved in PFI contracts. The terms in "Standardisation of PFI Contracts 4" are mandatory for all contracts still in a competitive stage of procurement on 1 April 2007.

HM Treasury will continue to work closely with the NAO to explore ways to further enhance transparency in PFI.

Public Sector: Females

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect efficiency savings measures are having on the participation of women in the public-sector work force; and if he will make a statement. [139487]

Mr. Timms: Departments are responsible for monitoring and managing the impact of their work force reduction and efficiency programmes.

The latest Office for National Statistics figures for Q4 2006 show that 54 per cent. of Britain's civil servants are women.

Revenue and Customs: Great Yarmouth

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff in Great Yarmouth have been declared pre-surplus; and for how long they have continued to be employed as pre-surplus. [134319]

John Healey: A total of six staff have been declared pre-surplus in Great Yarmouth, five in July 2004 (pre-dating HMRC) and one in September 2006. All six staff have continued to be employed by HMRC.

Smith Institute: Publications

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 283W, on the Smith Institute: publications, how many copies of Smith Institute publications (1) are held by his Department; [140000]

(2) have been given to his Department since May 1997. [140001]

John Healey: The Treasury receives a number of publications from charities and other organisations on a daily basis. We do not hold records of what has been sent.

Taxation

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue was collected *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of the population by HM Revenue and Customs from residents of (i) London, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) Scotland in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what Government spending was in each area (A) in

total and (B) per head of population in the same period. [139490]

John Healey: Total and per capita tax revenue and Government expenditure data is not available at a regional level. Sources of the most relevant and available data are shown as follows.

The Office National Statistics publishes estimates of income tax, council taxes and vehicle taxes paid by households by region, available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_economy/Results_Tables_Values.xls

The relevant data can be found under "D.5 Current taxes on income, wealth etc." in table 2:8.

Regional stamp duty receipts attributable to residential property are published by HMRC, available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/stamp_duty/table15-2.pdf

No corresponding information is available on taxes paid by companies and other organisations, or on other taxes paid by households. Total public spending that can be identified as benefiting a particular country or region is published in table 9.1 of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 20075 available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/41C/6A/pesa07_chapter9.pdf

The equivalent per capita information can be found in table 9.2. Public spending can be split into that which can be identified as benefiting a particular country or region and that which is for the benefit of the UK as a whole, for example defence spending. Therefore, the figures in PESA do not represent total public spending, which is not available by region.

The Scottish Executive also produces an annual publication 'Government Expenditure and Revenue in Scotland'. This is available at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2006/12/110840160

Taxation: Alcoholic Drinks

Julie Morgan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received by his Department from tax on alcohol products in each of the last five years. [140464]

John Healey: The duty receipts for alcohols products can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs "Beer & Cider Bulletin", "Made Wine Bulletin", "Spirits Bulletin" and "Wine of Fresh Grape Bulletin", which are available from the HM Revenue and Customs website addresses at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbeer

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullmadewine

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullspirits

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullfreshgrape

HM Revenue and Customs does not collect data on VAT from individual goods and services.

Taxation: Arts

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance has been given to local authorities on the deduction of tax at source from the remuneration payable to self-employed contractors in the arts field; and if he will make a statement. [140101]

John Healey: Self-employed contractors in the arts field can come within the terms of the construction industry scheme if the work they undertake constitutes construction operations which are not wholly artistic in nature, such as stained glass windows. Unless contractors have gross payment status under the scheme, payments to them must be made subject to a deduction on account of their liability to income tax and national insurance contributions. No guidance on this point has been issued specifically to local authorities, but guidance on the matter is publicly available on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/cisrmanual/CISR14080.htm.

Taxation: Aviation

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect of the recent tax increase on flights on the number of flights being made from the UK. [139802]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 2 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 557W.

Taxation: Bingo

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the impact on the bingo industry of charging both gross profits tax and value added tax on bingo clubs since 2003; [139605]

(2) if he will take steps to provide temporary rate relief to bingo clubs to assist in their transition to becoming smoke-free on 1 July 2007. [139606]

John Healey: The Government's policy of applying VAT and duty on bingo participation fees is consistent with our treatment of other player-to-player gaming in licensed premises, such as poker played in casinos.

Revenues from gambling taxes are published in the HM Revenue and Customs betting, gaming and lottery duties bulletin, available at: http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bullbett and total VAT receipts are published in the financial statement and Budget report, but are not broken down by industry.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Ministers and officials from his Department conducted the review of the non-domicile tax regime. [139277]

Mr. Timms: The Paymaster General is the Government Minister with strategic oversight of the UK tax system.

It is not Government policy to disclose the names of individual civil servants working on individual issues.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what response the Government have made to the European Commission's proposals on the use of

market-based instruments for environment and related policy purposes, (reference Com (2007) 140 final). [139957]

John Healey: The Government are considering their response to the European Commission's Green Paper on the use of market based instruments for environment and related policy purposes. They will provide their views to the Commission by the 31 July deadline. The Green Paper is a consultation document and does not contain any specific legislative proposals.

Taxation: Fuels

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance is provided to *(a)* port authorities and *(b)* the operators of local authority pier facilities on the tax and duty regimes applied on the sale of marine fuel at each category of location. [140099]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs publishes the requirements on suppliers of marine fuels in various public notices which are available at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/, the most relevant being:

Notice 263, Marine Voyages

Notice 192, Registered dealers in controlled oils

Notice 172, Excise duty drawback—ships and aircraft stores.

Port authorities and the operators of local pier facilities will be subject to these requirements if they supply fuel. However, no distinction is made between these locations.

Taxation: Trusts

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the tax residence of trustees was defined *(a)* before and *(b)* after the Finance Act 2006; when the new rules took effect; and what estimate he has made of the expected effect on revenues. [140182]

Mr. Timms: Up to 5 April 2007, separate definitions of trustee residence applied for income tax and capital gains tax.

For income tax purposes a trust was a UK resident trust if:

all the trustees were UK resident or

some trustees were UK resident and some trustees were non-UK resident; and

the settlor of the trust was domiciled, resident or ordinarily resident in the UK when the trust was made or assets were added to it.

For capital gains tax purposes a trust was a UK resident trust unless:

the general administration of the trust was ordinarily carried on outside the UK and

the trustees or a majority of the trustees were for the time being not resident or not ordinarily resident in the UK.

Where the trustees included professional trustees and all the property was provided or derived from property provided by a person who, at the time the property was provided, was domiciled and resident outside the UK, the professional trustees would be deemed not to be UK resident. Where, deeming such trustees to be non-UK resident, all the trustees, or a majority of them, were non-UK resident, the general administration of the trust was deemed to be carried on outside the UK so that the trust was non-resident for capital gains tax purposes.

As part of the trust modernisation programme, which aimed for a greater consistency of approach between income tax and capital gains tax in relation to the taxation of trusts, a common residence test has been adopted for the purposes of both income tax and tax on chargeable gains.

With effect therefore from 6 April 2007, for both income tax and capital gains tax purposes, a trust is treated as resident and ordinarily resident in the UK at any time if:

all the trustees are resident in the UK; or

at least one trustee is resident in the UK, at least one trustee is not resident in the UK and any settlor was resident, ordinarily resident or domiciled in the UK when the trust was made or assets added to it.

A trustee who is not resident in the UK shall be treated as if he were resident in the UK at any time when he acts as a trustee in the course of a business which he carries on in the United Kingdom through a branch, agency or permanent establishment.

The estimate of the expected effect on revenues of this change is negligible.

Tolls

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether commercial and business drivers and operators will be able to offset road pricing payments against their tax liabilities as normal business expenses. [139844]

Ed Balls: Commercial and business drivers and operators will be able to offset road pricing payments against their taxable business income in the same way as any other business expense.

Unemployment: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of youth unemployment was in Peterborough constituency at the end of each month since January 2005; and if he will make a statement. [139244]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the rate of youth unemployment was in Peterborough constituency at the end of each month since January 2005. I am replying in her absence. (139244)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions. This is an annual survey, and hence results are not available for each month.

Table 1, attached, shows the number of unemployed aged 16 to 24 in, and the corresponding unemployment rates for, the Peterborough constituency, for the 12 months ending September 2005 and September 2006 (the latest available data).

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and

are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas on numbers of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). These data are available monthly, but are not seasonally adjusted, and will, therefore, be subject to seasonal influences. Table 2, attached, shows the number of people, aged 18 to 24, resident in the Peterborough constituency, claiming JSA in the months January 2005 to April 2007. Corresponding rates are not available, as population estimates by age group are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Table 1: Unemployed persons, aged 16 to 24, resident in the Peterborough constituency

12 months ending	*Level*	*Rate[1] (Percentage)*
	Thousand	
September 2005	1	10.4
September 2006	1	11.0

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population of the age group.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to random variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Table 2: Number[1] of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance aged 18 to 24, resident in the Peterborough constituency

Month	*Number*
January 2005	565
February 2005	610
March 2005	615
April 2005	580
May 2005	620
June 2005	590
July 2005	585
August 2005	590
September 2005	575
October 2005	575
November 2005	570
December 2005	565
January 2006	625
February 2006	645
March 2006	680
April 2006	740
May 2006	715
June 2006	755
July 2006	655
August 2006	610
September 2006	605
October 2006	640
November 2006	615
December 2006	595
January 2007	670
February 2007	715
March 2007	725
April 2007	750

[1] Data rounded to nearest 5.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Unemployment: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average monthly level of unemployment in Shrewsbury and Atcham was in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [140222]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 5 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average monthly level of unemployment in Shrewsbury and Atcham was in (a) 2004, (b) 2005 and (c) 2006. I am replying in her absence. (140222)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the numbers unemployed, and the unemployment rates for the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency, for the 12 months ending December 2004 and December 2005 (data for January to December 2006 are not yet available).

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Estimates of change from year to year should be treated with particular caution.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas on numbers of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows annual average numbers of people resident in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency, claiming JSA in 2004, 2005 and 2006. Table 2 also shows these numbers of claimants as percentages of the resident working age population.

Table 1: Unemployed persons, resident in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency

12 months ending	*Level (Thousand)*	*Rate[1] (Percentage)*
December 2004	2	3.1
December 2005	2	3.6

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population of the age group.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to random variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.

Source:

Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Annual average number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance, resident in the Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency, and the number as percentage of the working population

	Number	*Proportion (Percentage)[1,2]*
2004	765	1.3
2005	785	1.4
2006	954	1.7

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.

[2] Proportions for parliamentary constituencies are based on 2001 Census data adjusted to be consistent with 2001 mid year population estimates for local authorities.

VAT: Financial Services

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultation his Department undertook with businesses within the City of London ahead of the change in policy in July 2006 which ceased the right of claimants from outside the European Union in the financial services and insurance sectors engaged in the supply of services to non-EU customers to recover value added tax incurred on goods and services from UK suppliers. [139049]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1729W.

In order to minimise the risk of forestalling, no pre-announcement was made and businesses were not consulted about the change. However, HM Revenue and Customs officials are discussing the issue with a number of representative bodies.

Welfare Tax Credits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people who received *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments of working tax credit and working family tax credit in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2005-06; what estimates he has made of those numbers in 2007-08; what percentage of the total number of people in receipt of credit these figures represented; how many people later had their overpayments disregarded in each year; what criteria were used to determine the disregard; how many people had their underpayments (A) corrected and (B) disregarded in each year; and what criteria were used to determine each; [140166]

(2) what percentage of tax credit customers in 2005-06 received *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* underpayments; and what percentage of underpayments were subsequently corrected. [140184]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number and proportion of families with an overpayment or underpayment in 2004-05 and 2005-06 is available in the publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised annual awards 2005-06. Supplement on payment in 2005-06." This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-payments-Q506.pdf

HMRC does not have information on the number of people who had overpayments or underpayments written off in each year. Information on the amount of overpayment written off in each financial year is available in table 8.2 of the trust statement in the HMRC 2005-06 accounts. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/channelsPortalWebApp.portal?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pageVAT_ShowContent&propertyType=document&columns=1&id=HMCE_PROD1_025710

The criteria for writing off an overpayment is set out in "Code of Practise 26—What happens if we have paid you too much tax credit?" which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/leaflets/cop26.htm

HMRC does not forecast the number of people who receive an overpayment or underpayment, however we expect the package of reforms announced in the 2005 pre-Budget report to have a significant effect on reducing overpayments from 2007-08 onwards. Working families tax credit was replaced by working tax credit and child tax credit in April 2003.

Welfare Tax Credits: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of those eligible in Northern Ireland for tax credits have been in receipt of such credits in each year since their introduction, broken down by type of credit; and what steps he is taking to increase the takeup of tax credits in Northern Ireland. [139702]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the take-up rate of tax credits for in-work families in Northern Ireland are currently available for 2003-04 and 2004-05. These figures are presented in table nine of the annual publications "Child and Working Tax Credit. Take-up rates" which are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

For information regarding measures taken by HMRC to promote the take-up of tax credits, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 566W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 6 June 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Political Parties: Donations

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House what rules govern public sector bodies' donations to political parties. [139259]

Mr. Straw: Part 4 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) regulates the giving of donations to registered political parties and their members. Section 54 of PPERA sets out clearly that only 'permissible donors' may make donations to political parties and what constitutes a 'permissable donor'.

The Act does not set out specifically whether different types of public sector body may be classed as permissible donors, although it does make provision in section 55 for payments to parties from public funds to be treated as permissible donations. There may also be some public bodies which fall into the various categories of permissible donor in section 54. In those cases it would be the responsibility of the political party to decide whether a public sector body that wished to make a donation is indeed a permissible donor. Any such donation would be subject to the regime laid out in PPERA governing the reporting of all donations to political parties and penalties for accepting a donation from a body that was not a permissible donor.

In addition to the political party ensuring that the public sector body, in question is a permissible donor, anyone acting for such a body would need to consider whether it had sufficient legal authority to make a donation to a political party under the legislation (or other instrument) by which is was constituted.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Highway Code

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 452W, on cycling: Highway Code, for what reasons the wording was changed from "where practicable" to "where possible". [137694]

Dr. Ladyman: The consultation draft of the Highway Code issued in February 2006 included the following wording for the rule on use of cycle facilities:

"Use cycle routes when practicable and cycle facilities such as advanced stop lines, cycle boxes and toucan crossings where they are provided, as they can make your journey safer."

Many responses to the consultation objected to the use of the words "where they are provided" and so these words were removed from the version of rule 61 laid before Parliament on 28 March 2007, which read:

"Use cycle routes and cycle facilities such as advanced stop lines, cycle boxes and toucan crossings whenever possible, as they can make your journey safer."

As well as removing "where they are provided", the qualification on the use of facilities was moved towards the end of the sentence to make clear that it applies to all the types of facility mentioned in the rule and not just cycle routes. This was intended to avoid any false misapprehension that there is any degree of compulsion in the use of such facilities. As the introduction to the Highway Code makes clear, only rules that include the words "Must" or "Must Not" are mandatory.

The wording of that qualification was been changed from "when practicable" to "wherever possible" in the interests of clarity and the use of plain English. This change does not in any way affect the substance or status of the advice.

Rule 63 of the version of the proposed revised Highway Code laid before Parliament also included the words "wherever possible". This rule was unchanged from rule 49 of the current version of the Highway Code first published in 1999.

However, cyclists remained concerned by the new wording. Following discussions with CTC, the cyclists' organisation, we have now proposed further changes to both rules 61 and 63, as follows:

61 Cycle Facilities. Use cycle routes, advanced stop lines, cycle boxes and toucan crossings unless at the time it is unsafe to do so. Use of these facilities is not compulsory and will depend on your experience and skills, but they can make your journey safer.

63 Cycle Lanes. These are marked by a white line (which may be broken) along the carriageway (see Rule 140). When using a cycle lane, keep within the lane when practicable. When leaving a cycle lane check before pulling out that it is safe to do so and signal your intention clearly to other road users. Use of these facilities is not compulsory and will depend on your experience and skills, but they can make your journey safer.

We are currently seeking views from road safety, cycling and walking representative groups on these proposals. Subject to considering their views, we intend to include these revised versions of rules 61 and 63 in the new edition of the Highway Code, which we now expect to issue in September.

Galileo Project

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost is to British public funds of the British contribution to Galileo in each year since 1997, broken down by Department. [139852]

Dr. Ladyman: The information about the UK's contribution to the programme is not available in the form requested. The total UK contribution to the European Space Agency (ESA) element of the programme since 1997 is €142 million.

The European Union (EU) and the member states of ESA jointly fund the design and development programme for Galileo on a 50/50 basis. DTI and DfT co-fund the UK element of the ESA subscription.

UK subscriptions already paid and future commitments to the ESA element of the programme total €142 million, of which DfT is contributing £22.45 million (approximately €31 million).

Programme subscriptions to ESA are subject to inflationary increases and can vary from predicted profiles. UK contributions to the different phases of the programme are as follows:

€15.3 million—subscription to the definition phase (1998 prices);

€95.7 million—original subscription to the development phase (2001 prices);

€31.0 million—additional contribution for the development phase (2001 prices).

The EU's contribution to the design and development programme is made from the EC budget and is estimated by the Commission to be €790 million. The United Kingdom makes its contributions to the EC Budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it. There is not therefore a specific United Kingdom contribution to the design and development programme.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much the Government plans to contribute to Galileo in the next five years, broken down by Department; [139853]

(2) when he expects Galileo to be fully deployed and functioning; [139854]

(3) what the Government's policy is on the European Commission's proposal for national governments of member states to fund the deployment phase of Galileo. [140209]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to my hon. Friend the Member for Crewe and Nantwich (Mrs. Dunwoody) on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1353-4W.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to levy charge on operators or users of existing satellite based positioning systems in order to fund the Galileo project. [140207]

Dr. Ladyman: No.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the performance of First Great Western train services; and if he will place in the Library the most recent performance statistics available. [140817]

Mr. Tom Harris: Improving rail performance is a key objective for the Department for Transport. Joint action plans are in place between Network Rail and FGW to address performance issues. Additionally, FGW has implemented a 40-point Recovery Plan. These are monitored monthly.

In the year to 31 March 2007 FGW achieved an average punctuality of 83.2 per cent. across the franchise as a whole and 85.6 per cent. during the preceding four week period.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions there have been at meetings of the Joint Ministry of Defence and Department of Health Partnership Board on the provision of dental care to service families; and if he will make a statement. [139619]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The provision of dental care to service dependents was discussed at Joint Ministry of Defence and Department of Health Partnership boards during 2006.

At the time, we were advised of initiatives being implemented by the UK Health Departments that are intended to improve access to NHS dental care throughout England, Scotland and Wales. The MOD is continuing to monitor the progress of these plans.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139522]

Derek Twigg: The only advertising undertaken by the Ministry of Defence is recruitment related. Details of armed forces advertising expenditure for the five years requested is not held centrally, and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Sums spent on recruitment related advertising for the three years ending 2005-06 is available:

£ million

	FY 2003-04	*FY 2004-05*	*FY 2005-06*
Naval service	5.753	7.242	5.903
Army	7.750	15.950	21.350
RAF	3.130	2.968	1.956
All services	16.633	26.160	29.209

Civilian staffs are recruited locally and the information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans' badges have been issued in each region of the UK in each year since they have been available. [140142]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, a total of 453,544 badges have been issued since May 2004.

This can be broken down as follows:

	Badges issued
May 2004 to December 2005	162,859
January 2006 to December 2006	197,539
January 2007 to 25 May 2007	93,146

University Officer Training Corps

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1292W, on the University Officer Training Corps, which universities have University Officer Training Corps; what the approved strength is of each; and how many trainees are enrolled at each. [140492]

Mr. Ingram: Historically, many of the University Officer Training Corps (UOTCs) were affiliated to single universities. With the rise in the number of tertiary education establishments, this has changed. Although many UOTCs are situated in, and take their title from a particular city, they have a substantial footprint covering over 130 universities and colleges. For example, Wales UOTC, based in Cardiff, covers the entire Principality and London UOTC serves 51 tertiary education establishments within the capital and the home counties.

The locations, respective establishments and current strengths of the UOTCs are as follows:

UOTC locations	*Established strengths*	*Enrolled number of officer cadets (as at 31 March 2007)*
Aberdeen	138	242
Belfast	138	191
Birmingham	138	219
Bristol	138	240
Cambridge	190	275
Cardiff	176	292
Dundee	138	300
Edinburgh	138	283
Exeter	138	250
Glasgow	138	197
Leeds	138	280
Liverpool	138	229
London	320	417
Manchester	138	235
Oxford	190	306
Newcastle	138	309
Nottingham	138	240
Sheffield	138	280
Southampton	138	246

The numbers of active members under training is smaller than the enrolled numbers.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Leicester

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the reasons are for delays in the rebuilding of schools in Leicester under the building schools for the future scheme; and if he will make a statement; [138151]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the costs by delays in the building schools for the future projects in Leicester; [138154]

(3) when he expects work to begin on the rebuilding and refurbishment of *(a)* Soar Valley, *(b)* Judgemeadow and *(c)* Beaumont Leys schools; and if he will make a statement; [138155]

(4) what discussions he plans to have with Leicester city council on the Leicester building schools for the future projects; [138156]

(5) what discussions officials from his Department have had with *(a)* Leicester city council and *(b)* Centerprise on the decision by Centerprise not to provide computer equipment for schools in Leicester. [138153]

Jim Knight: The Leicester city council's building schools for the future (BSF) project is part of the first wave of projects to be procured and as such has led the way in dealing with issues that will assist and inform the approach of BSF projects in later waves. It has become necessary to take time to get right the design of two of the schools, to ensure that this investment delivers value for money and transforms the education of pupils there. In addition, the withdrawal from the supply chain of the preferred bidder's ICT partner, and the subsequent process of appointing a replacement, has required careful management to ensure the authority's ICT specification would still be met by the new provider on the same or better commercial terms.

Following a delay in signing the contract beyond the date up to which the original bid price was fixed, the preferred bidder requested approximately £700,000 to cover their estimated additional inflation costs. Following negotiations between the council and the preferred bidder, the majority of this will be borne by the preferred bidder.

Work on the three schools named is expected to start in July 2007.

While there have been delays on the project, as it is now making good progress, I currently have no plans to have discussions with Leicester city's officials on BSF. My officials and Partnerships for Schools will continue to lead communications with the authority.

The decision by Centerprise to withdraw from the preferred bidder's supply chain was entirely an issue for those parties, although Partnerships for Schools, on behalf of the Department, has been closely involved in discussions with regard to this development. Partnerships for Schools continue to assist the council to ensure the best outcome for the authority, its pupils, teaching staff, parents and others.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what action is planned to be taken on *(a)* workforce satisfaction with management and *(b)* workloads following the 2006 Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff survey; [140264]

(2) whether he plans to publish statistics on the ethnicity of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service caseload; [140265]

(3) how many vacancies there are in each Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service region in both *(a)* public and *(b)* private law; [140266]

(4) how many parents in 2005-06 were referred to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service following an application of the court; and how many had already participated in mediation; [140269]

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the policy of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service is on co-parenting. [140272]

Mr. Dhanda: These are matters for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (Cafcass). Anthony Douglas, the Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his letter on will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 5 June 2007:

I am writing to you in response to the five of the seven Parliamentary Questions that you tabled recently:

140264—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, what action is planned to be taken on *(a)* workforce satisfaction with management and *(b)* workloads following the 2006 Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service staff survey.

An action plan is being prepared in response to the recent Cafcass staff survey including a stronger staff engagement strategy. There are no plans to change existing guidance on workloads, which has been in place for 3 years, and which has been agreed with Cafcass's trade unions. Cafcass believes it does have to take additional steps to increase workforce satisfaction with some aspects of the way in which the organisation works, and will be seeking the views of staff and trade unions about how this can best be done. Cafcass is determined to provide its service users with the very best possible service it can within the resources available.

140265—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, whether he plans to publish statistics on the ethnicity of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service caseload.

Cafcass has been implementing a new Case Recording System during the year. As a result diversity data is not yet complete or robust enough to publish this data in its annual report. For 2006/07 Cafcass intends to publish this data in future years, starting in its annual report for 2007/08.

140266—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how many vacancies there are in each Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service region in both *(a)* public and *(b)* private law.

The table below indicates the vacancies as at 31 May 2007. Cafcass does not categorise practitioners into private and public law.

Region	*FCA vacancies (whole time equivalents)*	*Support worker vacancies (whole time equivalent)*
East Midlands	2.5	1.5
Eastern	10.71	9.4
Greater London	9	0
North East	0	1.85
North West	6.5	7.3
South East	1.5	1.73
South West	1.5	2.5
Southern	0.5	4.0
West Midlands	4	4.0
Yorkshire and Humberside	5.5	6.0

140269—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how many parents in 2005-06 were referred to the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service following an application of the court; and how many had already participated in mediation.

In 2005-06 we received 2o,144 applications for section 7 reports and 645 applications for Family Assisted Orders. Neither Cafcass nor Her Majesty's Courts Service keep statistics on how many of these had participated in mediation prior to application.

140272—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, what the policy of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service is on co-parenting.

Cafcass policy is to consider all options, including co-parenting. It will recommend co-parenting to a court if in a specific case, it considers that it would be in the best interests of the child or young person concerned.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding has been allocated to specialist assessment teams within the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to work with children's cases involving allegations of sexual abuse for 2007-08. [140386]

Mr. Dhanda: This is a matter for the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS). Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Anthony Douglas, dated 5 June 2007:

I am writing to you in response to Parliamentary Question 140386—To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, how much funding is allocated to specialist assessment teams within the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service to work with children's cases involving allegations of sexual abuse.

CAFCASS does not provide a specialist assessment service, which often involves medical practitioners, psychologists or psychiatrists. However, CAFCASS officers are all qualified and experienced social workers; they receive additional training and support on domestic violence and abuse issues and, in some cases, they might recommend to the court that a specialist assessment be commissioned.

A copy of this reply will be placed in the House Library.

Class Sizes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* teacher to pupil ratio and *(b)* classroom assistant to pupil ratio was in (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in (A) Peterborough constituency, (B) Peterborough city council area and (C) England in each year since 1997. [139247]

Jim Knight: The following table shows pupil to teacher ratios and pupil to teaching assistant ratios in maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in Peterborough constituency, Peterborough local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007.

Pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:teaching assistant ratios[1] in maintained primary and secondary schools in Peterborough constituency, Peterborough local authority and England, January 1997 to 2007[2]

	Peterborough constituency		Peterborough local authority[3]		England	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
1997[3]						
Pupil:teacher ratio	23.9	16.5	n/a	n/a	23.4	16.7
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	82.8	112.8	n/a	n/a	107.4	388.9
1998[3]						
Pupil:teacher ratio	24.4	16.5	n/a	n/a	23.7	16.9
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	69.4	94.9	n/a	n/a	100.6	342.4
1999						
Pupil:teacher ratio	24.3	16.3	24.2	16.7	23.5	17.0
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	84.0	88.3	27.8	152.2	96.8	294.8
2000						
Pupil:teacher ratio	23.3	16.6	23.2	17.1	23.3	17.2
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	55.6	78.1	25.9	114.7	83.7	255.5
2001						
Pupil:teacher ratio	23.4	16.9	23.0	17.2	22.9	17.1
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	49.7	71.8	18.9	88.4	67.3	209.0
2002						
Pupil:teacher ratio	23.3	16.6	22.9	17.3	22.5	16.9
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	37.7	67.1	27.3	56.8	60.8	167.2
2003						
Pupil:teacher ratio	23.7	16.6	23.1	17.4	22.6	17.0
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	32.1	79.2	17.6	53.6	52.2	148.5
2004						
Pupil:teacher ratio	23.8	16.3	23.2	17.0	22.7	17.0
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	32.6	63.2	16.7	43.2	47.4	131.2
2005						
Pupil:teacher ratio	22.8	16.4	22.5	16.9	22.5	16.7
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	27.7	50.0	14.5	36.5	42.6	110.6
2006						
Pupil:teacher ratio	22.4	16.3	21.9	16.5	22.0	16.6
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	25.2	39.6	13.0	33.3	41.6	98.7
2007[2, 4]						
Pupil:teacher ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	21.8	16.5
Pupil:teaching assistant ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	38.5	91.7

n/a = Not available.
[1] Teaching assistants include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.
[2] 2007 local authority and parliamentary constituency level data will be available in September 2007.
[3] Peterborough became a new authority in 1999 and is therefore not included in the 1997 and 1998 figures.
[4] Provisional.
Source:
Annual School Census

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many education grants were given to 16 to 19 year olds in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the total cost was of these grants; and if he will make a statement. [135788]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council who operates learner support programmes for 16 to 19-year-olds, other than those in higher education.

Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 25 May 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked;

"How many education grants were given to 16-19 year olds in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what the total cost was of these grants."

The following table shows Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) take-up for England during each academic year since the introduction of the allowance. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

	Take Up
2002/03	123,415
2003/04	124,383
2004/05	297,567
2005/06	430,327
2006/07 to end of April	514,950

Total expenditure is shown in the following table.

EMA Expenditure in each financial year (National Scheme)

	EMA student payments costs (£ million)
2002-03	115.2
2003-04	136.3
2004-05	217.3
2005-06	363.1
2006-07[1]	474.9

[1] This figure is provisional

I hope you find this information useful.

Education: Standards

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children diagnosed with eating disorders before the age of 15 years subsequently achieved five GCSEs at level A-C in each of the last 10 years. [139137]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available.

Education: Travelling People

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment his Department has made of the impact of recent changes in funding formula for Gypsy and Traveller education on *(a)* pupil participation and *(b)* recruitment of teaching assistants from traveller communities. [139292]

Jim Knight: From April 2006, the Vulnerable Children Grant and three other grants were put together to form a Children's Services Grant (CSG). The CSG also contains additional funding to help local authorities and schools to administer the Every Child Matters agenda.

Local authorities have more spending freedom over a larger pot of money to target where it is most needed, including towards support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils. The Department has made clear in its Guidance on Children and Young People's Plan the need for local authorities to set out improvements to the outcomes for all children and young people with specific focus on narrowing the gap between those who do well and those who do not.

Over the last three years there has been an increase in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller pupils participating in education at school. While we do not collect data, anecdotal evidence is that there is also an increase in recruitment of people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities working within Traveller Education Services.

The Department will be assessing the provision made by local authorities to improve the life chances of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children through its research project which will be launched in June 2007 and the inspection framework.

Educational Attainment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved nine or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in 2006; [117654]

(2) how many *(a)* maintained secondary schools and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils at the end of key stage 4 who achieved seven or more GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in 2006. [117655]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

This analysis is based on the revised 2006 KS4 data.

Free School Meals

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the variation was in the proportion of children entitled to free school dinners between the school in each local education authority with the lowest entitlement and the school with the highest in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2005-06; and what category of school was the (i) highest and (ii) lowest in each case. [137764]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Further Education: Foundation Degrees

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that foundation degrees awarded by further education colleges will be structured so as to allow those students who wish to do so to pursue shorter honours degree courses. [139272]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Since their introduction in 2000, all foundation degrees have incorporated "progression agreements" as a core element of the qualification. Progression agreements are designed to ensure that all foundation degree students can identify appropriate opportunities for progression on to more advanced study, should they so wish. Further study will typically be the final year of an honours degree programme,

but progression could also be to a relevant professional or higher vocational qualification. Progression routes are negotiated by institutions at the time of establishing new Foundation Degree programmes. The 'Foundation Degree Qualification Benchmark' statement, produced by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, sets out detailed guidance for institutions on how progression routes should be established and maintained.

Progression agreements will continue to be an essential aspect of all foundation degree programmes, regardless of the awarding institution. The proposals in the Further Education and Training Bill to allow further education institutions in England to apply for the power to award foundation degrees only will not change this core characteristic of the foundation degree. I intend to table a Government amendment that seeks to address the issue of progression on the face of the Bill.

Home Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary age children were home schooled in each education authority in each year since 1997. [138503]

Jim Knight: Parents may exercise their right to educate their children at home on a temporary or permanent basis. We do not collect information about the numbers of children whose parents provide education at home, and it would be impractical to do so given the transient nature of some of this type of provision. A recent study on the prevalence of home education in England, conducted by York Consulting estimated that there were around 16,000 children being educated at home that were known to the local authority. We have not made any estimate of the number of home educated children that are not known to their local authority.

Physical Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Ofsted inspectors have physical education as their subject specialism. [138882]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 30 May 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked how many Ofsted inspectors have physical education as their subject specialism.

Eleven HMI currently employed by Ofsted have either physical education or an aspect of physical education, such as exercise and fitness coaching, as their subject specialism. In addition, Ofsted makes use of additional inspectors supplied by our Regional Inspection Service Providers.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Primary Education: Numeracy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the last meeting held between officials or Ministers in his Department and officials or Ministers of HM Treasury to discuss standards of numeracy in primary schools. [140149]

Jim Knight: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Primary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on personalised learning in primary schools in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics in each financial year since 1997-98. [140151]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect this information.

Pupil Exclusions Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils were *(a)* permanently excluded and *(b)* given fixed period exclusions from pupil referral units in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority. [139512]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the table.

The first year for which information on exclusions from pupil referral units is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Data on exclusions from pupil referral units were collected retrospectively via the Termly Exclusions Survey. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

The Termly Exclusions Survey has now discontinued so data on exclusions from Pupil Referral Units in 2005/06 are not available.

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions, 2003/04 and 2004/05, by local authority area and Government office region in England

		Permanent exclusions				Fixed period exclusions			
		2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
		No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]
	England[3]	30	0.26	40	0.28	5,780	44.34	7,630	52.75
	North East[3]	10	0.60	10	0.79	500	59.66	850	112.68
841	Darlington	0	0.00	0	0.00	15	71.43	158	329.17
840	Durham	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	45.45	4	14.29

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions, 2003/04 and 2004/05, by local authority area and Government office region in England

		Permanent exclusions				Fixed period exclusions			
		2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
		No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]
390	Gateshead	[4]	[4]	4	6.35	76	84.44	91	144.44
805	Hartlepool	0	0.00	0	0.00	35	63.64	79	109.72
806	Middlesbrough	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	97	125.97	164	131.20
391	Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.59	31	32.98
392	North Tyneside	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	38	63.33	76	149.02
929	Northumberland	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	5	166.67	20	666.67
807	Redcar and Cleveland	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	4.17	11	11.00
393	South Tyneside	0	0.00	0	0.00	146	92.41	102	103.03
808	Stockton-on-Tees	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	66	129.41	60	181.82
394	Sunderland	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	8.45	57	139.02
	North West[3]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	930	42.93	860	36.17
889	Blackburn with Darwen	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	0	0.00
890	Blackpool	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	0	0.00
350	Bolton	0	0.00	0	0.00	25	37.88	57	81.43
351	Bury	0	0.00	0	0.00	32	30.19	52	47.71
875	Cheshire	—	—	0	0.00	—	—	0	0.00
909	Cumbria	0	0.00	0	0.00	50	75.76	97	159.02
876	Halton	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	96	290.91	77	163.83
340	Knowsley	0	0.00	0	0.00	27	24.77	[4]	[4]
888	Lancashire	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	426	114.82	214	62.76
341	Liverpool	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
352	Manchester	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	1.46	13	3.58
353	Oldham[6]	—	—	0	0.00	23	—	57	100.00
354	Rochdale	0	0.00	0	0.00	89	77.39	97	110.23
355	Salford	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	21	16.94
343	Sefton	0	0.00	0	0.00	32	34.78	33	37.08
342	St. Helens	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	26.67	4	5.97
356	Stockport	0	0.00	0	0.00	27	300.00	57	57.58
357	Tameside	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]
358	Trafford	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]
877	Warrington	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	12.90	0	0.00
359	Wigan	0	0.00	0	0.00	62	144.19	72	144.00
344	Wirral	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	27	49.09	0	0.00
	Yorkshire and the Humber[3]	[5]	[5]	10	0.36	810	58.39	1,280	90.96
370	Barnsley	0	0.00	0	0.00	25	35.21	107	105.94
380	Bradford	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	132	76.30	276	148.39
381	Calderdale	0	0.00	0	0.00	38	84.44	127	249.02
371	Doncaster	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	57	40.71	69	36.70
811	East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	3	20.00
810	Kingston upon Hull, City of	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	176	308.77	236	374.60
382	Kirklees	0	0.00	0	0.00	45	26.01	71	35.50
383	Leeds	0	0.00	0	0.00	81	41.33	130	86.09
812	North East Lincolnshire	0	0.00	3	6.52	9	18.37	6	13.04
813	North Lincolnshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	41	74.55	28	96.55
815	North Yorkshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	13.04	3	12.00
372	Rotherham	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	20.00	10	23.26
373	Sheffield	0	0.00	0	0.00	129	84.87	89	80.91
384	Wakefield	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	64	136.17	123	256.25
816	York	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	0	0.00
	East Midlands[3]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	430	42.17	720	49.38
831	Derby	0	0.00	0	0.00	203	122.29	214	109.74

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions, 2003/04 and 2004/05, by local authority area and Government office region in England

		Permanent exclusions				Fixed period exclusions			
		2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
		No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]
830	Derbyshire	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00	163	525.81	380	157.02
856	Leicester	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
855	Leicestershire	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
925	Lincolnshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	1.40	[4]—	[4]—
928	Northamptonshire	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00	0	0.00
892	Nottingham	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	42	25.30	90	54.22
891	Nottinghamshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	20	30.77	35	40.70
857	Rutland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	West Midlands[3]	0	0.00	[5]—	[5]—	430	31.78	500	40.32
330	Birmingham	0	0.00	0	0.00	29	8.29	26	6.44
331	Coventry	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	133.33	0	0.00
332	Dudley	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	59	327.78	46	153.33
884	Herefordshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	22.50	6	27.27
333	Sandwell	0	0.00	0	0.00	96	76.19	150	214.29
893	Shropshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
334	Solihull	0	0.00	0	0.00	15	27.78	7	12.96
860	Staffordshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00
861	Stoke-on-Trent	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
894	Telford and Wrekin	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	21	22.83
335	Walsall	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	7.69	4	7.14
937	Warwickshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	62	38.75	117	64.64
336	Wolverhampton	0	0.00	0	0.00	39	39.00	43	64.18
885	Worcestershire	0	0.00	0	0.00	104	45.41	82	62.12
	East of England[3]	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	[5]—	270	24.49	330	24.94
820	Bedfordshire	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	14	13.33	34	34 34
873	Cambridgeshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	80	30.53	98	42.79
881	Essex	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
919	Hertfordshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	19	17.12
821	Luton	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	36.00	15	93.75
926	Norfolk	0	0.00	0	0.00	43	113.16	25	8.83
874	Peterborough	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	37.50	8	50.00
882	Southend-on-Sea	0	0.00	0	0.00	39	169.57	41	120.59
935	Suffolk	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	68	46.26	60	46.15
883	Thurrock	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	5	7.81	28	33.73
	London[3]	10	0.33	10	0.39	1,100	40.31	1,300	38.89
	Inner London[3]	—	—	10	0.37	860	67.88	950	50.48
202	Camden	0	0.00	0	0.00	44	118.92	30	40.00
201	City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
204	Hackney	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	64	136.17	59	18.97
205	Hammersmith and Fulham	0	0.00	0	0.00	43	22.75	47	26.70
309	Haringey	0	0.00	0	0.00	163	155.24	81	89.01
206	Islington	0	0.00	0	0.00	285	239.50	231	210.00
207	Kensington and Chelsea	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	20.45	9	19.57
208	Lambeth	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00	15	14.85
209	Lewisham	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	119	81.51	199	140.14
316	Newham	0	0.00	3	0.73	0	0.00	66	16.06
210	Southwark	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00	125	125.00	211	281.33
211	Tower Hamlets	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
212	Wandsworth	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00
213	Westminster	0	0.00	0	0.00	7	116.67	5	10.87
	Outer London[3]	10	0.34	10	0.41	240	16.25	350	23.83
301	Barking and Dagenham	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
302	Barnet	0	0.00	[4]—	[4]—	0	0.00	9	17.31

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions, 2003/04 and 2004/05, by local authority area and Government office region in England

		Permanent exclusions				Fixed period exclusions			
		2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
		No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]
303	Bexley	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	15.69	9	17.65
304	Brent	0	0.00	0	0.00	35	34.65	40	41.24
305	Bromley	0	0.00	0	0.00	26	26.00	46	46.94
306	Croydon	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	39	11.14	74	22.70
307	Ealing	0	0.00	0	0.00	29	21.80	23	17.29
308	Enfield	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	4	3.54
203	Greenwich	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]
310	Harrow	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
311	Havering	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
312	Hillingdon	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	3	9.09
313	Hounslow	0	0.00	0	0.00	14	25.45	9	15.00
314	Kingston upon Thames[6]	0	0.00	—	—	[4]	[4]	5	—
315	Merton	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	0	0.00
317	Redbridge	3	4.05	4	4.55	[4]	[4]	37	42.05
318	Richmond upon Thames	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	11	183.33
319	Sutton	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	21	123.53	[4]	[4]
320	Waltham Forest	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	57	300.00	74	569.23
	South East[3]	10	0.72	—	—	1,060	76.33	1,420	106.83
867	Bracknell Forest	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	37	148.00
846	Brighton and Hove[6]	—	—	—	—	[4]	[4]	7	—
825	Buckinghamshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	9	11.54	7	11.11
845	East Sussex	0	0.00	0	0.00	41	141.38	39	134.48
850	Hampshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	367	136.94	439	148.31
921	Isle of Wight	0	0.00	0	0.00	12	75.00	15	71.43
886	Kent	5	3.27	3	2.05	19	12.42	56	38.36
887	Medway	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	33	23.24	94	63.95
826	Milton Keynes	0	0.00	0	0.00	12	21.43	8	10.67
931	Oxfordshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	60	89.55
851	Portsmouth	0	0.00	0	0.00	113	282.50	95	250.00
870	Reading	0	0.00	0	0.00	34	109.68	45	145.16
871	Slough	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
852	Southampton	0	0.00	0	0.00	50	166.67	146	634.78
936	Surrey	0	0.00	0	0.00	225	158.45	225	150.00
869	West Berkshire	3	5.17	0	0.00	36	62.07	65	125.00
938	West Sussex	0	0.00	0	0.00	74	80.43	52	68.42
868	Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0.00	0	0.00	31	163.16	33	235.71
872	Wokingham	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
	South West[3]	[5]	[5]	[5]	[5]	260	24.07	380	29.90
800	Bath and North East Somerset	0	0.00	0	0.00	32	457.14	48	960.00
837	Bournemouth	[4]	[4]	3	15.79	15	166.67	13	68.42
801	Bristol, City of	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
908	Cornwall			0	0.00	0	[4]	0	0.00
878	Devon	0	0.00	0	0.00	42	54.55	98	158.06
835	Dorset	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	3	2.42
916	Gloucestershire	[4]	[4]	0	0.00	12	6.63	19	8.84
420	Isles of Scilly	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
802	North Somerset	0	0.00	0	0.00	[4]	[4]	12	33.33
879	Plymouth	0	0.00	0	0.00	22	15.60	41	27.70
836	Poole	0	0.00	0	0.00	8	40.00	[4]	[4]
933	Somerset	0	0.00	0	0.00	52	85.25	68	113.33
803	South Gloucestershire	0	0.00	0	0.00	6	10.91	0	0.00
866	Swindon	0	0.00	0	0.00	20	29.41	10	20.00

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions, 2003/04 and 2004/05, by local authority area and Government office region in England

		Permanent exclusions				Fixed period exclusions			
		2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
		No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]	No.[1]	%[2]
880	Torbay	0	0.00	0	0.00	37	69.81	23	121.05
865	Wiltshire	0	0.00	0	0.00	11	8.73	38	26.03

[1] Figures refer to the cases of exclusion rather than the number of pupils excluded as some pupils were excluded more than once during the year.
[2] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population (includes solely registered pupils and pupils with other providers). School population data are as at January.
[3] National and regional figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[4] 1 or 2 exclusions, or a rate based on 1 or 2 exclusions
[5] Less than 5 exclusions, or a rate based on less than 5 exclusions
[6] Pupil referral unit population is reported as being zero for these authorities, although they have reported exclusions. Potentially new provision has opened after the School Census was conducted in January.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* special educational needs but no statement were (i) permanently excluded and (ii) given a fixed period exclusion from pupil referral units in each year between 1997 and 2006. [139531]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

The first year for which information on exclusions from pupil referral units is available relates to the 2003/04 academic year. Data on exclusions from pupil referral units were collected retrospectively via the Termly Exclusions Survey. Exclusions data for 2004/05 academic year were published in June 2006.

The Termly Exclusions Survey has now discontinued so data on exclusions from pupil referral units in 2005/06 are not available.

Pupil referral units: number and percentage of permanent and fixed period exclusions by special educational needs (SEN) 2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Number of exclusions[1]							
	Permanent exclusions				Fixed period exclusions			
	2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
	Number[2]	Percentage[3]	Number[2]	Percentage[3]	Number[2]	Percentage[3]	Number[2]	Percentage[3]
Pupils with statements of SEN	10	0.26	10	0.4	1,170	50.87	1,640	72.56
Pupils with SEN without statements	10	0.17	20	0.26	2,790	43.33	3,850	58.92
Pupils with no identified SEN	20	0.4	20	0.26	1,820	42.35	2,140	37.76
Total	30	0.26	40	0.28	5,780	44.34	7,630	52.75

[1] Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Figures refer to the cases of exclusion rather than the number of pupils excluded as some pupils were excluded more than once during the year.
[3] The number of exclusions expressed as a percentage of the school population (includes solely registered pupils and pupils with other providers) supported at same stage of SEN. School population data are as at January.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey and School Census

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of pupils at pupil referral units achieved at GCSE *(a)* five A* to G, *(b)* five A* to G including English and mathematics, *(c)* five A* to G excluding equivalents, *(d)* five A* to G including English and mathematics, but excluding equivalents and *(e)* any passes in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by local authority. [127857]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the number of English as an additional language pupils in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Lincolnshire; [138717]

(2) what estimate he has made of the increase in the number of English as an additional language pupils in the last five years in *(a)* Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Lincolnshire. [138718]

Jim Knight: The information requested is recorded by schools through the School Census and is shown in the table:

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number of pupils where first language is known or believed to be other than English[2], as at January each year, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Lincolnshire local authorities

	Primary			Secondary		
	Cambridgeshire	*Norfolk*	*Lincolnshire*	*Cambridgeshire*	*Norfolk*	*Lincolnshire*
2003[3]	1,362	827	424	1,057	1,107	517
2004[4]	1,439	1,182	492	1,067	492	1,591
2005	1,595	1,265	578	1,149	622	626
2006	1,840	1,530	876	1,263	766	837
2007[5]	2,176	1,710	1,233	1,862	1,293	1,169

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[3] In 2003, following the introduction of new first language codes, estimates were made for Norfolk LA as data from some primary and secondary schools were known to be incorrect.
[4] All figures are as reported by secondary schools. The 2004 Lincolnshire figure is high as some schools wrongly reported 100 per cent. of pupils with first language known or believed to be other than English. No estimates to correct for this were made in 2004.
[5] Provisional data.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the level of funding was per pupil in *(a)* Shrewsbury and Atcham, *(b)* Dagenham, *(c)* Leicester West and *(d)* Leeds Central constituency in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [140218]

Jim Knight: The education funding information requested is allocated to local authorities and not at constituency level. The 2005-06 dedicated schools grant (DSG) baseline plus revenue grants and final 2006-07 DSG allocations plus revenue grants are shown in the following table. These are the cash figures for all funded pupils aged three-15:

£

Local authority	*2005-06 DSG baseline plus grants*	*2006-07 DSG plus grants*
Barking and Dagenham	4,750	4,922
Leeds	4,127	4,354
Leicester	4,158	4,485
Shropshire	3,751	3,957

Reading: Mentors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many mentors there are providing help with reading in schools in England. [139886]

Jim Knight: Reading mentors are an invaluable resource for many schools in supporting children to read well. The Department is currently providing funding to Volunteer Reading Help (VRH); a charitable organisation which recruits, trains and places volunteers to give one-to-one help twice a week to children aged 6-11 years who find reading a challenge. Currently VRH has around 2000 volunteer readers working with around 5,000 children.

For a minority of young children with significant literacy difficulties an intensive intervention delivered by specialist teachers is needed if they are to be able to read and access the wider curriculum. Every Child A Reader does this by placing highly skilled Reading Recovery teachers into schools to provide intensive one-to-one or small group support to children most in need. Every Child A Reader will be rolled out nationally, benefiting over 30,000 children a year by 2010-11.

Estimates from a nationally representative sample survey in 2004 (The Deployment and Impact of Support Staff in Schools) indicated that there were 4,539 full-time equivalent learning mentors in schools in England and 24 in Wales. These are paid support staff who worked in the school (including in the provision of extended services for pupils) whether employed by the school, local authority or other body, but not unpaid volunteers or other unpaid helpers. A further survey was conducted in the spring term 2005-06 and updated figures will be published later this year.

Schools Private Finance Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the establishment and *(b)* the running of the Schools Private Finance Unit; [139823]

(2) how many staff work in the Schools Private Finance Unit; [139942]

(3) what the functions are of the Schools Private Finance Unit; and how its performance is assessed. [139944]

Jim Knight: The Department had a schools private finance unit from approximately 1996 to 2004. As a result of its work, there are now 107 PFI contracts with a value of £3.97 billion which are delivering buildings, ICT and other services to over 840 schools. The Department cannot work out the cost of the establishment or running of the unit over that period without incurring disproportionate cost. The unit began in 1996 with one full-time member of staff and, at its largest, had around 17 staff.

The Department currently has one PFI strategy adviser, at grade 7, and the average cost of employing a grade 7 is £65,000. The adviser's function is to work with the private sector, central and local government and schools to promote excellent service to schools through PFI. Other staff in the Department's Schools Capital Division also contribute to PFI work, and the Department works closely with Partnerships UK and the 4ps to ensure that local authorities and schools have the support they need. For example, Partnerships UK runs an operational taskforce which schools and local authorities can ring for help with PFI issues.

The Department previously assessed its performance on PFI in terms of contracts signed. Now that all 107 PFI contracts have been signed, we are considering what performance indicators might be appropriate for their build and operational phases.

All schools PFI is now within Building Schools for the Future, which is run by Partnerships for Schools, one of the Department's non-departmental public bodies.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research he has commissioned to assess the through-life costs of a school built under *(a)* Building Schools for the Future and *(b)* other capital programmes. [140051]

Jim Knight: We would not expect the through-life costs of schools built under different programmes to be significantly different. Those procuring schools should have regard to the recommended building and design standards in our range of Building Bulletins and other publications, including "Finding the Right Solution—a Guide to Options Appraisal". They should also have regard to wider Government procurement and value for money guidance and should apply through-life cost considerations for all procurement as part of their commitment to the Common Minimum Standards Procurement of Works.

Partnerships for Schools, our delivery partner in Building Schools for the Future, challenges local authorities to achieve best through-life, value for money solutions no matter which procurement approach is used. Where finance is through Private Finance Initiative credits, through-life costs are fixed for the public sector when the contract is signed. We encourage local authorities to use Building Schools for the Future Local Educational Partnerships or acceptable alternative arrangement for all their schools' building procurement.

Partnerships for Schools is currently collecting life-cycle costs and other information on schools in Building Schools for the Future as part of a benchmarking database to enable comparisons to be made in the future. Further, we have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to evaluate the Building Schools for the Future programme. This will include comparisons of cost data with schools where investment is through other programmes.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many teachers were assaulted by *(a)* pupils and *(b)* parents in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [139017]

Jim Knight: This information is not held centrally.

For the academic years 2003/04 and 2004/05 information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against an adult'.

Tables showing the available information about the number of pupils who have been excluded from school on either a permanent or fixed period basis including the reasons for exclusion have been placed in the Library.

Violence against school staff will not be tolerated. We fully back schools taking tough action against anyone—pupil or parent—who behaves aggressively. We are implementing a wide-ranging national programme to strengthen schools' capacity to manage behaviour and minimise violence.

Schools: Fire Prevention

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many schools in England have sprinkler systems installed; [139496]

(2) what percentage of fires in schools were started deliberately in each of the last five years; [139499]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost of the effects of arson to schools in each of the last five years. [139500]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have data on how many schools have sprinklers installed. However, we understand from insurers that nearly 300 schools in the United Kingdom as a whole have sprinkler systems fitted.

With regard to statistics on school fires and arson, the latest figures we have from the Department for Communities and Local Government covering England and Wales are for 2000-04, with those for 2005 being provisional.

Year	*Number of fires*	*Total costs (£ million)*	*Arson (percentage)*
2000	1,275	45	63
2001	1,529	67	58
2002	1,332	67	55
2003	1,313	61	60
2004	1,291	52	56
2005	1,166	n/a	45

These costs are rounded to the nearest £1 million and cover property damage and the costs of the fire and rescue services attending the fires. They do not include the consequential costs of, for instance, providing alternative accommodation when need, or disruption to education. However, these costs are taken account of in the fire risk assessment tool which I launched on 26 February. This provides clear guidance on when sprinklers should be installed, and our presumption is that all new schools will have them fitted.

Special Educational Needs: Teaching Aids

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on alternative formats for educational material for visually impaired and dyslexic children. [140429]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's SEN atrategy 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' sets out our vision for giving children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities the opportunity to succeed. Provision for children with SEN and disabilities, including support for those with a visual impairment is made by schools and local authorities through the SEN and disability frameworks.

In particular, part 4 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires schools and local authorities to plan to improve access to the curriculum and written materials for disabled pupils over time. In addition, the new disability equality duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 requires all public bodies including schools and local authorities to promote disability equality more widely. We also continue to invest significant resources to support the education of children with SEN and disabilities; some £4.5 billion in 2006/07.

To assist the provision of materials in accessible alternative formats for children with a visual impairment, the Government supported the Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002 which reduces delays in gaining copyright clearance to produce books and other printed materials in formats accessible to visually impaired people. The Department of Trade and Industry is also working on a feasibility study to look at opportunities for publishers to provide education material in accessible formats more quickly and the Department for Education and Skills is involved in the process.

Specialist Schools

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what mechanisms are in place for monitoring the effectiveness of Government-funded programmes run by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust; and what independent assessments have been undertaken of these programmes; [139923]

(2) how much has been paid by his Department to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and its predecessor the Specialist Schools Trust in each year since 1997, broken down by category of funding. [139924]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT), and its predecessor bodies, is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Department for Education and Skills funds the SSAT, through grant and contracts, to support the specialist schools and academies programmes and a range of other activities designed to raise pupil achievement. This funding is subject to standard monitoring procedures, and appropriate reporting mechanisms are agreed in each case.

There are several independent assessments of the programmes for which the SSAT currently receive funding, for example, Ofsted evaluations of the specialist schools programme in 2001 and 2005, and the annual extensive longitudinal evaluation of the academies programme by PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC).

The total amounts paid to SSAT each year since 1997 are set out in the following table.

£000

	Specialist school grant[1]	*Other grants*	*Contracts*
1996-97	711	—	—
1997-98	677	—	—
1998-99	786	—	—
1999-2000	1,104	—	—
2000 -01	1,487	—	—
2001-02	1,576	471	335
2002-03	2,740	1,283	349
2003-04	7,896	3,077	353
2004-05	10,355	6,668	773
2005-06	12,487	10,595	1,269
2006-07	16,357	16,602	2,228

[1] Including academies grant from 2004-05

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Companies: Insolvency

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to limit the amount administrators can charge in the event of a company going into administration. [140822]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The insolvency rules already give creditors the right to apply to court for an order that the administrator's remuneration be reduced in circumstances where they consider it to be excessive. The insolvency profession is also a regulated profession and as such all insolvency office-holders are authorised and are required to follow industry standards, published in the form of statements of insolvency practice.

Although the Government have no plans to limit the amount of remuneration that administrators may draw, The Insolvency Service is undertaking a project to modernise the insolvency rules. One of the changes being considered is a requirement for all insolvency office-holders to provide details of remuneration charged on a regular basis and to provide creditors with clear rights to seek better particulars and to enable them to challenge those amounts where they consider them to be excessive. This should ensure greater transparency and accountability for creditors of amounts of remuneration drawn by administrators and other office-holders.

Mobile Phones: Health Hazards

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what typical levels of radiation are emitted by a mobile telephone during use; at what distance from a mobile telephone mast with a maximum licensed power of 32 dbW a person is subject to *(a)* the equivalent, *(b)* 10 per cent. and *(c)* 1 per cent. of this level of radiation; and whether these statistics are affected when multiple carriers are using the same mast. [137343]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The question is framed in terms of emissions, whereas public exposure is the real point of interest. I am informed by the Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division (HPA-RPD) that it is neither straightforward nor meaningful to perform the calculation requested because of the different beam patterns formed by different types of base station antennas and mobile phones, and the consequent different spatial distributions of absorbed energy in the body. Moreover, any region around a high-powered base station site, e.g. with 32 dbW output, where localised exposure of the head could be comparable to that from using a mobile phone would not normally be accessible to the general public.

The HPA-RPD, has advised that the electromagnetic field exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) should be adopted in the United Kingdom. The ICNIRP guidelines are set to avoid adverse effects of exposure on health. Mobile phone base station installations in the UK are designed to comply with the ICNIRP exposure guidelines, as are mobile phones.

Techniques for measuring specific absorption rate (SAR) in the head when a phone is held to the ear have been standardised and the information for individual handsets can be found on the website of the Mobile Manufacturer's Forum at www.mmfai.org.uk. Typically the SAR values quoted for mobile phones are in the range of 20-70 per cent. of the ICNIRP guidelines.

Ofcom (and formerly the Radiocommunications Agency) has been performing an audit involving measurements of exposure to base station signals at many different sites in the UK since 2001. The maximum exposures measured are well below the ICNIRP reference level. Information about the audit is available at

www.sitefinder.ofcom.org.uk.

In summary, it is difficult to readily compare base station exposures and mobile phone exposures because the pattern of absorption of radio energy in the body is different. In both cases, public exposure is expected to be within the ICNIRP guidelines, and by a considerable margin for base stations.

New Businesses: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many business start-ups there were in the north-west in each year since 1997. [140085]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations and de-registrations are currently the best guide to the pattern of business start-ups and closures. DTI data on the number of VAT registrations, and the start of year stock of VAT registered businesses in the north-west from 1997 to 2005 are shown in the following table. Data for 2006 will be available autumn 2007.

VAT registrations and start of year VAT stock in the north-west

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Registrations	17,700	17,545	16,875	17,155	16,485	17,385	19,005	18,080	17,500	n/a
Stock	159,055	161,155	163,125	164,645	165,945	166,925	168,095	171,145	173,575	176,805

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005, Small Business Service, available at: http://www.dtistats.net/smes/vat/index.htm

Although numbers of registrations in the north-west have remained fairly constant, the start of year stock has risen by 11 per cent. over the period.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on Wednesday 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140128]

Mr. Hain: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Northern Ireland Office special advisers are complying fully with this guidance. As with all civil servants, annual leave is a personal matter and it is not the practice of the Department to disclose when individuals have taken annual leave.

Departments: Official Cars

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost to his Department was of the ministerial car fleet in each year since the suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly; and what the total cost to the Department of Finance and Personnel was of the car fleet in each year of the devolved Assembly. [132211]

Mr. Hain: My ministerial team and I use the Government Car Service when in Great Britain. Costs of this service are as follows:

	Amount (£)
2002-03	428,548.13
2003-04	436,593.30
2004-05	474,352.13
2005-06	513,904.19
2006-07	528,458.18
2007-08[1]	63,000.00
Total	2,444,855.93

[1] Since 1 April 2007

The Police Service of Northern Ireland provide ministerial close protection when we are in Northern Ireland, the cost of which is only held centrally for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 financial years. This information is as follows:

	£
2005-06	426,463.69
2006-07	430,489.78
Total	2,072,339.38

The Government are not responsible for costs of the ministerial car fleet for the devolved Administration.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 30April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1440W, on Departments: official hospitality, what the reason was for the increase in the amount spent on hospitality by his Department in 2006-07 compared with 2005-06. [136273]

Mr. Hain: In the previous parliamentary questions regarding hospitality there was a significant increase in the amount spent between the years 2005-06 and 2006-07. The figures relating to the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and NDPBs, include hospitality paid for by the NIO, on behalf of other customers. The NIO recoups these amounts but they were omitted from the previous total spend figures. The following table illustrates how the recoupment offsets the expenditure.

	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Expenditure incurred on hospitality by the NIO	299,634	404,476
Amount recouped from external customers	89,000	184,000
Actual amount spent on NIO hospitality	210,634	220,476

When the recoupment is taken into account, the result is a small increase of approximately £10,000 in the amount that was spent between the two years.

This information does not represent the 11 Departments of the NI Administration.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his office held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136860]

Mr. Hain: There have been no official meetings held with Sovereign Strategy.

EC Environmental Policy

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the timetable was for the implementation of each part of EU directive 2002/91/EC, on energy performance of buildings, in Northern Ireland; and whether a regulatory impact assessment was produced for its implementation prior to the restoration of devolved government. [137575]

Mr. Hain: Articles 3-6 of EU directive 2002/91/EC were implemented in Northern Ireland on 30 November 2006 through amendments to the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000, namely the Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (SR 2006 No. 355) and the Building (Amendment No.2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (SR 2006 No.440). A regulatory impact assessment was produced to accompany SR 2006 No.355. As SR 2006 No. 440 was simply clarifying the intent of the initial amendment, a regulatory impact assessment was not considered necessary for these regulations.

The implementation of the remaining requirements of the EU directive is now a matter that is the responsibility of the devolved administration in Northern Ireland.

Irish Study Centre

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will make a statement on the announcement by the Irish Taoiseach that he would be working with him to establish an Irish Study Centre in a British college; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the project. [138757]

Mr. Hain: The Government are not aware of any formal proposals on this matter.

Royal Ulster Constabulary: Manpower

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many prosecutors were employed in the former Royal Ulster Constabulary and Police Service of Northern Ireland central process offices in each of the last seven years. [140621]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has advised us that the figures for the number of prosecutors are shown in the following table:

	Number of prosecutors
2000	24
2001	24
2002	21
2003	26
2004	24
2005	[1]26
2006	[2]20
2007	[2]17

[1] Including 6 agency lawyers.
[2] Including 1 agency lawyer.
Note:
The Public Prosecution Service was established in June 2005; the efficiencies generated as a result help explain the decrease in the number of prosecutors since.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Asylum: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions have been brought in Northern Ireland under section 35 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004; how many resulted in *(a)* conviction and *(b)* acquittal; and if he will make a statement. [140158]

The Solicitor-General: None.

Prosecutions: Costs

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General what the average cost was of a prosecution within the system established under the Public Prosecution Service in *(a)* the magistrates court and *(b)* the Crown court in each year since its establishment. [140619]

The Solicitor-General: The Public Prosecution Service does not hold information on the average cost of prosecutions. While some unit costs may be identifiable, the overall cost to the PPS of any case it prosecutes, as a percentage of the overall cost of its total workload, is not.

Prosecutions: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions were concluded in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years by *(a)* police central process offices, *(b)* the Director of Public Prosecutions and *(c)* the Public Prosecution Service. [140622]

The Solicitor-General: The figures for cases concluded in the magistrates and Crown courts are as follows:

	Police	*DPP/PPS*
2002	27,140	5,665
2003	29,205	6,420
2004	28,888	9,244
2005	23,525	13,200
2006	20,519	18,937

The figures relate to cases dealt with at court only. They do not include cases in which decisions not to prosecute were taken, cases dealt with by diversion, cases withdrawn before trial or cases where cautions were given. The DPP/PPS figures include cases prosecuted on behalf of various agencies, such as the Driver and Vehicle Agency, as well as those submitted by the police. The figures for 2006 are provisional.

Only composite figures for the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Public Prosecution Service are available. Although the PPS came into existence as a statutory body on 13 June 2005, the process of taking on police prosecutions commenced before that date through a number of pilot schemes. Further, the process of rolling out the PPS across Northern Ireland means that the transfer of responsibility for prosecuting cases is staged. By 1 September 2007 the PPS will have responsibility for all cases investigated by the police, save a decreasing number of cases already before the courts at that date.

Public Prosecution Service: Manpower

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General how many people *(a)* are employed in the Public Prosecution Service and *(b)* will be employed in the Public Prosecution Service when it is fully staffed. [140620]

The Solicitor-General: As of 31 May 2007 there are 542 people employed in the Public Prosecution Service. The capacity analysis agreed with the Northern Ireland Office is 608.

WALES

Cockling

8. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has held with the First Minister on cockling. [140341]

Nick Ainger: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with the First Minister to discuss a range of issues, including marine and environmental matters.

Government and Welsh Assembly Relations

10. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he plans to hold with the new Welsh Assembly administration on the changes of relationship between the Government and the Welsh Assembly following the implementation of the Government of Wales Act 2006. [140344]

Mr. Hain: We have been working closely with the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure the Act is implemented effectively, and will continue to do so.

Manufacturing Industry

11. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of the prospects for manufacturing industry in Wales. [140345]

Mr. Hain: Prospects are good. The Quinn Group recently announced that they will be creating more than 300 jobs in Newport with a new manufacturing plant—their second major investment in Newport.

Concessionary Fares: Rail Travel

12. **Mrs. James:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on extending the pensioners' concessionary fares scheme to rail travel in Wales. [140346]

Mr. Hain: My hon. Friend and I regularly meet Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss transport matters affecting Wales, including the concessionary fares scheme.

Farming: Supermarket Prices

13. **Mark Williams:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Trade and Industry on encouraging Welsh farmers to submit evidence to the Competition Commission's inquiry into supermarket practices. [140347]

Nick Ainger: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues at the Department of Trade and Industry to discuss a variety of issues.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140132]

Mr. Hain: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct For Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Wales Office special advisers are complying fully with this guidance. As with all civil servants, annual leave is a personal matter and it is not the practice of the department to disclose when individuals have taken annual leave.

USA

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Foreign Secretary, the Welsh Assembly Government and the US embassy on the establishment of a US consulate in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [139537]

Mr. Hain: I am happy to raise this with the US ambassador. I visited the US earlier this year and will continue to work in partnership with the National Assembly for Wales to promote Wales on the international stage.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Breastfeeding

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive gives to employers on breaks for female employees who are breastfeeding after the birth of a child. [138771]

Mrs. McGuire: HSE does not provide advice on rest breaks for female employees who are breastfeeding. However, under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, employers are required to carry out a risk assessment for all employees including new and expectant mothers and mothers who are breastfeeding. Employers must ensure that a worker who is breastfeeding is not exposed to risks that could damage her health and safety and that of her child for as long as she continues to breastfeed.

Child Support Agency

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how debts owed to the Child Support Agency will be transferred to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission; and how long this process is expected to take; [136875]

(2) what processes have been put in place to facilitate the transfer of cases from the Child Support Agency to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [136877]

Mr. Plaskitt: The White Paper 'A new system of child maintenance' (Cm 6979) box 3.1, pages 54-55 sets outs the expected timetable of change for the child maintenance system. Subject to parliamentary approval we expect C-MEC to be in place with statutory authority in 2008-09 and that one of its priorities will be to take on responsibility for existing child maintenance operations, this would include existing cases and associated debt.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households with children living below *(a)* 60 per cent. of median income and *(b)* 40 per cent. of median income are not in receipt of tax credits. [135398]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* The available information is in the following table.

The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors and will not be the same as any figures previously published which were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Households with children not in receipt of tax credits, 2005-06

Number (million)

	Before housing costs	*After housing costs*
Household incomes below 60 per cent. of the contemporary median income	0.7	0.9
Household incomes below 40 per cent. of the contemporary median income	0.2	0.4

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2005-06

Chile

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on his recent visit to Chile. [130504]

Mr. Hutton: I visited Chile from 15 to 18 March 2007. While there, I addressed a conference organised by the Policy Network on "Globalisation and the New Welfare Model" alongside the President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet.

I met my Chilean opposite number, Osvaldo Andrade, at which we were joined by our Argentinean counterpart, Carlos Tomada. This meeting provided an opportunity to compare approaches on pensions and labour market reforms.

I also met Paulina Velso, Secretary General to the Presidency of Chile. This meeting provided an opportunity to deepen discussion on social issues initiated by Lord Triesman on his visit to Chile in December 2006.

Employment: East Lothian

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps have been taken to increase employment levels in East Lothian constituency. [139733]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* East Lothian has benefited from a number of programmes and initiatives aimed at increasing employment levels and improving employment opportunities for local people. These have included national programmes like the new deal which, since 1998, has helped 1,970 people in East Lothian into work.

In October 2006 the new deal plus for lone parents pilot was extended to Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders, meaning eligible lone parents in those areas, including people in East Lothian, can access the extra help and support offered through the initiative. The pilot focuses on a package combining access to good affordable childcare and strong financial work incentives. We recently announced that new deal plus for lone parents will be extended to March 2011 in pilot areas.

Eligible lone parents in East Lothian leaving benefits for full-time employment can also claim an in-work credit of £40 a week, payable for the first 12 months in work and between October 2004 and January 2007 180 lone parents in the East Lothian constituency received the in-work credit.

In December, our Pathways to Work programme will also be rolled out in Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders, including East Lothian. This will provide an integrated package of employment advice and health and financial support to help people on incapacity benefits move into work.

The welfare to work measures we have introduced have, since1997, helped to: increase the employment level in East Lothian by 3.3 percentage points; reduce the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants by 63 per cent. reduce long term claimant unemployment by 88 per cent. reduce youth claimant unemployment by 47 per cent. and reduce long term youth claimant unemployment by 83 per cent.

European Social Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which staff are expected to administer the new single programme under the proposal that the administration of European Social Fund programmes be transferred from Government offices to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP); what discussions the Department has had with DWP on the proposed transfer of work; and what the expected benefits are of the transfer. [140722]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) already has responsibility for European Social Fund (ESF) expenditure in England. Government offices carry out some ESF administrative tasks at regional level on behalf of DWP. The reduction in ESF funding in 2007-13 and a simpler programme structure mean that fewer staff will be needed in future. Discussions are continuing between DWP and Communities and Local Government on the number and role of Government office staff in the new ESF programme.

Income Support

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents claiming income support stopped claiming that benefit because *(a)* their partner status changed, *(b)* their employment status changed, *(c)* they started claiming a different benefit and *(d)* their status changed in any other respect in each month between 1992 and 2007. [138812]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The information is not available.

Lone Parents: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Copeland were registered for lone parents benefit in the financial year ending *(a)* March 1997 and *(b)* March 2007. [138635]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is not available in the format requested.

Because of changes in methodology comparable figures are not available prior to 1999.

As at November 1999, there were 1,270 people in Copeland in receipt of income support as a lone parent. As at November 2006, there were 870 people in Copeland in receipt of income support as a lone parent.

National Insurance: City of Westminster

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will breakdown by ethnic nationality origin the applicants for national insurance numbers in Westminster in each of the last five years. [139816]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2002. The available information broken down by country of origin has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that all eligible individuals are aware of their entitlements to benefit payments. [139815]

Mr. Plaskitt: This Department does all it can to ensure that people are aware of all the benefits to which they are entitled and how to claim them. Leaflets are available at benefits offices, Citizen's Advice Bureaux, and from welfare rights organisations and other advice giving agencies. Information is also available on the Department's website.

We are also taking steps to improve awareness and take-up of benefits for specific groups. For example,

pensioners applying for pension credit can now access housing benefit and council tax benefit over the phone at the same time.

The Pension Service is undertaking a wide range of steps to encourage eligible pensioners to claim pension credit. For example, writing to everyone who may have an entitlement to pension credit, encouraging them to apply. The pension credit take-up campaign has also helped many older carers to benefit from the Government's abolition of the upper age limit on claims to carer's allowance.

Information and advice about disability living allowance and attendance allowance is provided by the Department's freephone helpline. The Department also undertakes a considerable amount of local outreach work, and works with partners such as social services and welfare rights organisations who are well placed to identify people who may be entitled to disability benefits.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average amount of time was between receipt of a claim for *(a)* disability living allowance, *(b)* income support, *(c)* carer's allowance, *(d)* jobseeker's allowance and (e) incapacity benefit and payment of benefit for claims made by (i) telephone, (ii) post and (iii) online claim form in (A) the UK, (B) England, (C) Scotland, (D) Wales, (E) each English region and (F) each parliamentary constituency in each of the last 10 months. [140724]

James Purnell: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Carers

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the benefit entitlements are of parents with children or young people *(a)* diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and *(b)* under a regime of methylphenidate drugs to combat the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. [139712]

Mr. Plaskitt: Depending on their personal circumstances, parents of children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and those who are under a regime of methylphenidate drugs to combat the symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder have access to the full range of social security benefits. Those who provide regular and substantial care of at least 35 hours a week for a severely disabled child receiving the middle or highest rates of the disability living allowance care component can be entitled to a carer's allowance and if on a low income, to the carer premium in the income-related benefits or the carer's additional amount in pension credit.

Welfare Reform

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether Ministers and officials *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in other Departments suggested amendments to David Freud's report on the welfare system prior to its publication; [135221]

(2) on how many occasions drafts of David Freud's report on the welfare system were shown to Ministers and officials *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in other Departments prior to the report's publication; [135222]

(3) at what stage drafts of David Freud's report on the welfare system were first made available to *(a)* Ministers in his Department and *(b)* to Ministers in other Departments. [135223]

Mr. Jim Murphy: David Freud involved officials from across the Department in his review and drafts of the report were checked for consistency and factual accuracy prior to publication. Ministers and officials from other Government Departments were similarly asked to check the areas that related to their responsibilities.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many special advisers from his Department worked on David Freud's review of the welfare system. [135226]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No special advisers were directly involved in working on the review.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Cultural Heritage: Iraq

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1327W, on cultural heritage: Iraq, what discussions she has had with the *(a)* British Museum and *(b)* British Library on the contribution made to the protection of sites of Iraqi cultural heritage since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [136359]

Tessa Jowell: Ministers have had a number of meetings with the British Museum and the British Library since 2003. These discussions have touched on many aspects of their work, and this has included their work in Iraq.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 27 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1327W, on cultural heritage: Iraq, what assessment she has made of the performance of the British Museum in assisting the preservation of sites of cultural heritage in Iraq; and how much her Department has provided to the British Museum for the purpose of assisting in the preservation of sites of Iraqi cultural heritage in each year since 2003. [136371]

Tessa Jowell: The British Museum has undertaken important work in support of the preservation of Iraqi heritage. Work such as hosting three Iraqi interns studying the management of archaeological sites in the UK for eight weeks; providing expertise and training on conservation and site management; and sending archaeologists to Iraq who co-ordinated the quick supply of a wide range of materials and equipment to the Baghdad Museum.

My Department does not ring fence the Grant-in-Aid it provides to the national museums and galleries it sponsors. It is a matter for the institutions themselves to decide how best to spend the funds they receive. The British Museum has received the following Grant-in-Aid since 2003:

	£ million
2003-04	37.3
2004-05	37.9
2005-06	39.6
2006-07	42.9
2007-08	44.9

Digital Broadcasting: Scotland

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her estimate is of the number of households which will qualify for assistance in switching over to digital television in *(a)* the parliamentary constituency of Gordon and *(b)* Scotland. [140743]

Mr. Woodward: Details for the Gordon constituency and Scotland are as follows:

	Households (defined as eligible benefit units)
Gordon	9,000
Scotland	649,000

Notes:
1. Totals rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Eligibility for help from the Digital Switchover Help Scheme will be by benefit unit rather than the whole household definition used by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) the Scottish Executive, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Office to forecast future household growth.
3. The definition of a benefit unit is a couple and any dependent children. It excludes adults deemed to be non-dependents who, if eligible, will be able to claim assistance from the Help Scheme in their own right.

English Heritage: Public Appointments

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to be in a position to announce the name of the new Chairman of English Heritage. [139007]

Tessa Jowell: I announced the appointment of Lord Bruce-Lockhart as the new Chair of English Heritage on 24 May 2007.

Olympic Games

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) on what date the Home Office was made aware of the numbers provided by the Metropolitan Police referred to in note 1 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 28 November 2005; [133637]

(2) what figure the Metropolitan Police provided as their further thought on numbers for security, referred to in note 1 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 28 November 2005. [133639]

Tessa Jowell: The Metropolitan Police Service has advised that the information was sent to the Home Office on 15 December 2005.

The Metropolitan Police Service provided an initial estimate of £464 million. This included the costs of policing the Olympic Park but excluded the costs incurred by other police forces, those associated with VIP protection and costs of other agencies such as the Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.

As I announced in my statement to the House of 15 March 2007, within the budget for the Games we have allocated a figure of £600 million for wider security. This does not include the Olympic Delivery Authority's spending on security for the Olympic venues.

Policing costs are kept under continuous review by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department plans to conduct a public consultation on the decision announced on 15 March to allocate an additional £675 million of lottery funding to the London Olympics in 2012. [136594]

Tessa Jowell: I will be consulting the Lottery distributing bodies, the devolved administrations and other key stakeholders. I have already discussed the timing and approach with the distributors.

We intend to give the distributors the highest degree of certainty and the greatest possible time for planning.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the effect of the diversion of lottery funds for the Olympics on other potential beneficiaries of lottery funds. [137656]

Tessa Jowell: The overall lottery contribution to the London 2012 Olympic games will be £2.175 billion. We appreciate that there will be a particular impact between 2009 and 2012 but there is currently projected to be over 4 billion in new lottery money available for non-Olympic good causes during that period.

There is no need for existing commitments made by distributors to be affected. My Department has agreed with the Big Lottery Fund that resources for the voluntary and community sector will be protected.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 450-52, on the 2012 Olympics, when her Department plans to bring forward regulations to enact the decision to transfer an additional £675 million of lottery funding to pay for the London Olympics in 2012. [138403]

Tessa Jowell: I have undertaken to consult lottery distributors, the devolved administrations and other key stakeholders about the proposed transfers. This will be launched soon and will run for three months. We will bring forward secondary legislation after the consultation is completed.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Responsibilities

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the future functions of her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139169]

Angela E. Smith: The Secretary of State has regular discussions with her Cabinet colleagues.

Departments: Official Engagements

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list her diary engagements from 1 October 2006 to 28 February 2007. [138126]

Ruth Kelly: The Secretary of State had the following meetings with external organisations and stakeholders between 1 October 2006 and 28 February 2007. This has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the CLG FOI Disclosure log (since January 2007).

Details of internal meetings are not placed into the public domain, as this would inhibit the frank exchange between Ministers and officials which is necessary to policy development.

		Meeting details
2 October	Meeting	Meeting with National Consumer Council
	Purpose	Update meeting
3 October	Meeting	Meeting with Association of Chief Police Officers
	Purpose	Update meeting
9 October	Meeting	Meeting with CBI
	Purpose	Update meeting
17 October	Meeting	Meeting with Asset Skills
	Purpose	Introductory meeting
18 October	Meeting	Meeting with English Regions Network
	Purpose	Introductory meeting
18 October	Meeting	Meeting with Local Government Association
	Purpose	Update meeting
30 October	Meeting	Meeting with NSPCC
	Purpose	To discuss working practices
1 November	Meeting	Meeting with Shelter
	Purpose	Introductory meeting
8 November	Meeting	Meeting with Justice and Peace Council
	Purpose	To discuss interfaith work and community cohesion
21 November	Meeting	Meeting with Commision for Architecture and the Built Environment
	Purpose	To discuss design quality matters
5 December	Meeting	Meeting with Green stakeholders
	Purpose	To discuss the Green Package
11 December	Meeting	Meeting with the Six-O Group
	Purpose	To discuss the Equalities Act
10 January	Meeting	Meeting with Martin Cave
	Purpose	To discuss the Cave review
11 January	Meeting	Meeting with Local Government Association
	Purpose	To discuss LGA's proposals to take forward key elements of the Local Government White Paper

		Meeting details
15 January	Meeting	Meeting with Stonewall
	Purpose	To discuss the Equalities Act
16 January	Meeting	Meeting with Archbishop of Cardiff
	Purpose	To discuss the Equalities Act
	Meeting	Meeting with Caritas
	Purpose	To discuss the Equalities Act
17 January	Meeting	Meeting with the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress
	Purpose	To discuss the Equalities Act
23 January	Meeting	Meeting with the Chief Executive of the British Association for Adoption and Fostering
	Purpose	To discuss the Equalities Act
31 January	Meeting	IKEA Representatives
	Purpose	Introductory Meeting
1 February	Meeting	Meeting with retails stakeholders
	Purpose	Planning Stakeholder Meeting
5 February	Meeting	Green stakeholders
	Purpose	Planning Stakeholder Meeting
5 February	Meeting	Profesor John Hills
	Purpose	To discuss the Hills Review of Social Housing
5 February	Meeting	Chief Executive of the CEHR
	Purpose	Introductory Meeting
12 February	Meeting	Local Government Association and Authority Representatives
	Purpose	Planning Stakeholder Meeting
13 February	Meeting	Commission on Local Councillors
	Purpose	Introductory discussion
14 February	Meeting	Sir Michael Lyons
	Purpose	To discuss the Lyons Review
21 February	Meeting	Equal Opportunities Commission
	Purpose	To discuss current EoC issues
22 February	Meeting	Sustainable Development Commission (SDC)
	Purpose	To discuss the Sustainable Communities Plan
22 February	Meeting	Chair of the CEHR
	Purpose	Discuss the Equalities Act
27 February	Meeting	Local Government Association
	Purpose	To discuss preventing extremism
28 February	Meeting	Meeting with Chief Rabbi
	Purpose	Discuss inter faith issues
28 February	Meeting	Meeting with LGA
	Purpose	Update meeting

Disabled: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of Warrington borough council's services for children with disabilities. [139928]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

Ofsted with other inspectorates will undertake a joint area review of children's services in Warrington in autumn 2007. This will include making a judgment and reporting specifically on services for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The annual performance assessment of local authority children's services undertaken by Ofsted, with, until 2006, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, does not make a scored judgment specifically on services for such children. However, it considers such services in reaching a judgment on the council's overall performance on children's services. The letter summarising the 2006 annual performance assessment of Warrington, issued by the two inspectorates on 1 November 2006, notes as an area for improvement the delivery of services to children with disabilities to support their staying safe.

The recently published Disabled Children's Review announced a funding package of £340 million over the next Comprehensive Spending Review period for 2008-09 to 2010-11, to be spent on improving service provision across the board for disabled children.

European Regional Development Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response her Department has received from the European Commission on its proposal that administration of the European Regional Development Fund and its successor be delivered by the regional development agencies rather than Government offices for the English regions. [140720]

Yvette Cooper: The European Commission has agreed that the day to day administration of the 10 English European Regional Development Fund programmes covering 2007 to 2013 will be carried out by the regional development agencies. The precise arrangements for implementing the transition from the Government offices to the RDAs are currently under discussion.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the transfer of functions will take place in respect of the proposed transfer of European Regional Development Fund administration from Government offices for the English regions to regional development agencies; what will be the role of the Department in managing the new programme; and what arrangements are in place to manage the wind-down and closure of the existing programme. [140721]

Yvette Cooper: My Department will be the Managing, Certifying and Audit Authority for 2007 to 2013 European Regional Development Fund programmes in England, although we will delegate most of the day-to-day Managing Authority functions to the regional development agencies. We are aiming formally to transfer these functions as from 1 October 2007.

Government offices are managing the closure of the 2000 to 2006 ERDF programmes. Action is well advanced to meet the European Commission's closure deadlines.

Farmers: Markets

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she provides to local authorities who operate or organise farmers' markets on certification under the scheme operated by the National Farmers Retail and Markets Association. [139728]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

My Department encourages farmers' markets in a number of ways; directly, through funding under a range of grant schemes; and indirectly through our work with bodies such as FARMA (the National Farmer and Retail Markets Association) and local authorities to facilitate the establishment of farmers' markets. We have written to the chief executives of local authorities drawing their attention to the benefits to the rural economy and to town centres that such markets can bring. We have also sponsored the Local Government Association Guide on Farmers' Markets,

"Developing good practice for sustainable farmers' markets—a practical guide for local authorities".

The guidance aims to:

Highlight issues of interest to local authorities in relation to farmers' markets;

Link farmers' markets to related areas of interest;

Signpost local authorities and market organisers to areas of good practice; and

Stimulate further relevant research and interest into farmers' markets.

First Time Buyers

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to mitigate the effect of increases in house prices for first time buyers. [139812]

Yvette Cooper: Kate Barker's Review of Housing Supply recommended that a step-change in housing supply was necessary to address worsening affordability due to a long term undersupply of housing. Government's response, published in 2005, set out an ambition to increase housing supply to 200,000 per annum by 2016.

Good progress has been made, with supply increasing from a low of around 130,000 new homes in 2001-02, to over 180,000 in 2005-06. We recognise however, that we still need to go further to address demand, and are determined to maintain momentum.

Since publishing the Barker Response, we have been working to implement the measures it announced. Among other achievements, we have published a new Planning Policy Statement 3; announced a series of new Growth Points, announced proposals that all new

homes should be built to zero carbon standards by 2016, and set up a National Housing and Planning Advice Unit.

In addition our HomeBuy scheme will help people on modest incomes to get a step on the housing ladder. The Government's HomeBuy scheme will expand the opportunity for home ownership to over a 120,000 households between 2005 and 2010. In 2006-08 we are investing £970 million through the National Affordable Housing programme to deliver 35,000 new low cost home ownership properties.

Benefits: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many pensioners *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the North East are entitled to claim housing benefit; what percentage of those eligible to make a claim do not do so; and what the value of unclaimed housing benefit was in each area in the last year for which figures are available; [139736]

(2) how many pensioners *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the North East are entitled to claim council tax benefit; what percentage of pensioners in each area entitled to make a claim do so; and what the average value is of the unmade claims by pensioners in each area; [139739]

(3) how many people *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the North East are entitled to claim council tax benefit; what percentage of people in each area entitled to make a claim do so; and what the average value is of the unmade claims in each area; [139740]

(4) what estimate she has made of the amount of unclaimed council tax benefit *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the North East. [139741]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not available below national level.

The latest estimates of the take-up of the main income-related benefits: income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) can be found in the DWP report entitled "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2004-05". Copies of the publication are available in the Library.

Housing: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many children were registered as living in *(a)* temporary accommodation, *(b)* non-decent accommodation and *(c)* overcrowded accommodation in each London borough in each year since 1997. [130743]

Yvette Cooper *[pursuant to the reply, 18 May 2007, Official Report, c. 978-79W]:* Information on children in temporary accommodation is only available from 2004. Figures for local authorities in London are provided in table 1.

Table 1: number of children in temporary accomodation[1] on 31 December 2004-06: by London local authority

Local authority	2004	2005	2006
Barking and Dagenham	589	614	958
Barnet	[2]	[2]	[2]
Bexley	632	598	612
Brent	7087	6,742	5,933
Bromley	[2]	[2]	1,271
Camden	2,438	2,703	2,319
City of London	54	0	28
Croydon	5,006	4,325	3,547
Ealing	[2]	3,640	3,362
Enfield	6,649	6,890	[2]
Greenwich	523	842	963
Hackney	3,165	3,155	2,900
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,649	2,767	2,786
Haringey	[2]	[2]	[2]
Harrow	2,526	2,373	2,298
Havering	802	1,013	675
Hillingdon	3,394	2,552	2,482
Hounslow	[2]	[2]	[2]
Islington	[2]	[2]	[2]
Kensington and Chelsea	[2]	[2]	346
Kingston upon Thames	[2]	[2]	[2]
Lambeth	2,068	2,450	2,970
Lewisham	1,931	2,445	2,740
Merton	195	108	87
Newham	[2]	[2]	[2]
Redbridge	[2]	[2]	[2]
Richmond upon Thames	545	582	496
Southwark	680	1,016	1,352
Sutton	699	765	656
Tower Hamlets	4,918	4,469	3,963
Waltham Forest	2,189	3,924	4,290
Wandsworth	2,012	1,863	1,587
Westminster	[2]	[2]	[2]

[1] Households in temporary accommodation (excluding applicants recorded as homeless at home) on the last day of the quarter, as arranged by a local housing authority as a discharge of their statutory homelessness functions.
[2] Local authority did not report.
Source:
PIE quarterly returns

Estimates of the number of children living in non-decent or in overcrowded homes in each of the London boroughs is not available.

Housing: London

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1286-88W, on housing: London, how many dwellings in the category intermediate homes were allocated to *(a)* homeless families and *(b)* families on council waiting lists; and if she will break down the figures provided in the answer by London borough. [140693]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not collected centrally.

Housing: Low Incomes

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* council and *(b)* Housing Association homes for controlled rent being built in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and how many were built in each of the last three years. [140527]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: For the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 local authorities have provided 100, 299 and 245 social rented homes respectively. Over the same time frame registered social landlords provided 20,917, 23,020 and 24,580 social rented homes respectively. Almost all of these were grant funded through Housing Corporation but a small amount are through grant free Section 106. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional.

For 2007-08 we are currently estimating that of our target of 30,000 social rented units around 300 homes will be provided through local authorities and 28,000 through registered social landlords funded via Housing Corporation's Affordable Housing programme. The remainder will be delivered through other routes such as Section 106 without grant.

For 2008-09 delivery of social rented homes will be subject to the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. We have already stated that we intend to make the provision of social rented homes a priority.

Housing: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the policy of the Newcastle Gateshead Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder to achieve 25 per cent. affordable housing to rent or buy in its new, replacement or regenerated housing developments was set *(a)* with Government approval and *(b)* after Government guidance. [140190]

Yvette Cooper: All the housing market renewal pathfinders have developed evidence based strategies to address the housing needs and aspirations of all their residents and deliver a mix of dwelling types appropriate to their markets. As part of these strategies, pathfinders are expected to use their market intelligence and the views gathered in their engagement with communities to address the question of affordability in their intervention areas. The overall strategies have been approved by Government.

Planning: Environment Protection

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the planned new independent infrastructure planning commission will have any duties to consider or protect tranquillity. [139223]

Yvette Cooper: Paragraphs 5.39 to 5.48 of the White Paper 'Planning for a Sustainable Future' (Cm 7120) explain decision making by the infrastructure planning commission. The commission would, in determining applications for development consent for nationally significant infrastructure projects, be required to take into account relevant adverse local consequences that are incompatible with relevant EC and domestic law including human rights legislation. Relevant EC and domestic law for development consent covers a wide range of factors, including those relating to the impact on the local community and local environment. We do not propose a specific duty on the commission to consider or protect tranquillity.

The White Paper asks a consultation question on the framework for the commission to decide applications. We will listen to consultation responses and specify the framework for commission decisions in legislation to establish the commission.

Recycling: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of Warrington borough council's progress towards meeting targets for recycling. [139930]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Recycling and composting targets for household waste were set for each local authority for 2003-04 and 2005-06. Targets have also been set for 2007-08.

Warrington borough council achieved a 13 per cent. recycling and composting rate in 2003-04, against their target of 20 per cent. In 2005-06, they reached a rate of 19 per cent. against their target of 30 per cent. While clearly there is a gap between the rates Warrington has achieved and their statutory targets, I understand that their performance has recently improved and is now moving close to their target of 30 per cent. for 2007-08.

My Department is working with the regional Government Offices on a programme of engagement with poor performing local authorities against their 2005-06 statutory recycling targets, including ministerial meetings with the very worst performers.

Regional Development: East of England

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the final version of the East of England Regional Strategy. [139124]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 24 May 2007]*: We are considering the substantial number of representations, (12,000), on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes to the East of England Plan (Draft Revisions to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England). We intend, if possible, to publish the final version of the east of England plan before the summer recess.

Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the impact of trends in buy-to-let properties on *(a)* the housing market and *(b)* homelessness. [139978]

Yvette Cooper: Estimating the precise impact of buy-to-let on the housing market is difficult and there is little evidence available. The buy-to-let market has expanded rapidly in the last 10 years since the creation of dedicated buy-to-let mortgages in 1996, rising from 6 per cent. of the private rented stock in 2000 to almost 35 per cent. in 2006. Despite this increase in buy-to-let, the overall size of the private rented sector has remained relatively stable and has only experienced a slight increase as a proportion of total stock from about 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. There has been an increase in the proportion of private rented sector properties that are buy-to-let.

Evidence from the English House Conditions Survey shows that between 1996 and 2004 the percentage of 'decent' homes in the PRS has increased by nearly 35 per cent. compared to only 18 per cent. in the owner-occupied sector.

In recent years, due to the increase in supply of private rented properties, rents have not been rising as fast as house prices. This suggests that buy-to-let is unlikely to have had a significant impact on homelessness, which is currently at its lowest level since the early 1980s.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of buy-to-let houses in *(a)* Luton, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* England. [139981]

Yvette Cooper: Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that the number of outstanding buy-to-let mortgages in England has increased from around 120,000 in 2000 to around 850,000 in 2006. Despite this large increase, the private rented sector as a whole only increased over this period from about 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. of the total housing stock (Source: Communities and Local Government Survey of English Housing).

Information is not held centrally on the number of buy-to-let properties below the national level.

Second Homes: Coastal Areas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of second home ownership on the availability of affordable housing in coastal towns. [139684]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have not made an assessment of the impact of second homes ownership on the availability of affordable housing in coastal towns.

Multiple home ownership does not contribute significantly to house price inflation nationally, accounting for just 1 per cent. of the housing stock. However, in some highly localised areas, including some coastal towns, much higher levels of multiple home ownership are prevalent.

When planning for the provision of affordable housing, local planning authorities should aim to ensure that provision meets the needs of both current and future occupiers, taking into account information from a strategic housing market assessment.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139435]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep a central record of amounts spent on consultancy services for advertising campaigns. This information, and the names of the advertising agencies and other organisations who have supplied consultancy services in each of the last five years, could be obtained only by requiring budget holders in the FCO and its agencies to examine all relevant invoices for this period. To do this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what methodology is used by her Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140790]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office accounts for its carbon emissions from energy by applying the relevant carbon emission factor recommended by the Building Research Establishment to the total consumption for each type of energy used. The resulting value is weather corrected to reflect average ambient temperatures for the year.

For travel, the factor published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is applied to total miles travelled, where available, for each method of travel.

Egypt: Political Prisoners

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Government of Egypt on Ayman Nour, the imprisoned leader of the El-Ghad party, with particular reference to *(a)* the justice of his incarceration and *(b)* his ability to receive medical attention; and if she will make a statement. [140145]

Dr. Howells: Mr. Nour was convicted and sentenced to five years' imprisonment in December 2005 on charges of forging signatures required to register his newly-established political party, Al-Ghad. All appeals for his release have so far been rejected.

Mr. Nour has access to medical facilities, including hospitals. The National Council for Human Rights visited him in May this year. The latest appeal hearing to determine whether Mr. Nour should be released on medical grounds is scheduled for 12 June. We would of course welcome such a release.

At the time of Mr. Nour's conviction we publicly voiced our concerns about his imprisonment and called for his release. In 2006, the EU raised the case with the Ministry of Justice and asked to visit Mr. Nour: the

request was eventually refused on legal grounds. We continue to follow his case closely and to raise it with Egypt at official level.

Russia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her Russian counterpart on Russians living in the United Kingdom who advocate violence against the Russian Government. [140632]

Mr. Hoon: The Russian authorities have raised concerns about Russian nationals resident in the UK with myself and other Government Ministers. But it would not be appropriate for me to comment on the legal position of any individuals. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear on 13 April, we deplore any statement which appears to call for the overthrow of the Russian Government by force.

Uganda: Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 240, if she will make a statement on the report of the Commonwealth Secretariat on the choice of Uganda for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. [139960]

Dr. Howells: The Commonwealth Secretariat issued a public statement on 26 April, confirming Kampala as the venue for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in November. This is consistent with the decision made by Commonwealth Heads of Government at CHOGM in Abuja in 2003. We are not aware of the Commonwealth Secretariat issuing any other reports on this matter.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken working in collaboration with the National Farmers' Union to ensure that those farmers affected by the late payment, partial payment, non-payment and mis-payment of the single farm payment *(a)* remain economically viable and *(b)* suffer no long-term effect to their business. [132277]

Barry Gardiner: The farmers concerned will be best served by the Rural Payments Agency's continued focus on making payments under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and, where necessary, adjustments to SPS entitlement values, in the earliest possible time frame. The latest position on these issues was reported in the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 29WS.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will compensate farmers who incurred costs through delays in making single farm payments. [132417]

Barry Gardiner: As announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State in his statement of 22 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1478, the Rural Payments Agency has been authorised to make interest payments at the London Interbank Offered Rate +1 per cent. on sums due under the 2005 Single Payment Scheme which were outstanding at the end of the EU Regulatory payment window for the scheme on 30 June 2006. Such payments are calculated from 1 July 2006 until the date of payment and are subject to a minimum interest payment level of £50. As at 3 May 2007, such payments have totalled £1,161,299.29.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the determination of single farm payments in 2007. [132714]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 29WS.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Rural Payments Agency's review of claims involving fruit, vegetable and potato single payment scheme authorisations has been completed; when claimants will be notified of their authorisation allocations; if he will publish the results of the review; and if he will make a statement. [134231]

Barry Gardiner: The Rural Payments Agency wrote to affected Single Payment Scheme applicants in January to explain the background to its, then recently completed, review of the allocation of fruit and vegetable authorisations and to confirm the outcome in respect of applicants' individual cases.

Animal Welfare: China

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Chinese Government on animal welfare issues in China. [139548]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on 9 May, *Official Report*, column 238W.

Animal Welfare: New Forest

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on issues relating to animal welfare on common land, with particular reference to the New Forest. [140146]

Mr. Bradshaw: The welfare of all animals, including those on common land, is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006. This Act makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal and contains a duty of care which means that owners of all animals must take reasonable steps to make sure their needs are met.

In the New Forest, Agisters appointed by the Verderers' court monitor the condition of livestock. The Agisters may remove animals which fall below set welfare standards from the open forest and the owners must take steps to improve their condition. DEFRA also appoints a Verderer to the court who keeps a watching brief on animal welfare issues in the New Forest.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy: Compensation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cases of fraud relating to the Over Thirty Months Scheme have been investigated since the scheme began; and how many prosecutions have resulted. [138376]

Barry Gardiner: The Over Thirty Months Scheme ceased operation on 22 January 2006 and was succeeded by the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme.

There have been 318 cases of suspected fraud relating to the Over Thirty Months Scheme investigated by the Department and eight successful prosecutions resulted. To date one case of suspected fraud relating to the Older Cattle Disposal Scheme has been investigated with no prosecution resulting.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Minsterley

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit the village of Minsterley to meet farmers who have experienced bovine TB in their cattle. [140214]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA Ministers receive many invitations to visit farmers in different parts of the country to discuss their individual circumstances and issues. Unfortunately, it is not possible to accept all of these. However, I am glad to have had the opportunity to meet the hon. Member and a delegation of farmers from Shropshire to discuss bovine TB earlier this year.

Although we cannot accept all the invitations received, Ministers and officials do have regular meetings with organisations representing farmers and cattle keepers to discuss a range of key issues, including TB.

Cattle: Registration

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of cattle in England without a valid passport. [138131]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* Data from the cattle tracing system show that there are 37,300 cattle in Great Britain with notices of registration, that is cattle which have been registered but for which a passport has not been issued. This would be as a result of the passport application being submitted late or with incomplete or invalid details that could not be resolved.

In the time available it has not been possible to obtain an exact figure for England only but based on the proportion of the national herd that is resident in England, I estimate that there are 24,000 cattle without a valid passport in England.

There may also be a number of cattle which have never been notified to the central database. 10 per cent. of cattle holdings are inspected annually. From June 2006 to April 2007, 1,500 cattle out of 398,016 inspected were found that had not been registered. However it should be noted that holdings are selected for inspection on a risk basis and this is therefore not a representative sample.

Animals without a valid passport cannot be moved off their current holding and can never enter the human food chain.

Coastal Areas: Access

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to bring forward legislation to improve access to coastal areas. [139754]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1208W.

Common Agricultural Policy

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he is having with his EU counterparts on reform of the common agricultural policy. [140224]

Barry Gardiner: My Department has regular discussions with our EU counterparts on reform of the common agricultural policy.

Darwin Initiative

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the funding to the Darwin Initiative. [139130]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Boston and Skegness (Mark Simmonds) on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1793W.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138458]

Barry Gardiner: The Department does not hold a central list of what every outside agency and consultancy undertaking work in DEFRA has been or is commissioned to do. Such a list could be provided

only at disproportionate cost. I have placed in the House of Commons Library a list held centrally of the outside agencies and consultancies paid fees by the core Department in 2005-06. A similar list for each of DEFRA's executive agencies could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

I refer the hon. Member to the recently published NAO report on "Central Government's Use of Consultants". The Department is in the process of ensuring that it meets the recommendations contained therein.

Departments: ICT

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* originally estimated, *(b)* most recently estimated and *(c)* outturn cost was of the five largest information technology contracts agreed by his Department with outside suppliers over the last five years. [135684]

Barry Gardiner: If I may refer to the answer provided in June 2006, PQ 4875 05/06. The updated figures are as follows:

Accenture

(a) Original estimated cost—£34.10 million;

(b) Recently estimated costs—£68.05 million;

(c) Outturn costs—£68.05 million (plus enhancement work to the value of £928,000 in 2005-06 and £2.7 million in 2006-07.)

Support and maintenance costs are included in the original contract.

IBM

(a) Original estimated cost— £85 million per year;

(b) Recently estimated costs—£97.9 million per year;

(c) Outturn costs: 2004-05—£28.26 million; 2005-06—£111.12 million; 2006-07—£147.56 million.

The estimated costs are based on initial predicted demand for IBM services; the higher outturn costs represent the increased demand for IBM services by projects in delivering DEFRA's strategic objectives. The contract with IBM incorporates sufficient flexibility to allow significant variation in demand, with costs varying directly in proportion.

LogicaCMG

(a) Original estimated cost—£16.10 million;

(b) Recently estimated costs—£18.42 million (total life time cost);

(c) Outturn costs—cost of supply was £6.7 million in 2002.

The balance is for support and maintenance to be paid over the remainder of the contract, which ends in 2014.

As with the previous answer, smaller local IT contracts will also have been agreed; however, information on these is neither managed nor maintained centrally, and therefore it would incur disproportionate costs to collate. Only by reference to such information would it be possible to determine which are the fourth and fifth largest IT contracts, agreed with outside suppliers, in the Department.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135733]

Barry Gardiner: The costs for maintaining DEFRA's website (www.defra.gov.uk) are estimated to be £243,561 for this financial year.

Available data on the visitors to websites which are the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, are set out in the following table. Costs for establishing and maintaining these sites are not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

As part of the Transformational Government web rationalisation process, DEFRA is currently reviewing all its websites. Over time, content will be rationalised and where appropriate moved to Directgov and Business Link. A number of the current websites will close.

URL	*Number of unique visitors per month (collated July 2006)*
www.defra.gov.uk	379,000
Domains operated by core DEFRA	
www.airquality.co.uk	20,000
www.bseinquiry.gov.uk/	No data
www.climatechallenge.gov.uk	No data
www.dwi.gov.uk/	23,000
www.eca-water.gov.uk	3,350
www.forwardfarming.org.uk	No data
www.gmsciencedebate.org.uk	3,000
www.GVS.gov.uk	1,358
www.lagmsupport.org.uk	No data
www.mceu.gov.uk	3,000
www.naei.co.uk	No data
www.nationalfallenstock.co.uk	No data
www.noisemapping.org	No data
www.partnersforwater.org	No data
www.pece.co.uk	606
www.sustainable-development.gov.uk	23,000
www.ukmab.org.uk	No data
www.uksocialdeprivation.aeat.com	No data
www.smokecontrolareas.co.uk	No data
www.ukswedensustainability.org	No data
DEFRA's Executive agencies	
www.bcms.gov.uk	[1]53,000
www.cefas.co.uk	No data
www.csi.gov.uk	No data
www.efishbusiness.co.uk	No data
www.gds.gov.uk	No data
www.mfa.gov.uk	No data
www.pesticides.gov.uk	11,792
www.rpa.gov.uk	17,646
www.svs.gov.uk/	No data
www.vla.gov.uk	12,000
www.vmd.gov.uk	5,000

URL	Number of unique visitors per month (collated July 2006)
DEFRA's advisory NDPBs	
www.fawc.org.uk	8,647
www.nbu.ac.uk/negtap/	No data
www.rcep.org.uk	No data
www.sd-commission.org.uk	10,000
www.seac.gov.uk	1,291
www.vet-residues-committee.gov.uk	5,000
www.vpc.gov.uk	No data
DEFRA's Executive NDPBs	
www.ccwater.org.uk	No data
www.environment-agency.gov.uk	351,796
www.foodfrombritain.com	[1]1,064
www.gla.gov.uk	No data
www.kew.org	No data
www-plantcultures.org	No data
www.nationalforest.org	12,000
www.landshapes.org	12,000
www.seafish.org	32,976
www.jncc.gov.uk	44,000
www.natural-england.org	No data
www.countryside.gov.uk	145,000
www.english-nature.org	No data
www.ruralcommunities.gov.uk	5,000
DEFRA levy boards	
www.potato.org.uk	No data
www.hgca.com	9,244
www.mdc.org.uk	90,000
www.mdcdatum.org.uk	10,000
www.mdcfmp.org.uk	8,971
www.schoolmilk.co.uk	1,000
www.mlc.org.uk	No data
www.beefyandlamby.co.uk	24,460
www.bmesonline.org.uk	No data
www.lookforthemark.co.uk	No data
www.bpex.org.uk	No data
www.eblex.org.uk	No data
www.meatandhealth.com	No data
www.meatmatters.com	21,000
www.porkforbutchers.co.uk	No data
www.stotfoldpigs.co.uk	No data
DEFRA public corporations	
www.cgma.gov.uk	No data
Other DEFRA NDPBs	
www.recyclenow.com	65,573
Other DEFRA sponsored bodies	
www.wrap.org.uk	31,951
www.lake-district.gov.uk	50,000
www.northumberland-national-park.org.uk	13,000
www.peakdistrict.gov.uk	13,000
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk	13,330
www.nnfcc.co.uk	No data
www.nationalparks.gov.uk	11,000

[1] Unique visitors per week

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140124]

Barry Gardiner: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137844]

Barry Gardiner: The value of private finance initiative (PFI) projects included in the core Department and Environment Agency's balance sheets as at 31 March 2007 was nil. This was also the case in each of the last five years. All DEFRA PFI projects are treated as "off-balance sheet".

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137845]

Barry Gardiner: The core Department is currently involved in one private finance initiative (PFI) project to provide office facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. There are also two PFI projects being undertaken by the Environment Agency, one of our sponsored non-departmental public bodies.

Information about the value of annual PFI payments for the last five years, made by the core Department and the Environment Agency are set out in the following table. All payments were made from revenue budgets.

PFI

Organisation	Project description	Year	Annual private finance initiative payments (£ million)
Environment Agency	Broadland Flood Alleviation Project	2002-03	1.90

PFI

Organisation	*Project description*	*Year*	*Annual private finance initiative payments (£ million)*
		2003-04	1.69
		2004-05	1.52
		2005-06	1.41
		2006-07	[1]1.38
Environment Agency	Pevensey Bay Sea Defences	2002-03	1.43
		2003-04	1.81
		2004-05	1.87
		2005-06	1.91
		2006-07	[1]1.96
DEFRA	Office Facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge	2002-03	—
		2003-04	—
		2004-05	3.24
		2005-06	3.73
		2006-07	[1]3.73

[1] Estimate

The Department also provides support in the form of PFI credits to allow local authorities to enter into PFI contracts to provide waste recycling and management facilities. However, payments for these PFI projects are made by the relevant local authorities from their revenue budgets and do not fall within DEFRA's accounting boundary.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137846]

Barry Gardiner: The core Department is currently involved in one private finance initiative (PFI) project to provide office facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. There are also two PFI projects being undertaken by the Environment Agency, one of our sponsored non-departmental public bodies.

Information about the value of annual PFI payments, in the last five years, made by the core Department and the Environment Agency are set out in the following table.

All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism

PFI

Organisation	*Project description*	*Year*	*Annual private finance initiative payments (£ million)*
Environment Agency	Broadland Flood Alleviation Project	2002-03	1.90
		2003-04	1.69
		2004-05	1.52
		2005-06	1.41
		2006-07	[1]1.38
Environment Agency	Pevensey Bay Sea Defences	2002-03	1.43
		2003-04	1.81
		2004-05	1.87
		2005-06	1.91
		2006-07	[1]1.96
DEFRA	Office Facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge	2002-03	—
		2003-04	—
		2004-05	3.24
		2005-06	3.73
		2006-07	[1]3.73

[1] Estimate.

The Department also provides support in the form of PFI credits to allow local authorities to enter into PFI contracts to provide waste recycling and management facilities. However, payments for these PFI projects are made by the relevant local authorities and do not fall within DEFRA's accounting boundary.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what value of

annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments were *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137847]

Barry Gardiner: The core Department is engaged in one private finance initiative (PFI) project to provide office facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge. The Environment Agency, which is a non-departmental body of DEFRA, has let two public/private partnership contracts for flood risk management.

Information about the total value of annual PFI payments made by the core Department and the Environment Agency in the last five years is set out in the following table. These payments include both the repayment of the capital and expenditure on other parts of the PFI contract. Details of the breakdown of annual PFI payments into different elements is not held centrally and obtaining this information would incur disproportionate costs for the department.

Organisation	*Project description*	*Year*	*Annual private finance initiative payments (£ million)*
Environment Agency	Broadland Flood Alleviation Project	2002-03	1.90
		2003-04	1.69
		2004-05	1.52
		2005-06	1.41
		2006-07	[1]1.38
Environment Agency	Pevensey Bay Sea Defences	2002-03	1.43
		2003-04	1.81
		2004-05	1.87
		2005-06	1.91
		2006-07	[1]1.96
DEFRA	Office Facilities at Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge	2002-03	—
		2003-04	—
		2004-05	3.24
		2005-06	3.73
		2006-07	[1]3. 73

[1] Estimate

The Department also provides support in the form of PFI credits to allow local authorities to enter into PFI contracts to provide waste recycling and management facilities. However, payments for these PFI projects are made by the relevant local authorities and do not fall within DEFRA's accounting boundary.

Departments: Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in his Department and its predecessor participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98; and if he will make a statement. [131544]

Barry Gardiner: The relevant figures for financial year 2006-07 are:

(a) 197 staff undertook voluntary exits;

(b) 22 staff left the department under involuntary arrangements.

To provide data prior to financial year 2006-07 would incur disproportionate cost.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in his Department and its predecessor who participated in *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in each year since 1997-98 were paid between (i) £0 to £25,000, (ii) £25,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £75,000, (iv) £75,001 to £100,000 and (v) over £100,000; and if he will make a statement. [131550]

Barry Gardiner: For financial year 2006-07, the relevant numbers were:

Staff exits from DEFRA during FY 2006-07

		Number		*Amount*
(a)	involuntary	16	(i)	£0 to £25,000
(a)	involuntary	5	(ii)	£25,001 to £50,000
(a)	involuntary	1	(iii)	£50,001 to £75,000
(b)	voluntary	53	(i)	£0 to £25,000
(b)	voluntary	37	(ii)	£25,001 to £50,000
(b)	voluntary	40	(iii)	£50,001 to £75,000
(b)	voluntary	28	(iv)	£75,001 to £100,000
(b)	voluntary	39	(v)	over £100,000
	Total	219	—	—

To provide relevant data prior to financial year 2006-07 would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Telephones Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138483]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA sponsors only one telephone helpline number that has an 0870 prefix. This number is for the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) helpline, which provides advice on travelling with your pet into (or back into) the UK. There is not a published alternative geographic number for this service.

DEFRA sponsors 14 telephone helpline numbers with an 0845 prefix. Only one of these, the DEFRA Helpline, has a published alternative geographic number.

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department takes to ensure that pedigree dogs are fit before they are allowed to breed. [140187]

Mr. Bradshaw: Anyone who is in the business of breeding and selling dogs requires a licence from the local authority under The Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 as amended by the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999. The local authority has discretion whether to grant a licence and must ensure that the animals will be suitably accommodated, fed, exercised and protected from disease and fire. It is for local authorities to enforce the requirements of the Act.

In the interests of animal welfare, the 1999 Act provides that bitches are not mated until they are at least one year old and that they give birth to no more than six litters in a lifetime and no more than one litter per year. Furthermore, the Animal Welfare Act which became law on 6 April, places an additional responsibility on all those who own or keep animals to ensure that their welfare needs are met.

EC Law

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions in each of the last five years his Department was the subject of a case raised by the European Commission of infringement of European Law; to which directives such infringements were related in each year; and what fines the UK was required to pay in each case. [138709]

Barry Gardiner: Between 1 January 2003 and 18 May 2007, DEFRA was the lead Department for 94 infringement proceedings initiated by the European Commission.

A member state can be infracted for a number of different reasons falling into the following categories:

(i) late transposition;

(ii) poor transposition; and

(iii) implementation issues.

A list of all infringements initiated by the European Commission against the UK can be found on the European Union website. The UK has never been fined.

Fair Trade Initiative

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the Fair Trade food initiative; what discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on that initiative; and if he will make a statement. [140082]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 5 June 2007]:* We strongly support the principles of Fair Trade and hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on food issues.

Farms

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many working farms ceased production in the last five years. [140490]

Barry Gardiner: The June Agricultural Survey does not specifically collect information about the number of farms that have ceased to trade. The following table shows the number of registered holdings in England in June 2002 and June 2006, as well as information on the numbers of farmers, partners and directors. These indicate net changes only and therefore reflect gains as well as losses.

Direct comparison between these two years cannot be made, because of the number of holdings in this period which have registered for administrative purposes.

	Total holdings	*Farmers full-time*	*Farmers part-time*
2002	187,871	103,782	121,739
2006	200,381	96,698	127,059

Note:
Farmers full and part-time includes farmers, partners, directors and spouses (if working on the holding).
Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Fisheries: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what date all *(a)* over 10 metre and *(b)* under 10 metre fishing licences were issued in each year since 1997. [140052]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table provides details of the latest dates by which all over 10 metre and 10 metre and under fishing vessel licences were issued to licence holders or vessel owners since 1997. Since 1997, fishing licences for 10 metre and under vessels have been issued biennially. Fishing licences for over 10 metre vessels were issued annually until 2006 when it was decided to extend the validity period. Starting in March 2007 they are being issued biennially in an effort to reduce burdens on fishermen and administrations.

In 2002, licences for 10 metre and under vessels were initially issued with a validity of two years, but were replaced in March 2004 with the introduction of the restrictive shellfish licensing scheme.

	Under 10 metre	*Over 10 metre*
1997	—	31 December 1997
1998	30 June 1998 (for two year period)	31 December 1998
1999	—	31 December 1999
2000	30 June 2000 (for two year period)	31 December 2000
2001	—	31 December 2001
2002	30 June 2002 (for two year period initially but later reduced to 21 month period)	31 December 2002
2003	—	31 December 2003
2004	31 March 2004 (for 27 month period)	31 December 2004
2005	—	31 December 2005
2006	30 June 2006 (for two year period)	31 December 2006 (for 15 month period)
2007	—	31 March 2007 (for two year period)

Fisheries: Protection

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the Fishery Protection Squadron; and if he will make a statement. [139087]

Mr. Bradshaw: In December 2006, I agreed to the continuation of the Royal Navy Fishery Protection service for five years from 1 April 2008.

The Royal Navy Fishery Protection Squadron undertakes monitoring, control and inspection activities at sea under an agreement with the Marine and Fisheries Agency. The current agreement expires on 31 March 2008. The detailed terms of a new agreement, to apply from 1 April 2008, will be discussed between officials from the Marine and Fisheries Agency, the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Navy during the course of this year.

Fisheries: Territorial Waters

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* skippers and *(b)* vessel owners were (i) prosecuted and (ii) convicted for violating fisheries rules in UK territorial waters in each year since 1997, broken down by (A) country and (B) offence; and if he will make a statement. [139088]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested in relation to activity undertaken by this Department and the Marine and Fisheries Agency in respect of England and Wales is set out in the table placed in the House Library. The information relates to offences detected at sea by RN fisheries patrol vessels and by aerial surveillance.

Food Supply

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Government have issued to retailers in the UK aimed at increasing food security. [140489]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CRNI) (formerly the Security Services) is the Government authority that provides protective security advice to businesses and organisations. The CPNI have had a number of meetings with food retailers to advise on the protection of food supplies, which DEFRA has attended. Protective security has also been discussed at several DEFRA Food Chain Emergency Liaison Group (FCELG) meetings, which a cross-section of stakeholders from the food industry regularly attends.

The major food retailers have robust and resilient business continuity plans to deal with any threat of disruption. DEFRA works closely with all parts of the industry to ensure that appropriate support is available in order to maintain supply to any part of the food chain.

In December 2006, my Department published "Food Security and the UK: An Evidence and Analysis Paper", a wide-ranging study on food security. This is available on the DEFRA website.

Ivory: Trade

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will support the proposal by Kenya and Mali to introduce a 20-year moratorium on the ivory trade at the forthcoming meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; and if he will make a statement. [139688]

Barry Gardiner: While I appreciate the reasons given for the proposed 20 year moratorium, I do not agree with the principle. Such a position would be against the tenet of the Convention that decisions are taken on the basis of the best scientific and trade data available at the time. In practice, no worthwhile purpose would be served, as a moratorium could be reconsidered and reversed at any subsequent Conference of Parties.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will oppose attempts to allow further trade in elephant ivory at the forthcoming meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [139689]

Barry Gardiner: We will consider all the information available to us at the CITES Standing Committee meeting on 2 June. We will only support a decision to allow the one-off sales of stockpiled ivory, previously agreed in 2002, to go ahead if all criteria are fully met. This includes (a) the approval of trading partners, considered to have sufficient legislation and internal controls in place, and (b) the establishment of baseline data on elephant population numbers and poaching levels through the monitoring of illegal killing of elephants (MIKE) programme.

The UK will not support any further proposals for ivory trade until the impact of the stockpile sales, should they go ahead, has been assessed.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will urge that Japan's status as a trading partner for ivory stockpiles be rescinded at the Standing Committee meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in June; and if he will make a statement. [139690]

Barry Gardiner: The CITES Secretariat has carried out several visits to Japan to ascertain its suitability as a recipient of stockpiled ivory to ensure that adequate controls are in place to avoid the ivory being re-exported.

At the 54th Standing Committee meeting in October 2006, the Secretariat considered that Japan fulfilled the conditions to become a trading partner. However, based on concerns felt by several countries, including the UK, it was agreed that the CITES Secretariat would provide an update on the measures Japan has and is putting in place. This will be reviewed at the 55th Committee meeting immediately prior to the Conference of the Parties in June.

The UK will consider that update carefully, and will only support trading nation status if we are sure that the necessary conditions have and continue to be met.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to support elephant conservation outside the work of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. [139691]

Barry Gardiner: There is already much good work being done on elephant conservation outside of CITES and I fully support this. In particular, the UK Government are key contributors to the work of the IUCN (World Conservation Union) African Elephant Specialist Group. Attention often focuses on the ivory trade issue, which CITES is responsible for monitoring. However, there are broader issues that also need to be taken forward at a continent-wide level to address the range of threats to elephants, including habitat fragmentation and human/elephant conflict in Africa and Asia. The UK continues to take an interest in how the range of states tackle these issues.

Landfill: Greater London

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Stewartby (L Field), Bedford landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139294]

(2) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Rainham landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139295]

(3) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Pitsea, Essex landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139296]

(4) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Mucking landfill, Thurrock landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139297]

(5) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Calvert Pit No. 4 Bucks landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139298]

(6) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Brookhurstwood Warnham, West Sussex landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139299]

(7) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at *(a)* Brogborough landfill in 2003 and *(b)* Brogborough extension, Bedford landfill site in 2005; [139300]

(8) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Arlesley, Bedfordshire landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005; [139301]

(9) how much waste from local authority areas within Greater London was disposed of at Appleford, Oxfordshire landfill site in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2005. [139302]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency holds records of waste arising from the Greater London area disposed of at the landfill sites in question. Their data for the years requested are based on operator waste returns and are shown in the following table in tonnes:

Landfill Site	*2003*	*2005*
Stewartby	428,459	106,308
Rainham	792,266	1,510,191
Pitsea	867,720	1,304,114
Mucking	655,928	714,043
Calvert Pit No. 4	834,594	843,259
Brookhurstwood	360,000	259,490
Brogborough	1,876,880	2,245,817
Arlesley	177,814	173,839
Appleford	273,142	523,477

Nature Conservation: Trade

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on protecting endangered species from trade in relation to the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in June; and if he will make a statement. [139687]

Barry Gardiner: The UK believes that CITES is one of the most important and influential conservation-focused Multilateral Environmental Agreements. We will continue to support its development to improve its influence and effectiveness in respect of species at threat, or likely to be at threat, from trade; particularly with a view to only supporting such trade where it can be shown that it will have no negative impact on the conservation of the species concerned in the wild.

On species listing proposals, parties consider the conservation status of the species concerned and

whether it meets the listing criteria developed by CITES. Parties also take account of the contribution that CITES controls can make towards improvement of the conservation status, while acknowledging the efforts of those countries that have implemented effective conservation measures.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will fund a workshop on the internet trade in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species specimens in the event that the proposal on internet trade is agreed at the forthcoming convention on international trade in endangered species meeting in June. [139692]

Barry Gardiner: The UK was instrumental in tabling the proposal for a CITES workshop on the internet trade in endangered species. This and other work programme proposals will be considered at the June Conference of Parties, along with funding issues. A costed work programme has been tabled by the CITES Secretariat that will establish how individual projects should be funded. Until the outcome of those discussions are known, parties, including the UK, are not in a position to say which elements of any programme they will support and how. Nevertheless, the UK, having put forward the proposal for the internet workshop, will do what it can to ensure that this takes place.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will seek to amend the proposal on livelihoods at the forthcoming meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in June to reflect more closely the positive impact that CITES enforcement has on livelihoods. [139693]

Barry Gardiner: We are not currently seeking to amend this proposal. However, if, during the meeting, it becomes clear that the proposal can be improved, made more accurate or clear about the role and impact of CITES trade on livelihoods, then we will look to participate constructively in any discussions.

Pest Control

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence his Department has obtained from other countries on the long distance transport of diabrotica virgifera into new geographical areas. [139561]

Barry Gardiner: "Diabrotica virgifera" is native to North America. The pest was first found in Serbia in 1992, and has since spread both within Eastern Europe and the EU. A scientific paper by researchers in France, "Multiple transatlantic introductions of the western corn rootworm",[1] was published in 2005. This suggested that there have been at least three separate introductions of "D. virgifera" from North America.

[1] Reference: Miller, N., Estoup, A., Toepfer, S., Bourget, D., Lapchin, L., Derridj, S., Kirn, K.S., Reynaud, P., Furlan, L. and Guillemaud, T. (2005). Science. 310:992.).

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether his Department has carried out an investigation into the origins of the two wild populations of diabrotica virgifera found in the wild in south east England; [139580]

(2) whether his Department has carried out DNA profiling of the two populations of diabrotica virgifera found in the wild in south east England in order to assist with investigations about their origins. [139582]

Barry Gardiner: Investigations into the origins of the populations of "diabrotica virgifera" found in the southeast of England are very difficult because the means by which "D. virgifera" was introduced are unclear. There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that "D. virgifera" is spread by aircraft. However, to date no studies have been carried out on the presence of potentially invasive insects on aircraft.

A study is currently being conducted to investigate whether the populations of "D. virgifera" found in south east England are related to populations of "D. virgifera" in eastern Europe and the USA. The results are due to be published later this year. However, these types of studies cannot specifically pinpoint the origin of an introduced species, and at best the results will demonstrate whether the populations of "D. virgifera" in south east England are more likely to be related to those from eastern Europe, the USA or both.

Sheep: Imports

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 763W, on sheep imports, how many of the lambs imported in the period November 2006 to February 2007 were imported for *(a)* slaughter, *(b)* fattening and *(c)* breeding. [139293]

Barry Gardiner: The TRACES (TRAde Control and Expert System) database is not currently functional, but I will write to my hon. Friend when information becomes available.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost is of a visit to an accident and emergency department in England. [140246]

Andy Burnham: In 2005-06, the average reported cost of an attendance to an accident and emergency (A&E) Department in England was £86. This is the most recent year for which costs are available and covers the cost of services provided by 24-hour and non-24 hour A&E departments in the national health services.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what care can be provided by an ambulance paramedic that cannot be provided by an ambulance technician. [140536]

Andy Burnham: An emergency medical technician (EMT) will have a sound knowledge of the basic concepts of patient care, having completed a training programme, worked under supervision for a probationary year, and achieved the national EMT award.

EMTs are able to make a provisional diagnosis, use their knowledge and skills to identify and differentiate between life-threatening and non-life threatening conditions, and be able to interpret and record baseline observations and gain a basic individual, familial and social history of a patient during an assessment of the patient's needs. From this they can determine the extent of patients' illness or injury and initiate treatment, based on the principles of the current national clinical guidelines, in an attempt to stabilise the condition. This will include the use of, amongst other things, airway adjuncts, defibrillation, basic analgesic and oxygen therapies, and administration of a number of medicines.

The precise difference in care that can be provided by a paramedic compared to an EMT will vary between national health service ambulance trusts as it will depend on the patient group directives in use by each trust for paramedics, and any additional training that the employer may have given their paramedics or EMTs over and above the national qualifications. However the core differences between the two roles are that:

paramedics are registered health professionals and are therefore required to maintain a portfolio of continual professional development;

paramedics can conduct a more thorough and detailed physical examination of the patient;

paramedics undertake invasive procedures and are able to give intra-muscular and sub-cutaneous injections, and external jugular vein cannulation; and

paramedics are able to practice in accordance with current legislation governing the use of prescription-only medicines and controlled drugs by paramedics.

Paramedic skills, over and above those also possessed by EMTs, are only used in a minority of cases.

Further information on the standards of proficiency required of paramedics can be obtained from The Health Professions Council's Standards of Proficiency for Paramedics which is available at:

www.hpc-uk.org/publications/standards/index.asp?id=48

In addition, the British Paramedic Association's Curriculum Framework for Ambulance Education provides details of EMT and paramedic education. This is available at:

www.britishparamedic.org/curriculum-framework/ .

Carers: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much carer's grant was allocated to Warrington borough council in each year since it was introduced; and how much of the grant was spent on services for carers. [139927]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The grant allocations paid to Warrington borough council as their share of the carers grant since 1999 are in the following table.

Carers grant Warrington 1999-2007

	£ million
1999-2000	0.65
2000-01	0.157
2001-02	0.218
2002-03	0.264
2003-04	0.335
2004-05	0.418
2005-06	0.619
2006-07	0.605
2007-08	0.603

The grant is no longer ringfenced and the Department does not collect data about how much each council spends supporting carers. However, councils do have a duty to support carers and they should be taking their needs into account when planning and commissioning all services.

Cerebral Palsy: Stem Cells

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatments using *(a)* embryonic stem cells and *(b)* stem cells from umbilical cords are available in the United Kingdom to children with cerebral palsy. [138551]

Caroline Flint: Such treatments are not currently available in the national health service. The United Kingdom Government are, however, committed to providing the best possible support for stem cell research and other experimental avenues of biomedical research that may, in the future, benefit patients suffering from a range of diseases.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on *(a)* cervical cancer and *(b)* the new vaccine for human papilloma virus. [139173]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the last year the Department has received 25 pieces of correspondence concerning cervical cancer, the majority of which concerned either cervical screening or the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine, 35 parliamentary questions concerning cervical cancer and/or HPV and there has been one Early Day Motion concerning cervical cancer and HPV.

Where appropriate these have been passed to the Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS) or the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) HPV vaccine sub-committee for consideration.

The ACCS was formed to advise Ministers and the Department on the national health service cervical screening programme, to monitor the effectiveness of this screening programme and to advise on research concerned with its provision.

The JCVI is an independent expert advisory committee first set up to advise the Secretaries of State for Health, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland on matters relating to communicable diseases, preventable and potentially preventable through immunisation.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on the *(a)* nature, *(b)* scope and *(c)* quality of biomedical research into chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis. [138272]

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on the funding of biomedical research into chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis. [138397]

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations her Department has received on the levels of biomedical research undertaken into chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis. [138623]

Caroline Flint: In the course of the last year the Department has received the report of the Group on Scientific Research into myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) convened by my hon. Friend the Member for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson), together with a number of letters from Members of Parliament on behalf of their constituents and from others concerned with chronic fatigue syndrome/ME research.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she *(a)* is taking and *(b)* plans to take to improve diagnostic waiting time targets for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis. [138274]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1497-98W.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research she has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on biomedical research into chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; what plans she has for future research in this area; and if she will make a statement. [138395]

Caroline Flint: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. That devolved funding is supporting a body of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME) research, including a number of projects where a research charity is the principal funder. Details are available on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research and is currently funding two trials into treatment options for CFS/ME and two epidemiological studies.

In addition, the new National Institute for Health Research South London and Maudsley NHS Trust and Institute of Psychiatry Biomedical Research Centre, funded by the Department, will undertake research on CFS/ME.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Screening

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS *(a)* has approved and *(b)* is developing any test that can diagnose myalgic encephalomyelitis in individuals; and if she will make a statement. [140686]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At present, there is no specific test for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME). Diagnosis is dependent on the recognition of the type and pattern of symptoms and tests to rule out other illnesses and conditions that can cause some or all of the symptoms experienced by the patient.

In 2004, the Department asked the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the diagnosis and management of CFS/ME. The guideline, which NICE expects to publish in August 2007, will include recommendations on the process of assessment leading to diagnosis and will include guidance on clinical case definition, appropriate timing for diagnosis and the use of laboratory, imaging or other tests.

Cost Shunting

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 777, on cost shunting, whether she plans to discuss the opportunities afforded by local government reform with her Cabinet colleagues in *(a)* the Department for Communities and Local Government, *(b)* the Cabinet Office and *(c)* other departments. [134990]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department, like all Government Departments with an interest in local government issues, will continue to work together to develop and implement the vision for local government set out in the White Paper "Strong and Prosperous Communities" that was published on 26 October 2006. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill proposes to implement much of the White Paper. The Bill will enhance local leadership on health and well-being and make it easier for local authorities and national health service bodies to work together in delivering integrated health and social care services to citizens.

Dental Services

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department issues on the recommended period of time between dental check ups. [138895]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All dentists with national health service primary care contracts are required to provide services in accordance with relevant guidance issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), including NICE'S clinical guideline on recall intervals between routine dental examinations. NICE recommends that this recall interval should be determined specifically for each individual patient and should be tailored to meet his or her needs, on the basis of an assessment of disease levels and risk of, or from, dental disease. The shortest recommended interval for a routine

dental recall for patients is three months. The longest recommended interval is 12 months for patients under 18 years of age and 24 months for adult patients. The clinical guideline indicates that dentists should discuss the recommended recall interval with the patient and review it at the next oral health review.

The Department's advice to patients, reflected on the Department's website and in the patient information leaflet "NHS dentistry in England: information for patients", is that they should follow their dentist's advice on when to go back for regular check ups. The advice indicates that, if a patient's dental health is good, they may only have to go for a check up every two years.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population in *(a)* England and *(b)* Milton Keynes has attended a dental surgery in the last two years. [138896]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on numbers of patients who have received care or treatment from a national health service dentist in the last two years and the percentage of the population this represents is published regularly. The latest available information is for the two years ending 31 December 2006. This information is contained in section F2 of annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3:31 December 2006 report which is available in the Library.

This report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care, is also available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value is of each unit of dental activity in each primary care trust in England. [139536]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data collected by the Department centrally does not identify the value of units of dental activity (UDAs) or provide a basis for comparisons of UDA values between primary care trusts (PCTs). PCTs set contract values and service level requirements locally. UDA values will vary because of a number of factors, including differences in treatment patterns and treatment needs in different areas, the contract values negotiated locally by PCTs and dental practices, and the degree to which PCTs and practices may have agreed service outputs that cannot be measured through patient courses of treatment.

Dental Services: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding went to providing dentistry provision in Shrewsbury and Telford constituencies in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [140213]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) assumed full responsibility for local commissioning of primary care dentistry and received devolved budgets with effect from 1 April 2006. A table listing the primary dental service resource allocations for 2006-07 for all PCTs in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. PCTs determine the distribution of resources within their areas. A breakdown of the primary dental service resource allocations by constituency areas is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Full-year data on expenditure by PCTs on primary dental care in 2006-07 are not yet available.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former general dental service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand-led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health service work they chose to undertake. PCTs were not given fixed GDS funding allocations. In a number of areas, personal dental service (PDS) pilots were also established, where some former GDS dental practices and some directly managed dental services converted to locally commissioned arrangements to test new ways of working and new forms of contract remuneration. PDS pilots were funded by PCTs from supplementary allocations issued by the Department.

The following table shows the available data on expenditure on the former GDS and PDS services for the constituencies of Shrewsbury and Atcham and Telford for 2004-05 and 2005-06. The difference between gross and net expenditure is the contribution to costs from dental charges collected directly from patients.

Core GDS and PDS dental payments within Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency and Telford constituency, 2004-05 and 2005-06[1,2,3,4,5]

£ million

	2004-05	2005-06
Shrewsbury and Atcham		
Gross GDS	2.802	1.791
Net GDS	2.047	1.415
Gross PDS	0.412	2.430
Net PDS	0.338	1.983
Gross GDS and PDS	3.214	4.221
Net GDS and PDS	2.386	3.398
Telford		
Gross GDS	2.429	1.068
Net GDS	1.913	1.050
Gross PDS	0.976	3.292
Net PDS	0.833	2.696
Gross GDS and PDS	3.406	4.361
Net GDS and PDS	2.746	3.746

[1] Gross GDS payments include adult fees (including item of service and continuing care payments), child fees (including item of service and capitation payments), commitment payments, seniority payments, maternity/paternity/adoptive leave payments, long term sick leave payments, continuing professional development allowances including travel hours, reimbursement of business rates, vocational training grants and clinical audit payments. The following costs are excluded from this data: employer's superannuation costs, vocational trainee salaries and NI contribution costs, clinical audit convenors, clinical audit secretarial support costs and travel expenses, and costs associated with any salaried general dental practitioners and emergency dental services.

[2] PDS payment data relate to baseline payments or the agreed regular monthly payments made to PDS practices. The data cannot identify the cost of any PDS services that are directly managed by local NHS trusts, such as certain dental access centres.

[3] In the immediate aftermath of dental practices converting from GDS to PDS pilots, there can be a period of overlapping expenditure as time lags in submitting GDS treatment claims can mean that clearance of GDS arrears coincides with the start of regular PDS payments.

[4] Payments to dental practices are assigned to areas on the basis of practice postcode data. The practices themselves may draw patients from a wider catchment area.

[5] Net payments represent the balance of payments due after taking account of NHS dental charge income collected from patients by dental practices.

Source:
NHS Information Centre

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists are working in Shrewsbury and Atcham; and how many there were in 2006. [140223]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The numbers of national health service dentists in Shrewsbury and Atcham constituency from 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2006 are available in annex G of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is based on the old contractual arrangements. The report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Information on the dental work force under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, is published every quarter by The Information Centre for health and social care.

These data are not comparable with the historical data prior to this date.

The latest data available are in annex G (number of dentists), within Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Quarter 3: 31 December 2006 report. Data are only available at SHA and PCT level. To provide these data at constituency level area would be at disproportionate cost. The report is available in the Library and is also available at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/publications/dental06q3/Quarterly%20Publication%20Q3%202006-7%20Annex%203.xls

Departmental Travel

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions *(a)* she and *(b)* Ministers in her Department have used (i) non-scheduled flights and (ii) helicopters within the UK on official business in the last 12 months; and what the (A) purpose and (B) estimated cost was of each such flight. [118164]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Secretary of State and Ministers in her Department have not used any unscheduled flights in the last 12 months.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State visited the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Charity on 30 October 2006 and took a short helicopter flight at the request of the Chief Executive of the Charity at no cost to the Department or the Air Ambulance Charity.

The cost of our aircraft on that occasion was borne by the aviation contractor. It follows therefore that it was at no cost to either the Department, or the Air Ambulance Charity

Departmental Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* destination and *(b)* purpose was of each overseas visit outside the European Union undertaken by staff in her Department in the last two months. [118165]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The destinations and numbers of staff travelling outside the European Union between March and May 2007 are shown in the following table. All staff were travelling for the purposes of Departmental business. All trips are taken in accordance with the guidelines set down in the civil service code, which states that civil servants must make sure public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently; and use resources only for the authorised public purposes for which they are provided.

Destination	*Number of travellers*
Hong Kong	1
Vancouver	2
San Diego	1
New York	6
Singapore	1
Muscat	1
Moscow	1
Tblisi	2
Washington	6
Philadelphia	1
Seattle	1
Los Angeles	2

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by her Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139401]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, departmental figures for the cost of external legal services procured by its own lawyers are set out in the following table.

	Net	*VAT*	£ *Total*
2002-03	1,407,890.39	163,040.69	1,570,958.01
2003-04	1,540,718.46	244,872.77	1,785,590.23
2004-05	1,145,224.50	133,346.73	1,278,162.10
2005-06	1,631,254.29	165,638.80	1,816,955.84

Source:
Department of Health Solicitors Unit

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people without posts are employed in her Department. [135873]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department currently has 47 people not in permanent posts but carrying out meaningful work across the organisation until a permanent post can be identified to which they are then deployed.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many telephone helplines are sponsored by her Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138484]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's main public facing telephone inquiry service, the Customer Service Centre, has a geographic number (020 7210 4850). The Department also uses a Government wide switchboard service (020 27210 3000). There are individual switchboard services for the Department's main buildings and these have geographic telephone numbers.

The Department's Executive Agencies, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Service (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) also have geographic numbers.

The Department has a Healthy Start (formerly known as the Welfare Foods Helpline), a service operated under contract to provide assistance to nurseries and individuals with inquiries about welfare foods e.g. milk tokens. The numbers for members of the public are 0845 6076833/6076823. The numbers for commercial providers are 08707 203063/201688. These will be reviewed as part of the contract review in 2008.

NHS Direct uses a 0845 number 0845 4647. There is no geographic alternative.

The Department grant funds a wide range of voluntary and charitable organisations to provide services relating to health and healthy living. Some of these organisations include telephone helplines as part of their services. It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate cost, to identify individual projects with telephones services and whether geographic telephone numbers are used.

Diabetes: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people with diabetes who are unable to leave their home unaided have *(a)* been offered screening for diabetic retinopathy and *(b)* registered on a national screening programme; [139237]

(2) how many people with diabetes registered in a national screening programme for diabetic retinopathy are being screened annually; [139238]

(3) how many people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy *(a)* registered in national screening programmes and *(b)* participated in a national screening programme in each year since 2003-04. [139239]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data are not held centrally on how many people with diabetes who are unable to leave their home unaided have been offered screening for diabetic retinopathy.

The information in the following tables show the number of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy and the number of people receiving screening broken down by year.

Table 1

	Number of people with diabetes offered screening for diabetic retinopathy
2003-04	835,900
2004-05	1,076,400
2005-06	1,478,223
2006-07	1,593,644

Table 2

	Number of people with diabetes receiving screening for diabetic retinopathy[1]
2003-04	[2]753,997
2004-05	1,076,388
2005-06	1,232,043
2006-07	1,256,463

[1] Data from Local Delivery Plans returns
[2] Data for year 2003-04 was an incomplete return

Disabled: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Milton Keynes and *(b)* England were registered as having a temporary disability which leads to reduced mobility in each year since 1995. [140740]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Eating Disorders: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children between the ages of 10 and 18 years were treated for *(a)* bulimia and *(b)* anorexia in each of the last 10 years. [139116]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected in the format requested. Information is available from 1996-97 onwards about the number of finished consultant episodes where the primary diagnosis was anorexia or bulimia.

We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. This is why the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders, and which NICE published in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and information specifically for patients, carers and the general public. The guideline is due for review in January 2008.

Count of finished consultant episodes where there was a primary diagnosis of anorexia or bulimia; 1996-97 to 2005-06.

NHS Hospitals, England

	Anorexia	*Bulimia*
2005-06	620	23
2004-05	517	23
2003-04	532	22
2002-03	552	32
2001-02	497	26
2000-01	469	19
1999-2000	482	28
1998-99	465	24
1997-98	484	46
1996-97	419	49

Notes:
A finished consultant episode is a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures represent the number of treatment episodes provided, but do not represent the individual number of patients seen, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* clinics, *(c)* health centres and *(d)* other care providers within the NHS specialise in the treatment of children suffering from eating disorders; [139117]

(2) how many cases of children being admitted to hospital for illnesses or conditions relating to eating disorders were as a result of intervention from *(a)* a teacher, *(b)* a parent and *(c)* a health worker in each of the last 10 years. [139136]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

We take the issue of eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. This is why the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders, and which NICE published in 2004. The guideline covers physical and psychological treatments, treatment with medicines, and information specifically for patients, carers and the public. The guideline is due for review in January 2008.

In the five years to the end of March 2007, we have invested over £400 million of additional money into the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provided by the national health service and local authorities. These funds have assisted in meeting and then maintaining the Department's public service agreement standard of a comprehensive CAMHS, including services for young people with an eating disorder. Further funds totalling over £100 million have been made available to the NHS and local authorities in 2007-08 to help maintain this progress.

As primary care trusts (PCTs) consider local health needs and commissioned services, they will need to assess whether the right balance exists between in-patient care and home-based care, particularly at highly specialised levels, to help individuals with eating disorders. This means that PCTs will need to consider their commissioning role, where they work with local organisations and opportunities exist to commission services jointly, for example, where voluntary organisations can provide services more effectively than statutory services.

Between 2004 and 2009, the Department is also funding a five-year initiative, Shift, to tackle the stigma and discrimination surrounding mental health issues in England. Shift works with young people and professionals to promote awareness of all mental health problems, including eating disorders.

The Department funds several voluntary sector organisations involved with eating disorders, including Weight Concern and Beat, formerly the Eating Disorder Association, for whom we are funding a three-year pathways to recovery project, which provides a support network of people who have had eating disorders.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether children in full-time education being educated at home have the same rights to *(a)* free NHS sight tests and *(b)* vouchers to cover other costs of ophthalmology as children in full-time education being educated in institutions; what guidance she has issued to (i) opticians and (ii) local authorities to reflect these entitlements; and what evidence must be accepted as proof of a child being in full-time education at home. [140435]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* All children under the age of 16 are entitled to national health service sight tests and vouchers for optical appliances, as are children aged 16, 17 and 18 who are being educated full-time in a recognised educational establishment. The Department has not previously issued specific guidance on this subject. Where children aged 16 to 18 are being educated at home, the local primary care trust would need to seek advice from the local education authority to assess whether these arrangements are comparable to full-time education in such an establishment.

General Practitioners

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there were in *(a)* Stroud constituency, *(b)* Gloucestershire, *(c)* the South West and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [138654]

Andy Burnham: The number of general practitioners per 100,000 population from 1997-2006 is shown in the table for England and South West Strategic Health Authority and Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT) from 2001, the year PCTs were established, to 2006. Information is collected by primary care trust and it is not possible to map this to a specific constituency.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population, by specified organisations[2], 1997 to 2006, England

Number (Headcount)

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England										
GMPs[1]	28,046	28,251	28,467	28,593	28,802	29,202	30,358	31,523	32,738	33,091
GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	57.6	57.9	58.1	58.1	58.2	58.8	60.9	62.9	64.9	65.3
South West										
GMPs[1]	3,014	3,071	3,096	3,129	3,159	3,225	3,361	3,620	3,809	3,807
GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	62.4	63.3	63.4	63.6	63.8	64.9	67.2	71.8	75.1	75.0

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] per 100,000 head of population, by specified organisations[2], 1997 to 2006, England

Number (Headcount)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Gloucestershire PCT										
GMPs[1]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	348	352	367	412	429	399
GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	61.6	62.2	64.6	71.9	74.6	69.4

n/a = Data not available. [1] General Medical Practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes GP Providers and GP Others. [2] Organisations in the NHS were restructured in 2001 and 2006. The data above are based on SHA and PCT boundaries as at 1 October 2006. Data from 2001 to 2005 have been mapped to 2006 boundaries but this is not possible for data prior to 2001. This should be taken into consideration when making comparisons between 2006 and earlier years.

Notes:

1. Mid-year ONS 2006 population figures for PCTs are not yet available, therefore 2005 PCT figures have been used for 2006 organisation calculations; as a result these figures are subject to change. 2. Data as at 1 October 1997-99 and 30 September 2000-06.

Sources: The Information Centre General and Personal Medical Services Statistics. Mid-year Resident Population Estimates, Office for National Statistics. An A-Z list of the doctors in Gloucestershire can be found at: www.glosgoodhealth.org.uk/goodhealth/az_doctors.htm

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department set up a *(a)* working group, *(b)* steering group and *(c)* any other regular series of meetings on the new contract for the delivery of general medical services prior to June 2003. [140012]

Andy Burnham: The NHS Confederation had responsibility for leading negotiations on developing the contract for general medical services and in discussion with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee agreed a process for managing discussions and negotiations for establishment of a new contract. As part of those arrangements, it was agreed that the Department would act as an observer to that process. However, regular update meetings were held between the NHS Confederation and the Department as part of that process. In addition, the Department also established internal mechanisms for considering and informing progress on the contract negotiations.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to renegotiate the contract for the delivery of general medical services agreed in June 2003. [140016]

Andy Burnham: The general medical services (and other primary medical care) contract is kept under constant review and is subject to ongoing discussions between NHS Employers and the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date she met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the renegotiation of the contract for the delivery of general medical services agreed in June 2003. [140017]

Andy Burnham: The general medical services (and other primary medical care) contract is kept under constant review and is subject to ongoing discussions between NHS Employers and the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee. As part of that process, discussions between Her Majesty's Treasury and the Department take place on a regular basis.

Health Professions: Insurance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to consult on her proposals to amend legislation to ensure that all practising health care professionals have compulsory indemnity cover. [137408]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's review "The regulation of non-medical healthcare professions" made reference to the fact that professional indemnity cover is becoming a condition of registration for all health care professions. The introduction of compulsory professional indemnity cover for a specific profession will require secondary legislation. A three-month public consultation will form part of any such legislative process. No timetable for this has yet been set.

Health Services: Age Discrimination

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to tackle age discrimination in the provision of health services; what targets she has set for this work; and what progress has been made towards such targets. [139772]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Action to tackle age discrimination in access to health and social care has been a central aspect of the national service framework (NSF) for older people. The NSF for older people recognised that age discrimination in access to health and social care exists. It made the clear statement that age discrimination would not be tolerated and set out the developing actions to address this.

The Healthcare Commission report, "Living Well in Later Life", published in March 2006, found that explicit age discrimination had declined since the NSF was published, as a result of national health service trusts auditing policies on access to services and social services departments reviewing their eligibility criteria for social care services. In the first phase of the NSF for older people, there was a significant improvement in access to services, including a more than 100 per cent. rise in breast screening of the over-65s, increased hip replacements and cataract operations.

In April 2006 the National Director for Older People, Professor Ian Philp, published the second phase of the NSF, "A New Ambition for Old Age", encouraging the involvement of older people in service planning and also focusing on improving the integration of services and the promotion of healthy ageing. The report recognised that huge strides have been made in improving the health of older people. Death rates for heart disease, stroke and cancer among older people are down. Discrimination in treatment is now less likely. For example, heart surgery in the over 75s has risen from 2 per cent. to 10 per cent.

On 27 January 2007, Ian Philp launched "A Recipe for Care—Not a Single Ingredient". This report sets out the challenge ahead in looking after older people and why services need to change to ensure older people get the best possible care.

Departmental policy and guidance requires the assessment and provision of services to be undertaken based on need. We expect services to promote independence, choice and control as well as safety. We make it clear that all staff should treat older people with dignity and respect, whether it is in a hospital, care home or their own home.

The Government are currently developing the Discrimination Law Review Green Paper, which will seek to address age discrimination in all public services.

Health Services: Private Sector

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what monitoring her Department has undertaken of the sale to Clinical Excellence of the five year licence granted to Nations Ltd. to build an independent sector treatment centre; and if she will make a statement. [139115]

Andy Burnham: The Department cannot comment on negotiations between independent commercial entities.

The Department has procedures in place to safeguard services, quality and patient safety if an independent sector provider is subject to change of control. All contractual terms still apply.

The level of Departmental involvement depends on the specific contract. In general, for wave one contracts, any change of control requires Departmental consent only when there is a change in performance or termination security guarantee.

For the independent sector extended choice network and phase two contracts, approval is required for any change of control.

In addition, the Department provides guidance to providers setting out what information we require and the standards we expect from providers including clinical governance, management and staffing and service continuity.

Health Services: Young Offenders

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a national service framework is in place to guide the management and treatment of young, violent or sex offenders; and how many secure accommodation places for the management and treatment of young, violent or sex offenders there were in each year from 2000 to 2006. [137108]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is no national service framework (NSF) in place specifically to guide the management of young violent or young sex offenders.

The Department issued "Promoting Mental Health for Children held in Secure Settings—A Framework for Commissioning Services" in March. The document is a strategic framework targeted at commissioners and service providers, in order to ensure that children in secure settings have access to comprehensive child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS).

The Department will support the framework with investment of £1.5 million this year. This will aid the implementation of tier three CAMHS within the HM Prison Service young persons' estate.

Other relevant national policies and frameworks in place include the NSF for children, the NSF for mental health, and elements of the "Every child matters: change for children" programme. These should all be applied to children held in secure settings as they are for children in the wider community.

The Department and the Ministry of Justice are jointly developing a national policy framework for the development of services for young people who have sexually abused. The framework will aim to use existing resources in a more coherent and consistent manner, as well as bring together the information on best practice and effective treatment interventions.

Children and young people held in secure settings are treated according to their individual health needs, which can be complex and consist of more than one diagnosis. Placements are not broken down by offence. Information on the numbers of places for the management and treatment of young violent and/or young sex offenders across all types of secure settings is therefore not available. Referrals to mental health in-reach services or for other specialist services should be made on the basis of individual need, and the arrangements for providing these services will vary from establishment to establishment.

Health: Research

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the Cooksey review's recommendation for a review of *(a)* the impact of diseases and illnesses in the UK on the population and economy and *(b)* the health priorities of the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research. [139091]

Caroline Flint: The Department has initiated a scoping study of the burden of disease that will inform any future work on United Kingdom health priorities. The Cooksey Review has recommended that when the UK's health priorities have been determined, the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research should use this information to establish health research priorities for the UK.

Heart Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to conduct a cardiac stock-take to review capacity across the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [139241]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ten strategic health authorities across London and the south east conducted a stock-take of capacity for that area in 2005-06. This work was supported by the Department's vascular programme. The same methods employed for the stock-take have been used to review capacity in some other parts of the country in relation to specific business cases. No formal national stock-take of capacity is planned at this stage, because the planning of capacity is a responsibility of local national health service organisations.

Heart Diseases: North West Region

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* patients were treated and *(b)* fatalities occurred in the (i) coronary care units and (ii) stroke units at (A) the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, (B) Furness General Hospital and (C) Westmorland General Hospital in each of the last five years. [140383]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* total number of beds and *(b)* number of beds per 100,000 population (i) for England and (ii) for each strategic health authority was in each year since 2002-03. [137295]

Andy Burnham: The information is in the following table.

Average daily number of available beds by 100,000 head of population, strategic health authorities (SHA) in England, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Total beds	*Beds per 100,000 population*	*Total beds*	*Beds per 100,000 population*	*Total beds*	*Beds per 100,000 population*	*Total beds*	*Beds per 100,000 population*
England	197,931	399	198,433	398	195,376	390	189,816	376
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	9,053	413	9,096	410	8,859	396	8,331	368
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	5,489	342	5,126	317	5,221	323	4,449	273
Essex	5,333	329	5,503	338	5,202	318	5,182	315
North West London	7,199	398	6,983	385	7,174	391	7,077	378
North Central London	6,348	523	6,413	526	6,625	540	6,388	514
North East London	6,392	418	6,261	409	6,380	417	6,237	404
South East London	6,370	420	6,686	442	6,723	444	6,557	430
South West London	4,694	359	5,030	384	4,925	373	4,795	359
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	7,704	553	7,638	549	7,517	538	7,437	529
County Durham and Tees Valley	5,200	454	5,225	456	5,070	441	4,979	432
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincs	5,522	338	5,476	334	5,492	332	5,428	327
West Yorkshire	9,169	439	9,309	444	8,477	402	8,432	398
Cumbria and Lancashire	8,208	430	8,155	425	7,887	409	7,533	389
Greater Manchester	11,226	445	11,331	448	10,951	431	10,735	421
Cheshire and Merseyside	10,129	431	10,236	435	10,172	431	9,875	418
Thames Valley	6,258	297	6,413	304	6,399	302	6,205	290
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	6,246	349	6,197	345	6,373	354	5,879	325
Kent and Medway	5,385	339	5,358	335	5,273	327	5,051	312
Surrey and Sussex	9,225	360	9,780	380	9,150	355	8,816	340
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	8,941	411	8,696	397	8,651	392	8,647	389
South West Peninsula	5,962	375	6,306	394	6,220	384	6,061	372
Dorset and Somerset	5,847	488	5,043	418	4,950	408	4,816	396
South Yorkshire	6,385	503	6,332	498	6,453	505	6,366	495
Trent	9,288	350	9,782	366	9,567	356	9,245	342

Average daily number of available beds by 100,000 head of population, strategic health authorities (SHA) in England, 2002-03 to 2005-06

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Total beds	Beds per 100,000 population	Total beds	Beds per 100,000 population	Total beds	Beds per 100,000 population	Total beds	Beds per 100,000 population
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	5,636	359	5,666	358	5,512	346	5,382	335
Shropshire and Staffordshire	5,298	355	5,361	358	5,143	343	4,934	328
Birmingham and the Black Country	10,258	451	10,129	446	9,901	435	9,876	432
West Midlands South	5,167	336	4,903	316	5,109	328	5,102	324

Note:
Population data are mid-year population estimates based on the 2001 census. Beds totals include beds in wards open overnight, day only beds and residential care beds.
Source:
Department of Health form KH03 and ONS Population Estimates Unit

Hospital Funding

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding is allocated to hospitals in addition to primary care trust contracted operations; and for what purposes. [111355]

Andy Burnham: Revenue allocations are made directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), not hospitals. Once revenue allocations have been made, it is for PCTs to commission services based on the needs of their local populations.

National health service trusts may also receive additional payments from the centrally managed NHS budgets (formerly the Central Funded Initiatives Services and Special Allocations (CFISSA)). Details of these payments are available in the Library.

Hospitals: Fees and Charges

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps she has taken to reduce the cost of *(a)* telephone, *(b)* television and *(c)* car park services in hospitals for patients requiring long term care; [139807]

(2) what the average price of the use of *(a)* the telephone and *(b)* televisions for patients in hospitals in the north-east was in each of the last 10 years. [139841]

Andy Burnham: Each provider of the bedside telephone and television service set their own charges subject to the limited concession requirements set by the Department. The Department is not in a position to dictate ongoing price policies of private companies who take sole financial liability for their operations.

Following the conclusion of an Office of Communications (Ofcom) investigation, in January 2006, the Department set up a review group to explore how the bedside services could be provided without charging as high a price for the incoming calls. The review group concluded that there was no easy quick-fix solution to this issue.

The fixed price of the outgoing call cost up to April 2007 was 10p per minute (minimum 20p).

The incoming call charges have remained constant for two of the service providers at 39p per minute off peak and 49p per minute peak. Charges per minute for the third service provider were; 14p in 2002, 17p in 2003, 20p in 2004 and it currently charges 35p.

The average charge for use of the television since 2001 is £3.50 for two of the service providers and £3.00 for the third, for a 24-hour period. Some of the service providers offer a reduced rate television service for long stay patients.

The largest provider of the systems recently reconfigured its charging structure, which resulted in increasing its outgoing call charge to 26p per minute (minimum 40p) and reducing its television package to £2.90 for a 24-hour period.

It is for individual national health service bodies to set the level of charges for car parking provided on their premises, taking into account local circumstances. The Department of Health has issued guidance which recommends considering concessions for certain types of patient, but final decisions lie with the NHS body.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has for mandatory prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections; and if she will make a statement. [138647]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Not all healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) can be prevented but reducing HCAIs, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Clostridium difficile* (*C. difficile*) infections is one of four top priorities for the national health service.

"The Health Act 2006: Code of practice for the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections" came into force on 1 October 2006 and already requires NHS bodies to have appropriate management and clinical governance systems in place to deliver effective infection control. Compliance with the code is assessed by the Healthcare Commission (HCC) and the HCC has the power to issue an improvement notice to an NHS body that in its view, is not properly observing the code.

In addition to a national target to halve MRSA bacteraemias (blood stream infections) by April 2008, local targets have been introduced to significantly reduce cases of *C. difficile* since 1 April 2007. We are

planning to consult on amendment regulations on how to apply the provisions of the code to the independent health and adult social care sectors later this year.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition her Department uses of healthcare-associated infections; and if she will make a statement. [138652]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No single definition is used for all circumstances but in general healthcare associated infections are infections that are acquired by patients following admission to hospital or as a result of healthcare interventions in other healthcare facilities.

Healthcare workers are also at risk of acquiring some types of infection as a result of caring for patients.

More specific definitions may be used, for example in surveillance systems or in legislation. The definition from the Health Act 2006 is given as follows:

(8) In this section "health care associated infection" means any infection to which an individual may be exposed or made susceptible (or more susceptible) in circumstances where

(a) health care is being, or has been, provided to that or any other individual, and

(b) the risk of exposure to the infection, or of susceptibility (or increased susceptibility) to it, is directly or indirectly attributable to the provision of the health care.

Hospitals: Parking

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* NHS Trusts and *(b)* hospitals have acted on her Department's recommendations to provide free or reduced price parking for patients requiring regular treatment. [139805]

Andy Burnham: Under income generation rules it is for each individual national health service body to manage any car parking scheme on its premises, including what charges to impose and what concessions to offer, taking into consideration all of the relevant local factors. "Income Generation: Car Parking Charges—Best Practice for Implementation", issued in December 2006, is intended to provide advice and support in carrying out that function. While we would expect NHS bodies to consider and take account of the recommendations set out in the document, they are not obliged to adhere to them unconditionally.

The Estates Related Information Collection database monitors some transport and car parking related activities. However, it does not monitor implementation of any of the recommendations in this best practice document. It is therefore not possible to provide the information requested.

Macular Degeneration

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatment is available on the NHS for wet macular eye degeneration. [140399]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* All primary care trusts (PCTs) are funding photodynamic therapy treatment for patients with both the wholly classic and predominantly classic forms of wet age-related macular degeneration, in line with guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

NICE is currently carrying out an appraisal of Lucentis and Macugen, which are now both licensed for the treatment of wet age-related macular, degeneration, and final guidance is due to be published in September 2007.

Where guidance from NICE is not yet available, PCTs are expected to apply local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies. These arrangements should include an assessment of the available evidence.

Macular Degeneration: Surgery

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the use of new surgical procedures in the treatment of dry age-related macular degeneration; and if she will make a statement; [139709]

(2) if she will bring forward proposals to extend the use of telescopic eye implants in the treatment of dry age-related macular degeneration; and if she will make a statement; [139710]

(3) when she expects the use of telescopic eye implants for the treatment of dry age-related macular degeneration to be made available on the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [139711]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department is aware of the development of telescopic eye implants and the trials of these devices that are under way. The Department has not itself made an assessment of these devices.

The Department issued revised guidance on managing the introduction of new healthcare interventions in December 2006. This advises national health service organisations that where National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance does not exist NHS bodies should continue with local arrangements for introducing new technologies, based on an assessment of the available evidence. The guidance identifies potential sources of information to help PCTs make these assessments.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the spending per head of population is on mental health in each local health district in 2007-08; how much was spent in each of the last five years; and what indices are used to guide future spending plans. [140528]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Information about the spending per head of population on mental health in each local district in 2007-08 is not available. Details of total planned investment, and of overall investment per head, in each strategic health authority (SHA) from 2003-04 to 2005-06 is shown in the following tables. Data are not available prior to 2003-04, and data for 2006-07 have not yet been published.

Primary care trusts (PCTs), together with their SHAs and other local stakeholders, should determine their future spending plans from their own allocated

funds when commissioning services to meet the mental heath and other healthcare needs of their local populations. Funding allocations for mental health are included in the needs element of the weighted-capitation formula, the needs adjustment part of which was examined in a major review of the formula prior to the 2003-04 to 2005-06 revenue allocations to PCTs.

The review was overseen by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, and the results were published in the Allocation of Resources to English Areas report. A copy of the report is available in the Library.

Table 1: SHA total planned investment and investment per head of weighted working age adult population in England 2005-06

SHA	Total investment (£000)	Overall investment per head (£)
North Central London	234,380	207
South East London	260,590	204
South West London	166,496	185
North West London	275,728	174
Surrey and Sussex	212,414	173
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	192,256	168
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	184,947	166
Dorset and Somerset	93,656	164
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	155,116	157
Essex	134,130	155
South West Peninsula	126,243	154
West Yorkshire	224,289	154
North East London	231,272	152
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	134,663	149
West Midlands South	129,479	146
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	147,234	145
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	132,985	145
Cumbria and Lancashire	177,823	144
Cheshire and Merseyside	241,707	142
Birmingham and The Black Country	252,558	141
County Durham and Tees Valley	113,848	139
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	123,498	136
Shropshire and Staffordshire	117,419	135
South Yorkshire	118,112	134
Thames Valley	156,705	134
Trent	199,112	130
Greater Manchester	252,233	128
Kent and Medway	114,884	128
Total investment and average investment per head	4,903,776	153

Source:
Mental Health Strategies, 2005-06 National Survey of Investment in Mental Health Services

Table 2: SHA total planned investment and investment per head of weighted working age adult population in England 2004-05

SHA	Total investment (£000)	Overall investment per head (£)
North Central London	213,890	189
South East London	237,073	186
North West London	279,702	176
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	186,763	163
South West London	145,856	162
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	169,551	152
Surrey and Sussex	182,701	149
Dorset and Somerset	83,813	147
West Yorkshire	210,400	144
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	129,099	143
Essex	121,542	140
South West Peninsula	114,254	140
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	127,362	139
Cumbria and Lancashire	168,747	137
West Midlands South	120,924	137
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	125,132	136
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	131,681	130
Cheshire and Merseyside	248,920	130
Shropshire and Staffordshire	111,052	127
County Durham and Tees Valley	103,908	127
North East London	193,999	127
Trent	192,412	126
Thames Valley	142,925	122
Greater Manchester	213,158	122
South Yorkshire	105,328	120
Birmingham and The Black Country	212,163	119
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	103,499	114
Kent and Medway	98,006	109
Total investment and average investment per head	4,473,860	140

Source:
Mental Health Strategies, 2004-05 National Survey of Investment in Mental Health Services

Table 3: SHA total planned investment and investment per head of weighted working age adult population in England 2003-04

SHA	Total investment (£000)	Overall investment per head (£)
South East London	217,402	170
North West London	245,403	155
South West London	138,815	154
North Central London	170,792	151
Essex	125,046	144
Surrey and Sussex	178,506	140
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	152,490	133
South West Peninsula	107,813	132
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	142,268	127
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	114,758	127
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	115,988	126
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	124,717	123
West Midlands South	108,531	123

Table 3: SHA total planned investment and investment per head of weighted working age adult population in England 2003-04

SHA	Total investment (£000)	Overall investment per head (£)
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	113,134	120
Somerset and Dorset	68,195	119
Thames Valley	139,097	119
West Yorkshire	170,642	117
Cumbria and Lancashire	141,391	115
Shropshire and Staffordshire	94,026	108
Birmingham and The Black Country	192,721	108
County Durham and Tees Valley	87,130	107
Kent and Medway	94,945	106
Greater Manchester	185,402	106
Cheshire and Merseyside	203,623	106
North East London	154,353	101
South Yorkshire	87,210	99
North and East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire	88,348	98
Trent	147,746	97
Total investment and average investment per head	3,910,506	122

Source:
Mental Health Strategies, 2003-04 National Survey of Investment in Mental Health Services

Mental Health: Cannabis

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions on mental health grounds resulting from the use of cannabis there were in each year since 1997. [131912]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is shown in the following table. It corrects data about mental health-related hospital admissions resulting from cannabis use, given to the hon. Member in the written answer on 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 176W. I have written to the hon. Member to explain the earlier error.

Finished admission episodes in the national health service in England 1996-97 to 2005-06, for patients with a primary diagnosis of a mental or behavioural disorder due to the use of cannabis: combined male and female; all ages; all strategic health authorities

	Cannabis
1996-97	510
1997-98	506
1998-99	625
1999-2000	600
2000-01	581
2001-02	674
2002-03	704
2003-04	890
2004-05	869
2005-06	946

Note:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. The primary diagnosis is the main reason why the patient was in hospital. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. The data refer to all patients with a primary diagnosis of a mental or behavioural disorder due to cannabis use and whose care was led by a consultant registered under any speciality.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Midwives

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will undertake a consultation on the change of status of insurance cover for independent midwives. [134415]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's review "The regulation of non-medical healthcare professions" made reference to the fact that professional indemnity cover is becoming a condition of registration for all professions. The introduction of compulsory professional indemnity cover for midwives will require secondary legislation. A three-month public consultation will form part of that legislative process. No date for this has yet been set.

Mothers: Home Help

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress her Department has made with providing nursing support to mothers of children under the age of two years as referred to in the report of the Spending Review 2004. [140009]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Support from midwives, health visitors and other health professionals is provided to families through the Child Health Promotion Programme, the universal child health service aimed at preventing ill health and promoting health and well-being. The core service is set out in standard 1 of the national service framework for children, young people and maternity services. However, all families are different and some need more support than others. Health visitors and their teams who deliver the child health promotion programme will make sure that the most at risk children have more support.

We are also testing an intensive nurse-led home visiting programme for the most at risk families. The Nurse Family Partnership Programme has been developed over 30 years in the United States where it has achieved impressive reductions in accidental and non-accidental injuries. We are testing this approach in 10 sites across England where specially trained health visitors and midwives are delivering the programme to first-time young parents.

NHS

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of her presentation to the Cabinet on the NHS of 19 April 2007, referred to by the Prime Minister in his speech to the Trimdon Labour Club of 20 April 2007. [135750]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for Health did not make a presentation to Cabinet on 19 April, she gave an oral update.

A version of a previous presentation to Cabinet was made publicly available and a copy has been placed in the Library.

NHS Direct

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she last met the Chief Executive of NHS Direct NHS Trust to discuss the efficiency of the organisation. [140195]

Andy Burnham: Senior officials at the Department meet the Chief Executive of NHS Direct on a quarterly basis to discuss performance. I meet the Chair of NHS Direct on a quarterly basis.

NHS: Civil Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on litigation by the NHS in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139013]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect information centrally on individual national health service organisations expenditure on litigation, which should be recorded within their financial accounts. However, the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA), records expenditure on claims made against any of the three clinical and two non-clinical negligence schemes. The NHSLA is responsible for this information, which they make available in Factsheet 2 on their website at: www.nhsla.com.

The following table sets out the information for the past five years.

Payments made by NHSLA in respect of negligence claims against the NHS

£000

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Clinical negligence scheme for trusts (CNST)	[1]201,869	175,277	293,384	329,412	384,390
Existing liabilities scheme	343,242	269,345	128,071	169,414	168,203
Ex-regional health authorities scheme	3,832	1,562	1,059	4,068	7,716
Total	548,943	446,184	422,514	502,894	560,309
	[1]119,000				
Liabilities to third parties scheme	3,112	14,480	7,395	21,280	26,692
Property expenses scheme (PES)	1,931	6,866	2,735	3,839	4,586
Total	5,043	21,346	10,130	25,119	31,278
Grand total	553,986	467,530	432,644	528,013	591,587
	[1]119,000				

[1] £119,000 in 2001-02 reflects the amounts reimbursed to trusts as part of the call-in and included within CNST payments.

Note:
Expenditure relates to paid and accrued but excludes reserves.

Until the call-in of CNST claims by NHSLA in April 2002, member organisations paid part of the cost of claims made under CNST. Excesses are still payable on the non-clinical schemes (LTPS and PES). The cost of these excesses, being carried by individual NHS organisations, is not included in the NHSLA's figures. As part of the call-in process it reimbursed the above-excess costs already incurred by member trusts on these claims. Thus the apparent bulges in these years do not reflect an increase in overall claims expenditure, but rather one-off reimbursements of expenditure already incurred (and accounted for) by member trusts.

NHS: Standards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many separate bodies monitor, inspect or assess the NHS; and what co-operation there is between those bodies to prevent duplication of work. [139801]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold such information centrally and it would be disproportionally expensive to gather the information.

Nurses

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she has taken to improve the terms and conditions of nurses working in the NHS; and what plans she has to further improve pay and conditions. [138642]

Ms Rosie Winterton: New terms and conditions of service have been implemented for the majority of directly employed national health service staff including nurses, as part of the Agenda for Change pay reform programme. These include a number of substantial improvements for the majority of staff, including higher maximum pay rates, more scope for career progression and more annual leave. The starting pay of a newly qualified nurse has increased from £13,385 in 1997 to £19,645 from November 2007. This represents an increase of 59 per cent., 25 per cent. in real terms. The Government remain committed to the new pay system, which is continuing to benefit nurses among others alongside annual pay increases recommended by the Nurses and Other Health Professions Pay Review Body.

Nurses: Students

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the availability, subject to a means test, of grants for nursing students studying for *(a)* a diploma course or *(b)* a degree; and what comparison she has made of the difference in sums available. [140434]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* From 1 September 2006, diploma students who are entitled to a non-means tested bursary can receive a basic award up to £7,030 a year. Degree students who are entitled to a means tested bursary can receive a basic award up to £4,378 (based on a 45-week course) and they are also eligible to apply for a Department for Education and Skills student loan. From 1 September 2007, diploma students can receive a basic award of up to £7,443 and degree students (based on a 45-week course) can receive up to £4,715. The total amount of

both the non-means-tested and means-tested bursaries can increase with additional allowances subject to individual circumstances. The provisions of the national health service bursary scheme are under consideration with stakeholders as part of the modernisation process.

Paediatrics: Princess Royal Hospital

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS hospital trust on the proposed overnight closure of the paediatric unit at the Princess Royal hospital. [139112]

Caroline Flint: The Secretary of State for Health has had no discussion with the Shrewsbury and Telford national health service hospital trust on this subject.

Patient Groups

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department has given to foundation trusts on the involvement of patient groups in trust board meetings; what representations she has had from patient groups on exclusion from trust board meetings; and if she will make a statement. [140349]

Andy Burnham: The Department has issued guidance on developing and implementing governance arrangements in national health service foundation trusts which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance.

The legislative framework for foundation trusts gives them significant scope to tailor their governance arrangements to reflect their different status, the services they provide and the profile of their communities.

While some representations have been made by organisations, including those representing patient groups, on the operation of board of director meetings in foundation trusts, the National Health Service Act 2006 only allows for foundation trusts to open meetings of the board of governors to the public. There is no equivalent provision for meetings of the board of directors. This would be a matter for each trust. Monitor (the statutory name of which is the Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts) has however issued a code of governance for foundation trusts which advises directors to follow a policy of openness and transparency in its proceedings and decision making unless this conflicts with a need to protect the wider interests of the public or the foundation trusts, including commercial-in-confidence matters.

Patients: Transport

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of whether hospitals have acted on her Department's guidance to inform patients of the hospital travel costs scheme. [139806]

Andy Burnham: The recent hospital travel costs scheme consultation included questions on awareness of the scheme. The results are being analysed and will be published in the near future.

Plagiocephaly

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will estimate the cost of providing STARband treatment free of charge to all children with deformational plagiocephaly; [140729]

(2) what her most recent estimate is of the number of children with deformational plagiocephaly; [140730]

(3) what treatments for children suffering with deformational plagiocephaly are available free of charge through the national health service; what the criteria are for the provision of such treatments; and what reasons STARband treatment is not so provided. [140731]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of cases of deformational (more commonly known as positional) plagiocephaly is not collected centrally. It is not, therefore possible to estimate the cost to the national health service of providing STARband treatment to every child who has this usually self-correcting condition. It is for doctors to decide whether to prescribe and for primary care trusts to decide whether to fund treatment with special helmets, such as STARband.

Prescriptions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* others on the practice of restricting repeat prescriptions to 28 days' length. [137273]

Caroline Flint: Since the beginning of the current parliamentary session, until 14 May 2007, the Department of Health had received 42 representations in the form of correspondence primarily on the issue of restricting the length of repeat prescriptions. This is not a definitive number as there may be correspondence on other subjects which also touch on this issue. However, the task of looking through all ministerial correspondence would result in disproportionate cost.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescription items were dispensed by the NHS in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total net cost of these items was in each year. [138389]

Caroline Flint: Information on the number and the net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescription items dispensed in the community, in England, is shown in the following table.

	Prescription items dispensed (Thousand)	*NIC (£000)*
1997	500,153	4,367,474
1998	513,209	4,701,487
1999	529,770	5,291,242
2000	551,843	5,584,645
2001	587,049	6,116,569
2002	617,022	6,846,656
2003	649,703	7,516,134
2004	686,139	8,079,567
2005	720,283	7,936,564

	Prescription items dispensed (Thousand)	NIC (£000)
2006	751,954	8,196,832

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) data from the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority

These figures do not include drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions. Information on the gross cost of prescription items dispensed is not collected centrally.

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 24 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1052W, on primary care trusts, when the first draft of the *Official Journal* of the European Union (OJEU) notice was written; and when her Department's director of commissioning was made aware of the OJEU notice; [138977]

(2) what involvement Simon Stevens had in drafting *(a)* the original *Official Journal* of the European Union notice on primary care trust commissioning published on 29June 2006 and *(b)* subsequent versions. [139001]

Andy Burnham: The notice was drafted in the weeks leading up to its submission to the *Official Journal* of the European Union on 9 June. The Director General of the Commissioning Directorate was sighted on the notice before its submission.

Simon Stevens had no involvement in drafting the notice.

Prisons: Drugs

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 552W, on prisons: drugs, whether the funding announced for the Integrated Drug Treatment System will be ring-fenced. [138391]

Caroline Flint: The investment allocated by the Department for the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS) is not ring-fenced.

The allocation contains specific amounts targeted to those primary care trusts which contain prisons implementing IDTS.

Race Equality

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* content was of the training modules on race equality and cultural capability to which she refers in paragraph 5.268 of her Department's 2006 annual report; and if she will make a statement. [115551]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The training packs on race equality and cultural capability were piloted within the national health service from August 2006 to April 2007. 65 practitioners, two administration staff, a number of service users and carers across four NHS trusts were involved in the pilot. The packs are currently being evaluated to determine how they will help people working predominantly in the NHS and social care towards the 12 service characteristics dealing with the challenges that are outlined in Delivering Race Equality (DRE). The evaluation will report in June 2007. The cost of the training is £240,000, which covers work to ensure the packs' independent development, testing, trialling and evaluation.

Once the evaluation is complete, the Department plans to start full training with the training modules. The training will be targeted within the newly formed DRE clinical trailblazer network (pilot sites to test the clinically related service change characteristics of DRE). The network aims to take direct action to challenge disproportional admission rates, detention and treatment, and poor satisfaction rates associated with minority service users of mental health services.

Urology: Medical Treatments

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will set a timetable for implementing the recommendations following the recently ended consultation on the supply of urology products. [134094]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 30 April 2007]:* Three consultations closed on 2 April 2007:

Arrangements for the reimbursement pricing of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff;

Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and

Proposed Amendments to the Regulatory Terms of Service of Pharmacy and Appliance Contractors in relation to Dispensing Items Listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

Due to the volume and complexity of the responses more time is needed to analyse the information provided. Consequently, no changes will be implemented in July 2007 as previously proposed.

I do not anticipate that the review will be complete before the end of the year. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement issued on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 78WS, about the timing of this review.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information: Contracts

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will name each contract that the Central Office of Information has with Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO; and what the value is of each such contract. [140739]

Hilary Armstrong: Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO (AMV BBDO) is contracted by the Central Office of Information to work on Government business via a framework agreement. AMV BBDO has been awarded a project on citizen and public engagement (dealing with climate change issues) on behalf of DEFRA.

This project is at an early stage, so the final level of advertising activity is still under discussion and therefore so is the final value of the contract.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many joint reviews with other Government Departments the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has carried out over the last 12 months. [139894]

Hilary Armstrong: Over the past 12 months the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit carried out 38 joint reviews with Government Departments.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 795-6W, on the Delivery Unit, what *(a)* key barriers to improvement and *(b)* action needed to strengthen delivery the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit has identified in providing performance management in key delivery areas. [139900]

Hilary Armstrong: Barriers to improvement vary from issue to issue. Examples of action needed to strengthen delivery identified by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit include improved delivery plans; clear targets, metrics and success criteria; and a shared understanding of purpose, roles and responsibilities.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many times her Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139221]

Mr. McFadden: Breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. Thus, the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by the Cabinet Office on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139409]

Hilary Armstrong: Expenditure on legal fees in the Department from 2002-03 to 2005-06 can be found in the following table.

	£000
2002-03	331
2003-04	62
2004-05	85
2005-06	1,740

The increase in costs in 2005-06 is due to expenditure incurred by the transformational government projects on legal costs.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much her Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140031]

Hilary Armstrong: It is not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system, how much was paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. This information is therefore only available at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when she expects the remaining capability reviews to be published. [140425]

Hilary Armstrong: The next tranche of capability reviews will be published before the summer recess. The Departments being reviewed in this tranche are the Department for Transport, the Crown Prosecution Service and the Department of Health. The remaining Departments will be reviewed by the end of the year.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether her Delivery Unit has conducted any review in the last five years of the provision of out-of-hours care by general practitioners in the NHS. [140015]

Hilary Armstrong: PMDU's role is to monitor and report on delivery of the Prime Minister's top delivery and reform priorities. Out-of-hours care is not currently one of the areas on which PMDU's health team works.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 797W, on the policy review, whether any other payments have been made to other external organisations as part of the policy review. [140153]

Hilary Armstrong: Apart from the payments noted in previous answers given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr. McFadden), to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2127W, and to the hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1103-04W, the only significant payments to external organisations in connection with the policy reviews have been to typesetters and printers for the publication of the first five reviews (£97,393).

All typesetting and print contractors have been selected through competitive tender to ensure value for money.

JUSTICE

Drink Driving

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many convictions there were in each police authority in England and Wales for the offence of drink driving in each year since 2001; and how many resulted in *(a)* a prison sentence, *(b)* mandatory disqualification from driving and *(c)* the maximum fine. [138820]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Available information taken from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 2001 to 2004 (latest available) is provided in the following tables.

Data for 2005 will be available shortly; 2006 data will be available in 2008.

Table A: Total findings of guilt at all courts and resultant custody, maximum fine imposed and disqualifications, for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2001

			Of which:	
Police force area	*Total findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Maximum fine (£)[4]*	*Disqualified[3]*
Avon and Somerset	2,197	129	1,000	2,099
Bedfordshire	914	79	600	857
Cambridgeshire	813	51	2,200	742
Cheshire	1,529	96	1,500	1,429
Cleveland	887	77	2,500	824
Cumbria	761	51	750	703
Derbyshire	1,411	140	1,000	1,264
Devon and Cornwall	2,369	128	2,500	2,281
Dorset	1,150	91	2,500	1,063
Durham	1,097	86	4,000	1,029
Essex	2,456	264	1,000	2,273
Gloucestershire	865	39	1,050	813
Greater Manchester	4,715	454	2,500	4,329
Hampshire	3,464	235	1,250	3,297
Hertfordshire	1,666	94	2,000	1,600
Humberside	1,259	126	1,000	1,184
Kent	2,575	165	2,500	2,424
Lancashire	2,304	148	1,000	2,174
Leicestershire	1,546	140	2,000	1,437
Lincolnshire	877	60	1,125	836
London, City of	162	10	1,440	156
Merseyside	2,195	217	1,250	2,001
Metropolitan Police	11,260	927	4,500	10,607
Norfolk	1,143	75	3,750	1,065
Northamptonshire	399	65	2,000	375
Northumbria	2,529	217	4,000	2,297
North Yorkshire	1,066	55	3,000	1,015
Nottinghamshire	1,598	187	[5]5,000	1,504
South Yorkshire	2,020	159	1,500	1,905
Staffordshire	1,513	136	1,200	1,431
Suffolk	920	43	1,800	854
Surrey	1,592	65	1,500	1,549
Sussex	2,358	128	1,500	2,250
Thames Valley	3,275	210	2,000	3,137
Warwickshire	880	33	2,000	846
West Mercia	1,740	91	2,000	1,610
West Midlands	4,914	471	2,000	4,475
West Yorkshire	3,220	331	1,500	2,987
Wiltshire	1,045	53	1,500	966
Dyfed-Powys	867	36	1,200	811
Gwent	1,152	76	1,500	1,051
North Wales	1,227	87	1,000	1,153
South Wales	2,812	295	1,200	2,574

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) & (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6).
[2] Immediate Custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[3] Disqualifications given as a secondary disposal. This covers cases where a disqualification from driving was given instead of a licence endorsement. This excludes cases where a defendant was disqualified under the penalty points or "totting up" system (s35 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988). S.35 R.T.O.A. data for specific offences at force area level are not sufficiently robust.
[4] Statutory maximum fine (£5,000) was issued once in Nottinghamshire police force area only.
Note 1: Standard Rate maximum fine is Level 5 (£5,000).
Note 2: It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is underway to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
Note 3: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Total findings of guilt at all courts and resultant custody, maximum fine imposed and disqualifications, for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2002

Police force area	Total findings of guilt	Of which: Immediate custody[2]	Of which: Maximum fine (£)	Of which: Disqualified[3]
Avon and Somerset	2,401	124	1,000	2,298
Bedfordshire	955	82	750	899
Cambridgeshire	852	41	1,500	782
Cheshire	1,993	103	1,200	1,853
Cleveland	921	71	2,500	831
Cumbria	768	37	1,230	718
Derbyshire	1,465	164	4,000	1,365
Devon and Cornwall	2,441	95	2,500	2,347
Dorset	1,199	83	600	1,121
Durham	1,136	68	3,000	1,075
Essex	2,522	267	3,000	2,346
Gloucestershire	926	44	2,300	852
Greater Manchester	4,720	474	3,000	4,387
Hampshire	3,846	243	3,000	3,654
Hertfordshire	1,894	90	1,500	1,810
Humberside	1,395	113	1,000	1,314
Kent	2,745	152	2,000	2,582
Lancashire	2,599	159	2,500	2,465
Leicestershire	1,659	140	2,000	1,556
Lincolnshire	847	56	800	810
London, City of	221	12	1,440	209
Merseyside	2,293	216	3,600	2,105
Metropolitan Police	12,905	927	4,000	12,140
Norfolk	1,220	55	2,000	1,179
Northamptonshire	236	35	1,100	212
Northumbria	2,588	188	2,500	2,373
North Yorkshire	1,119	63	3,000	1,071
Nottinghamshire	1,420	129	2,500	1,324
South Yorkshire	1,945	165	3,000	1,819
Staffordshire	1,704	143	2,000	1,592
Suffolk	1,105	79	3,500	1,022
Surrey	1,614	68	4,000	1,564
Sussex	2,306	149	3,500	2,224
Thames Valley	4,317	219	2,500	4,147
Warwickshire	841	40	1,000	799
West Mercia	1,719	93	2,000	1,623
West Midlands	5,050	438	2,000	4,628
West Yorkshire	3,564	268	2,000	3,276
Wiltshire	1,005	54	1,200	948
Dyfed-Powys	927	47	1,200	856
Gwent	1,074	74	1,000	983
North Wales	1,270	71	2,000	1,165
South Wales	2,761	236	1,500	2,573

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6).
[2] Immediate Custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[3] Disqualifications given as a secondary disposal. This covers cases where a disqualification from driving was given instead of a licence endorsement. This excludes cases where a defendant was disqualified under the penalty points or "totting up" system (s35 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988). S.35 R.T.O.A. data for specific offences at force area level are not sufficiently robust.
Note 1: No police force area registered the statutory maximum fine (£5,000).
Note 2: Standard Rate maximum fine is Level 5 (£5,000).
Note 4: It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
Note 3: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table C: Total findings of guilt at all courts and resultant custody, maximum fine imposed and disqualifications, for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2003

Police force area	Total findings of guilt	Of which: Immediate custody[2]	Maximum fine (£)	Disqualified[3]
Avon and Somerset	2,666	167	3,000	2,577
Bedfordshire	1,072	72	1,500	1,013
Cambridgeshire	933	56	1,500	879
Cheshire	1,905	110	1,000	1,784
Cleveland	981	61	1,000	897
Cumbria	843	37	1,000	781
Derbyshire	1,617	168	1,000	1,508
Devon and Cornwall	2,667	121	1,300	2,570
Dorset	1,264	73	2,000	1,201
Durham	1,170	77	1,500	1,101
Essex	2,622	311	2,000	2,400
Gloucestershire	890	37	650	834
Greater Manchester	4,743	437	[4]5,000	4,444
Hampshire	3,663	234	2,500	3,513
Hertfordshire	1,904	78	1,200	1,799
Humberside	1,445	150	1,500	1,356
Kent	2,811	179	4,000	1,456
Lancashire	2,652	146	1,050	2,516
Leicestershire	1,725	143	3,000	1,618
Lincolnshire	1,111	42	1,000	1,064
London, City of	230	4	1,500	223
Merseyside	2,687	215	2,500	2,475
Metropolitan Police	12,621	922	[4]5,000	11,910
Norfolk	1,274	59	2,000	1,216
Northamptonshire	799	65	1,500	757
Northumbria	2,747	187	2,000	2,527
North Yorkshire	1,194	51	2,000	1,139
Nottinghamshire	1,644	149	750	1,562
South Yorkshire	2,089	125	1,000	1,950
Staffordshire	1,733	141	1,000	1,633
Suffolk	1,213	66	3,000	1,099
Surrey	1,464	44	2,000	1,403
Sussex	2,430	120	2,500	2,343
Thames Valley	3,884	159	4,000	3,752
Warwickshire	918	33	800	890
West Mercia	1,797	100	2,000	1,686
West Midlands	5,233	420	2,000	4,864
West Yorkshire	3,720	260	1,500	3,449
Wiltshire	1,031	62	1,500	950
Dyfed-Powys	995	46	2,500	920
Gwent	1,149	94	3,000	1,055
North Wales	1,326	76	750	1,253
South Wales	2,840	211	1,500	2,646

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6).
[2] Immediate Custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[3] Disqualifications given as a secondary disposal. This covers cases where a disqualification from driving was given instead of a licence endorsement.
This excludes cases where a defendant was disqualified under the penalty points or "totting up" system (s35 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988). S.35 R.T.O.A. data for specific offences at force area level are not sufficiently robust.
[4] Statutory maximum fine (£5,000) was issued once in both Greater Manchester and the Metropolitan police force areas.
Note 1: Standard Rate maximum fine is Level 5 (£5,000).
Note 2: It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
Note 3: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table D: Total findings of guilt at all courts and resultant custody, maximum fine imposed and disqualifications, for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 2004

Police force area	Total findings of guilt	Of which: Immediate custody[2]	Of which: Maximum fine (£)	Of which: Disqualified[3]
Avon and Somerset	2,692	145	1,200	2,599
Bedfordshire	1,028	65	800	984
Cambridgeshire	1,083	52	1,000	1,042
Cheshire	2,128	106	1,000	1,906
Cleveland	1,071	60	1,000	956
Cumbria	907	50	350	845
Derbyshire	1,874	143	2,000	1,748
Devon and Cornwall	2,560	120	2,000	2,440
Dorset	1,239	52	1,200	1,198
Durham	1,277	80	750	1,179
Essex	2,853	349	1,200	2,657
Gloucestershire	913	38	1,500	870
Greater Manchester	4,811	379	2,500	4,469
Hampshire	3,743	199	4,000	3,584
Hertfordshire	1,881	94	2,000	1,776
Humberside	1,623	112	1,500	1,512
Kent	3,010	155	2,500	2,824
Lancashire	2,706	125	2,000	2,570
Leicestershire	1,754	143	1,000	1,602
Lincolnshire	1,209	46	1,500	1,160
London, City of	169	5	1,500	164
Merseyside	2,849	261	4,500	2,529
Metropolitan Police	13,227	832	[4]5,000	12,346
Norfolk	1,240	64	1,200	1,178
Northamptonshire	922	73	2,500	878
Northumbria	2,675	183	2,000	2,491
North Yorkshire	1,131	40	2,500	1,054
Nottinghamshire	1,669	111	2,000	1,568
South Yorkshire	2,224	140	1,500	2,100
Staffordshire	1,733	124	2,500	1,628
Suffolk	1,332	89	3,000	1,191
Surrey	1,425	51	2,000	1,385
Sussex	2,368	104	2,500	2,301
Thames Valley	3,539	190	4,000	3,405
Warwickshire	845	23	1,000	817
West Mercia	1,689	103	2,000	1,593
West Midlands	5,584	423	2,000	5,229
West Yorkshire	3,897	276	3,000	3,623
Wiltshire	1,024	39	1,500	949
Dyfed-Powys	986	47	2,000	919
Gwent	1,188	69	1,500	1,108
North Wales	1,349	75	1,000	1,265
South Wales	2,811	223	2,500	2,666

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6).
[2] Immediate Custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
[3] Disqualifications given as a secondary disposal. This covers cases where a disqualification from driving was given instead of a licence endorsement.
This excludes cases where a defendant was disqualified under the penalty points or "totting up" system (s35 Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988). S.35 R.T.O.A. data for specific offences at force area level are not sufficiently robust.
[4] Statutory maximum fine (£5,000) was issued once in the Metropolitan police force area only.
Note 1: Standard Rate maximum fine is Level 5 (£5,000).
Note 2: It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is underway to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
Note 3: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Family Conciliation Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has *(a)* to promote the use of family mediation prior to the commencement of divorce proceedings and *(b)* to fund an expansion of family mediation services; and if she will make a statement. [140667]

Ms Harman: The Government believe that mediation can offer considerable advantages over going to court in the settling of family disputes, especially where children are involved. To support this, the Family Mediation Helpline (0845 60 26 627) began operating in January 2006. The helpline provides information about family mediation, advice as to the likely suitability of specific cases for mediation and details of and referrals to local mediation services. To date, the helpline has received 2,900 calls, made over 1,100 referrals to mediation services and there have been around 10,000 visits made to the supporting website at www.FamilyMediationHelpline.co.uk. In order to ensure the Helpline becomes better known, publicity materials, including a family mediation DVD produced in conjunction with National Family Mediation to provide information about family mediation to members of the public, have been widely distributed to all family courts, Citizens' Advice bureaux and family solicitors.

There are 10 in-court referral to mediation schemes, where family mediators work together with the courts and often with CAFCASS to refer appropriate cases. We are undertaking judicial awareness seminars across England and Wales aimed at raising awareness among judges and magistrates.

Finally, the Legal Services Commission's proposals to revise the family fee structure will remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation, which has historically been alleged by the mediation profession to be an obstacle to increasing mediation referrals. Under the proposals it would be in the interests of the solicitor to make a referral to mediation and also at an earlier stage.

Publicly funded family mediation is available to eligible clients who have what is defined as a family dispute. If publicly funded clients are in receipt of private law family legal advice, then they are obliged to consider the use of family mediation before they proceed to a court hearing. The Legal Services Commission is actively seeking to increase the use of mediation and encourage appropriate referrals.

At this stage, there are no plans to fund an expansion of family mediation services many of which are private businesses and run for profit.

Family Conciliation Services: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what research she has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of funding provided for Hampshire Family Mediation as a result of the restructuring of legal aid; and if she will make a statement. [140666]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) has researched the impact upon mediation services of its proposals for a revised mediation remuneration structure, which aligns the for profit (FP) and not for profit (NfP) sectors onto the same fee scheme. The partial regulatory impact assessment concluded that 70 per cent. of the 200 mediation service providers will gain financially under the proposals. In common with other mediation providers, Hampshire Family Mediation (HFM) will no longer receive the fixed annual payment in addition to fees for work done, provided for the last three years, under the transitional NfP contracting arrangements. Under the new arrangements, HFM will be paid through new increased fixed fees, which will apply equally to both FP and NfP providers.

The LSC's proposals to revise the family fee structure will remove the financial disincentives for solicitors to make referrals to mediation, which has historically been alleged by the mediation profession to be an obstacle to increasing mediation referrals. The new family fee schemes for solicitors should encourage more and earlier referrals to mediation providers.

Home Detention Curfews

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of prisoners released under the home detention curfew scheme were subsequently recalled in each year since the scheme's introduction. [140777]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 219-20W, on how many and what percentage of prisoners released under the home detention curfew scheme breached the rules of their curfew and were recalled to prison in each year since 1999.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of prisoners were released *(a)* one month, *(b)* two months, *(c)* three months, *(d)* four months, *(e)* five months and *(f)* six months or more before their automatic release date as part of the Home Detention Curfew scheme in each year since the scheme's introduction. [140778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of prisoners by their respective times spent on the scheme from all prison establishments in England and Wales in each year since 1999 can be found in the following table. The maximum period under which a prisoner may be released early under the Home Detention Curfew scheme is 135 days. Prisoners are not released for longer than that period. Therefore no prisoner has been released on HDC five or six months before the end of their sentence.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

HDC releases by time on tag under Home Detention Curfew, 1999-2006[1]

	Total	*Less than or equal to 1 month*	*Greater than 1 month to less than or equal to 2 months*	*Greater than 2 months to less than or equal to 3 months*	*Greater than 3 months to less than or equal to 4 months*	*Greater than 4 months to less than or equal to 4.5 months*
Number						
1999	14,800	3,800	10,700	—	—	—
2000	15,500	4,000	11,200	—	—	—

HDC releases by time on tag under Home Detention Curfew, 1999-2006[1]

	Total[2]	*Less than or equal to 1 month*	*Greater than 1 month to less than or equal to 2 months*	*Greater than 2 months to less than or equal to 3 months*	*Greater than 3 months to less than or equal to 4 months*	*Greater than 4 months to less than or equal to 4.5 months*
2001	13,700	3,300	9,900	—	—	—
2002	20,500	5,600	12,800	900	—	—
2003	21,200	5,600	4,200	6,400	1,300	1,900
2004	19,300	5,300	3,900	2,800	1,400	4,300
2005	17,300	4,300	3,300	2,700	1,500	4,000
2006	13,700	3,000	2,500	2,200	1,400	3,300
Percentage						
1999	—	26	72	—	—	—
2000	—	26	72	—	—	—
2001	—	24	72	—	—	—
2002	—	27	62	4	—	—
2003	—	26	20	30	6	9
2004	—	27	20	15	7	22
2005	—	25	19	16	9	23
2006	—	22	18	16	10	24

[1] 2006 figures are provisional and subject to change.
These statistics are based on information recorded on the central prison IT system on 4 June 2007. Further updates and amendments may be made to records on this system resulting in revised figures.
These figures have been rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] The total includes those cases where changes to a prisoner's status, such as a recall or a new sentence, have disrupted the flow of data within the information system. For these cases it is not possible to attribute a definitive time on tag.

Legal Aid: Greater London

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many legal aid cases were funded in Greater London under *(a)* the criminal and *(b)* the civil legal aid scheme in the latest 12 month period for which figures are available, broken down by (i) type of case and (ii) borough. [138981]

Vera Baird: I have placed the information requested in the House of Commons Library.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many magistrates courts in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* England and Wales closed in the last 10 years for which records are available. [140807]

Ms Harman: There have been four magistrates courts closures in Kent and 113 magistrates courts closures in England and Wales, in the last 10 years for which records are available.

Deborah Mattinson: Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what work has been carried out for her Department or its predecessor since 2004 by *(a)* Deborah Mattinson and *(b)* Opinion Leader Research. [140728]

Bridget Prentice: No payments have been made directly to Deborah Mattinson. OCJR and NOMS (now part of the Ministry of Justice—MoJ) have not made any payments to OLR since becoming MoJ on 9 May. There have been four items contracted from Opinion Leader Research since 2004. Details of these, along with payments made to date, are as follows:

Specific OLR involvement	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Judicial diversity research report: findings of a consultation with barristers, solicitors and judge. Research contract—Interviews with women and BME solicitors and barristers to determine barriers to applying for judicial posts (published)	—	42,917	33,399	—
Draft Coroners Bill. To act as facilitators at a one-day event seeking feedback on draft Coroners Bill.	—	—	15,490	—
The impact of changing court fees on users. Research contract—Examines users' knowledge of court processes and cost, the key factors in their decision to proceed to court (not yet published)	—	—	56,964	—
Meeting Military Families. To act as facilitators to a meeting with families of bereaved servicemen and women who had lost their lives in Iraq, and had been involved in the inquest process	—	—	—	4,700
Totals (inc. VAT)	—	42,917	105,853	4,700

Ministry of Justice Innovation Fund

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the value is of *(a)* phase one and *(b)* phase two of the Ministry of Justice Innovation Fund. [140718]

Bridget Prentice: The total amount spent on the first round of the Innovation Fund was £102,000 (including VAT). Eight projects received funding in the 2006-07 financial year.

The total available funding budget for the second phase of the Innovation Fund is £140,000 (including VAT) to be spread over a 15-month period. Bids between £5,000 and £15,000 are being sought.

Prisons: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the *(a)* certified normal capacity for prisons in Kent and *(b)* prison population in Kent is. [140808]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I believe the hon. member is referring to the certified normal accommodation (CNA), which is the uncrowded capacity.

The CNA for each prison in Kent, excluding Dover, which holds immigration detainees, and the population for each prison, as at 4 June 2007, is set out in the following table. The total population figure includes temporary approved absences.

Prison	*CNA*	*Total population*
Blantyre House	122	121
Canterbury	196	277
Cookham Wood	137	182
East Sutton Park	98	98
Elmley	753	986
Maidstone	559	584
Rochester	392	390
Standford Hill	464	432
Swaleside	756	779
Total	3,477	3,849

Prisons: Rochester

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on planning permission for the proposed prison in Rochester. [140811]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The HMP Rochester project to provide an additional 300 places forms a part of a major programme to expand prison capacity. NOMS original planning application was submitted in early April 2007 and a revised application, which took into account certain local concerns, was submitted to the local planning authority in late May 2007. NOMS awaits the local planning authority's determination which is expected in late June 2007.

Probation: Redundancy

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether any *(a)* assistant chief officers, *(b)* business managers and *(c)* staff of other grades will be made (i) compulsorily and (ii) voluntarily redundant in (A) the Greater London Probation Area and (B) other probation areas in England and Wales in 2007-08. [140421]

Mr. Sutcliffe: London Probation Area is in the process of restructuring and as part of that exercise has considered the appropriate levels of staffing at management levels. As a consequence assistant chief officers, business managers and directors from the area are facing possible redundancy. Currently figures from London indicate that there will be a loss of 13 assistant chief officer posts, two director posts and 10 business manager posts. Expressions of interest for voluntary redundancies are being considered. Where possible, London will seek to avoid compulsory redundancies.

There are four other Probation Areas, Cheshire, Devon and Cornwall, Dyfed Powys and Thames Valley that have indicated they are considering the possibility of redundancies within the 2007-08 time frame. These redundancies will equate to 27 posts across a range of posts including middle managers and probation service officers. Again, where possible, compulsory redundancies will be avoided.

Sentencing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of lifer programmes in dealing with prisoners on an indefinite sentence of public protection with a short minimum term; [135849]

(2) how many and what percentage of prisoners on an indefinite sentence of public protection are part of a lifer programme; and if he will make a statement. [135850]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[pursuant to the reply, 15 May 2007, Official Report, c. 711W]:* I erroneously informed the hon. Member that of the 8,300 completions of accredited offending behaviour programmes in custody in 2006-07, approximately 320 were by prisoners serving indeterminate sentences of public protection. The latter figure should in fact have read approximately 460 completions. Taking account of those who completed more than one course, this involved approximately 420 prisoners.

The reason for the error is that the earlier information did not relate to a full year.

Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) on how many occasions the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal sat in 2006; [140899]

(2) what the longest current delay is of any case awaiting resolution at the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. [140900]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal has advised that it sat for 178 days from 1 May 2006 to 30 April 2007 and for 136 days in the same period for 2005-06.

Information on the case which has been awaiting a substantive hearing for the longest period of time is not available.

However, the Tribunal has advised that cases are delayed for a number of reasons including: non-availability of witnesses; illness of respondents; and non-availability of legal representatives.

An additional four new lay members and 11 new solicitor members have recently been appointed to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. This brings the total number of members of the tribunal to 49, which will enable it to sit more frequently.

Standford Hill Prison: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners absconded from *(a)* HMP Standford Hill and *(b)* HMP Sudbury in each year since 1997; and how many of those remain at large in each case. [140635]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information on the number of absconds is set out in the following table and covers the period from 1 April 1997 to 31 March 2007. Figures for 2006-07 are provisional and subject to validation. Currently there is no central record of absconders who are subsequently returned to custody. Recaptures reflect police rather than Prison Service performance and these data have not been held centrally for this reason.

	Standford Hill	*Sudbury*
1997-98	35	81
1998-99	40	75
1999-2000	43	63
2000-01	29	69
2001-02	37	81
2002-03	83	68
2003-04	89	75
2004-05	39	77
2005-06	58	76
2006-07	38	78

Young Offenders: Education

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations she has received on the level of education given to young female offenders; what response she has made to those representations; and if she will make a statement. [138087]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

I understand that the Ministry of Justice has received no representations on the level of education given to young female offenders.

However, the Department for Education and Skills has launched a consultation on the issues affecting the education of all young people supervised by the youth justice system and is undertaking a series of consultation events and visits. The consultation closes on 4 July. The responses will inform proposals for reform, which will be published by the end of this year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Illarian Stepanovich Borodine remains in the UK following the refusal on 24 January 2002 of his application for asylum; and if he will make a statement. [139[illegible]]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* It is not our policy to comment on individual cases.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what non-financial support is provided to failed asylum seekers. [139814]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1871W.

In addition, grant funded voluntary sector agencies provide advice and assistance to asylum seekers and to those who have exhausted appeal rights. The International Organization for Migration provides advice and assistance under the Voluntary Assisted Returns and Reintegration Programme.

Asylum: Bromsgrove

Miss Kirkbride: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many failed asylum seekers reside in Bromsgrove constituency. [130134]

Mr. Byrne: Information on decision outcomes relating to asylum seekers in particular areas of the UK is not available.

If an asylum application has been finally determined as refused, but the asylum seeker is destitute and there are reasons that temporarily prevent them from leaving the United Kingdom then they can be eligible for support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. As at the March 2007 there were 8,780 applicants, excluding dependants, in receipt of section 4 support in the UK. Further regional breakdowns are not available.

Statistics regarding the location of asylum seekers in receipt of support are available. As at the end of March 2007 there were no asylum seekers in receipt of support in Bromsgrove constituency.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government Office Region and local authority, and those in receipt of section 4 support are published on a quarterly and annual basis. The latest publication, covering the first quarter of 2007, is available on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

Asylum: Religion

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many asylum seekers sought asylum in the UK on grounds of religious persecution in each of the last three years; [130115]

(2) how many asylum seekers who have converted to Christianity while in the UK sought asylum on religious persecution grounds in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [130116]

(3) how many failed asylum seekers who have subsequently changed their religion made the basis of their appeal the fear of religious persecution, in the last three years for which figures are available. [130117]

Mr. Byrne: This information is not available and could be obtained by examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals by nationality are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Repatriation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what criteria are taken into account when assessing the safety of a country for repatriating failed asylum seekers and immigrants. [125175]

Mr. Byrne: Each asylum and human rights claim is considered on its individual merits in accordance with our international obligations and full account is taken of conditions in the country concerned as they impact on the individual. Information obtained from a wide range of governmental and non-governmental and human rights organisation sources is provided to asylum claim decision makers by means of "Country of Origin Information Reports", which are published on a regular basis.

British Nationality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate his Department has made of the number of foreign nationals resident in the UK who were born before 1961 to British mothers and foreign fathers. [138197]

Mr. Byrne: No such estimate has been made.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those foreign nationals now resident in the UK who were born to British mothers and foreign fathers before 1961 applied for British citizenship on average in each year since 2001. [138198]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could only be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

CCTV

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance he has issued to police authorities on the use of the closed circuit television camera system codenamed the Bug. [133365]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 April 20007]:* The Home Office is aware of this product, but has not issued guidance to the police in relation to it, nor has any current plans to evaluate it.

Citizenship

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been granted citizenship at his discretion when they do not meet the other criterion stated in the British Nationality Act 1981, in the last 12 months; and on what grounds. [138874]

Mr. Byrne: There are a number of requirements for naturalisation as a British citizen, some of which are discretionary and some of which are mandatory. Naturalisation is never awarded where one of the mandatory requirements has not been met.

Crime Prevention: Macclesfield

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what priorities he has set for reducing crime in the Macclesfield borough in the Cheshire constabulary east division; and if he will make a statement. [134404]

Mr. Coaker: A target has been agreed with the Macclesfield CDRP for a reduction in British Crime Survey comparator crime of 15 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2007-08. It is for the local area to set specific crime type priorities within that overall target.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138452]

Mr. Byrne: To identify current outside consultancies which are commissioned by the Department and live contracts with employment agencies, together with their purpose and cost for each, would incur disproportionate cost. Current management systems do not allow effective cross referencing across all parts of the Home Office and its Agencies as this is not a standard business requirement.

Consultancies provide advice and guidance in a broad range of areas from business change to technical analysis. Typically agency staff are used to fill time bound requirements for additional or specially skilled resources in areas such as project and programme work, seasonal work (such as passport issue) and to provide cover for staff absent on leave and sickness.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139214]

Mr. Byrne: The definition of 'found to have been in breach' can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the Courts or by Departments at an informal local level.

The information requested is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139098]

Mr. Byrne: Although the Home Office has a figure of the number of people it employs who have declared a disability, this is not broken down into specific types such as epilepsy.

The department has a disability awareness guide for managers and colleagues of staff with epilepsy which was produced in consultation with the National Society for Epilepsy. The guide gives advice on best practice on working with staff with epilepsy as well as pointers on where to go for further advice and information.

Departments: Greater London

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's responsibilities are with respect to London; what responsibilities he holds jointly with the Mayor of London; and if he will make a statement. [138515]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office is responsible for leading a national effort to protect the public from terror, crime and antisocial behaviour. We secure our borders and welcome legal migrants and visitors. We safeguard identity and citizenship. We help build the security, justice and respect that enable people to prosper in a free and tolerant society. These responsibilities are primarily national and therefore include London.

There are no functions under the GLA Act 1999 that the Home Office shares specifically with the Mayor of London. The GLA Act 1999 did, however, in amending the Police Act 1996, empower the Secretary of State (in this case the Home Secretary) to recommend the appointment of the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to the Queen (s. 9B of the 1996 Act), recommend the appointment of the Deputy Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis to the Queen (s. 9D of the 1996 Act) and appoint one member of the Metropolitan Police Authority (para 3 (2) of schedule 2A to the 1996 Act). (The revisions made to the 1996 Act by the Police and Justice Act 2006 also provide for one member of that Authority to be appointed by the Secretary of State). In addition the GLA Act 1999 enables the Home Secretary to set a greater component budget requirement for the Metropolitan Police Authority to restore or maintain an efficient and effective police force (s.95 of the 1999 Act).

Departments: Pay

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was paid in bonuses to members of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; how many people received bonuses; on what basis those bonuses were paid; and if he will make a statement. [139190]

Mr. Byrne: Where it is available, the information requested is recorded in the following tables.

Within the Home Office and its agencies there are separate arrangements for awarding bonuses. Staff may receive annual, appraisal-related awards based on their exceptional contribution throughout the year, or special bonuses for exceptional, specific work. Senior civil servants can be awarded bonuses as set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body report number 62.

	2005-06
Amount paid (£)	3,612,916
Number paid	5,014
Total staff (headcount)	25,343

Notes:
1. The data for appraisal-related bonus payments is included only for Home Office HQ and Border and Immigration Agency (BIA).
2. The table does not include:
The data for the public sector Prison Service is excluded as it can be provided only at disproportionate cost.
Identity and Passport Agency (IPS) does not run an appraisal-related bonus scheme.
3. Data for special bonus payments is included only for the senior civil service (for the whole Department and its agencies) and IPS for certain bonuses where information is available
4. Data recorded for performance appraisal payments relates to the previous reporting year and not the financial year in which the bonuses themselves were paid.
5. Staffing data is for those in Home Office HQ and BIA and all senior civil servants in the Department and its agencies, including IPS.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in his Department's balance sheet *(a)* is in 2007 and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137804]

Mr. Byrne: Nil. All the Department's PFI deals are off balance sheet.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what value of annual private finance initiative payments by his Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137806]

Mr. Byrne: All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137807]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportations: Iran

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were requested to complete an application for a travel document from the Iranian embassy with a view to deportation in each of the last five years; how many have done so; and if he will make a statement. [140161]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost. On 19 February the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons were deported to Iran in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [140160]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the destination of persons removed from the UK has only been recorded since the start of 2004.

The number of persons removed from the UK to Iran was 265 in 2004 and 435 in 2005. These figures include people departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and people leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. 2005 removal figures also include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities. These figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

The number of persons removed from the UK in 2006 will be published in August on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Foreign Workers: Yorkshire

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from other EU countries are working in *(a)* West and *(b)* North Yorkshire, broken down by country of origin. [139589]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Available information on workers from EU countries is contained in the Accession Monitoring Report and the Bulgarian and Romanian Accession Report.

Both reports provide some detailed information by region but not for the specific areas requested.

Both reports are available on the Border and Immigration Agency website by following the links:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/bulgarianandromanianaccession

Forensic Science Service

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued to police forces in England and Wales with regard to the use of the Forensic Science Service for forensic work; and if he will place such guidance in the Library. [140853]

Mr. McNulty: The Forensic Science Service is one of a number of providers of forensic science to the police service. It is a matter for individual forces to determine which providers to employ. No specific guidance has been issued on the use of the Forensic Science Service.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether police forces in England and Wales are discouraged from sending more than 60 per cent. of their forensic work to the Forensic Science Service. [140716]

Mr. McNulty: The procurement of forensic science services is a matter for individual police forces. The Forensic Science Service is one of a number of service providers in the market. It is open to forces to decide what proportion of their requirement should be awarded to the Forensic Science Service.

Freedom of Information

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs on the application of Freedom of Information regulations to private companies performing public services. [120359]

Mr. Byrne: In the course of official business I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues on a wide range of issues.

Health Professions: Foreign Workers

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits have been issued for *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses and auxiliary nurses from (i) Nigeria, (ii) Ghana and (iii) other African countries since 2005. [139543]

Mr. Byrne: Table 1 shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals, in the period 1 January 2005 to 31 March 2007 from *(a)* Ghana, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* other African countries.

The list details countries that have been included in the category entitled "Other African Countries".

There have been no approvals for African countries for auxiliary nurses.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Table 1

	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*
Ghana	34	969	1,003
Nigeria	211	1,854	2,065

Table 1

	Doctor	*Nurse*	*Total*
Other African countries	921	9,743	10,664
Total	1,166	12,566	13,732

African Countries other than Nigeria and Ghana includes:

Algeria
Angola
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cameroon
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Comoros
Congo
Djibouti
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Guinea
Guinea Bissau
Ivory Coast
Kenya
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
Mauritius
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger
Reunion
Rwanda
Sao Tome & Principe
Senegal Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
Sudan
Swaziland
Tanzania
Togo
Tunisia
Uganda
Zaire
Zimbabwe

Illegal Immigrants: Crime

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of people convicted of a crime in Lancashire in each of the last five years were illegal immigrants. [127100]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the immigration status of offenders is not held centrally on the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform; therefore data on the number of illegal immigrants convicted of an offence are not available.

Immigrants

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to determine the application of Mrs. Zainabu Reed (ref M1037442) for leave to remain in the UK. [135139]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 23 May 2007.

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects the new Border and Security Agency to clear outstanding *(a)* exceptional leave to remain and *(b)* 14-year rule applications. [135335]

Mr. Byrne: Following the IND Review there is an ongoing programme to identify and clear arrears of casework across the whole of the Border and Immigration Agency, including exceptional leave to remain and 14-year rule applications. Resources have been diverted to some areas where backlogs exist in order to improve performance. This work is continuing. Clearance timescales are not yet resolved.

Immigration: Skilled Workers

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which categories of individual are awarded fast track status through UK immigration and customs procedures; [132013]

(2) what the application process is for the award of fast track status through UK immigration and customs procedures at UK airports. [132014]

Mr. Byrne: No individual is given privileged entry treatment by the Border and Immigration Agency when entering the United Kingdom.

The airport operator at Heathrow funds the staffing of Fast Track Immigration Controls. Fast Track offers travellers selected by participating airlines a discrete channel to the Immigration Control. The decision about who receives a fast track 'ticket' for this service is not an immigration one. At the Immigration Control, all persons seeking leave to enter the United Kingdom must satisfy the Immigration Officer that they qualify for entry in accordance with the Immigration Rules and will comply with any conditions attached to their leave.

IRIS (Iris Recognition Immigration System) is delivering a biometrically controlled automated border entry system for pre-registered travellers at selected ports in the United Kingdom. This initiative is part of

the eBorders programme. All passengers enrolling are subject to rigorous checks to confirm nationality, identity and eligibility to enter the UK. This mirrors those checks conducted on arrival. Further information on IRIS is available from:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/applying/iris/

There is no Fast Track procedure for HM Revenue and Customs.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Warley of 9 March regarding Mr. Randhawn of Oldburg. [138738]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 24 May 2007.

Migrant Workers: Agriculture

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many farmers receiving single farm payments in the UK applied for work permits for overseas workers in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [138829]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available. Border and Immigration Agency databases do not hold information that identifies employers/farmers who receive 'single farm payments'.

Police: Databases

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his response to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1076W, on the police national computer, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the audits conducted in August 2002 and *(b)* the Home Office report to Lord Falconer. [126004]

Mr. McNulty: I have arranged for a copy of the two audit reports referred to and summarised in the answer to the hon. Gentleman to be placed in the Library. Further to my previous reply the audits were two research exercises undertaken by the Home Office in 2001 and 2002 to assess the accuracy of conviction information recorded on the Police National Computer partly in preparation for the establishment of the Criminal Records Bureau. The reports and a supplementary report were released in 2006 in response to a Freedom of Information request. The report to Lord Falconer was in the form of advice to Ministers and as is the convention, such advice is not published.

Police: Retirement

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what age *(a)* male and *(b)* female police officers are able to retire on a full pension. [140885]

Mr. McNulty: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply I gave on 27 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 399W to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws). There is no difference between the pension ages of male and female officers.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dedicated traffic police officers there were in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [139559]

Mr. Coaker: The numbers of dedicated traffic police officers are not collected centrally. The available data are the number of full time equivalent police officers primarily employed in the function "traffic".

The available data are given in the table.

Police officers (FTE)[1] whose main function is traffic[2] (1996-97 to 2005-06)

	England and Wales
1996-97[3]	—
1997-98[3]	—
1998-99	7,525
1999-2000	7,238
2000-01	7,005
2002-03	6,902
2003-04	6,706
2004-05	7,104
2005-06	6,511

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. This does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.

[3] Data are not available for 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Police: Technology

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to use technology to modernise the operations of police forces. [140452]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office is fully committed to driving continuous improvement across policing as a whole in order to deliver better services to the public. Where necessary and operationally practical, this will include the promotion of technological innovations that aid the prevention and detection of crime and antisocial behaviour.

Security Measures

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made on each of the 12 points outlined by the Prime Minister as security measures on 5 August 2005; and if he will make a statement. [134312]

Mr. McNulty: The progress that has been made on each of the 12 points is set out as follows.

Progress on Prime Minister's 12 point plan

Measure	*Progress*
1. Introduce new grounds for deportation and exclusion.	Since the introduction of the new grounds of Unacceptable Behaviour for deportation and exclusion, 52 individuals have been excluded from the UK and 1 deported. A further 62 exclusion and 5 deportation cases are under consideration.
2. To create an offence of condoning or glorifying terrorism.	The Terrorism Act 2006 includes the new offence of encouraging terrorism, including glorifying terrorism, which is now in force.
3. To refuse asylum in this country automatically to anyone who has participated in terrorism.	Section 54 in the IAN Act allows us to deny asylum to terrorists while respecting our obligations under the Refugee Treaty. Section 55 in the Act allows the Secretary of State to certify that an appellant is not entitled to the protection of the Refugee Convention.
4. To consult on extending the powers to strip citizenship, applying them to British citizens engaged in extremism and making the procedures more effective.	A provision included in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 lowers the bar for removal of citizenship by replacing one of the existing criteria with a new power to deprive where such action is held by the Home Secretary to be "conducive to the public good". The power came into force on16 June 2006. One person has been deprived under this new power. Several other cases are being actively pursued having been identified as priority cases by Security Service and the Special Cases Oversight Board.
5. To consult on setting a maximum time limit for all future extradition cases involving terrorism.	Rashid Ramda extradited. A working group chaired by the Home Office with membership from CPS, HMCS, SOCA and other stakeholders is meeting bi-monthly to monitor developments in cases and remove obstacles to progress.
6. To examine a new court procedure to allow a pre-trial process.	We are currently examining ways of allowing more sensitive material in court. The maximum period of pre-charge detention has been extended to 28 days in the Terrorism Act 2006
7. To extend the use of control orders for those who are British nationals and cannot be deported.	There are 17 orders currently in force, 8 of which are in respect of British citizens. Control orders continue to be an essential tool to address the threat posed by suspected terrorists who cannot currently be prosecuted or, in respect of foreign nationals, who cannot be removed from the UK.
8. To expand the court capacity to deal with control orders.	Work continues to review the capacity of the courts, specialist tribunals and the judiciary to deal with existing and anticipated caseload relating to terrorism.
9. To proscribe Hizb-ut Tahrir and the successor organisation of Al Mujahiroun.	The Terrorism Act 2006 widens the criteria for proscription. Two of the successor organisations to Al Mujahiroun were proscribed in July 2006.

Progress on Prime Minister's 12 point plan

Measure	*Progress*
10. To review the acquisition of British Citizenship to make sure that it is adequate and to establish with the Muslim community a commission to advise on better integration.	We have extended the requirement to be of good character to virtually all applicants for British citizenship. The relevant provision, section 58 of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, was commenced on 4 December 2006. We are also looking at extending the checks carried out to establish good character.
	The Commission on Integration and Cohesion was launched on 24 August 2006. It will report in mid-June 2007.
11. To consult on a new power to order closure of a place of worship which is used as a centre for fermenting extremism and to consult with Muslim leaders in respect of those clerics who are not British Citizens to draw up a list of those not suitable to preach and who will be excluded from our country in the future.	The public consultation on taking powers to close a place of worship resulted in a decision not to legislate at this stage. This decision was announced to Parliament on 15 December 2005.
	The Mosques and Imams National Advisory Board (MINAB) was launched on 27 June 2006. We work closely with MINAB to ensure that they meet the challenge of their role as the national body with responsibility for mosques and imams.
	MINAB has committed itself to making early progress in five core areas: the accreditation of imams; the development of leadership skills for imams and mosque officials; progress in the inclusion of young people and women; improvement in the governance of mosques; and supporting mosques to contribute to community cohesion and to combating extremism.
12. To bring forward the proposed measures on the security of our borders with a series of countries specifically designated for biometric visas over the next year	By end 2007, all visa applicants (100 nationalities) will be required to provide biometric data (10 fingerscan and digital photograph) wherever in the world they apply for a UK visa. The equipment and process changes to enable this will be deployed overseas between autumn 2006 and the end of 2007. We are currently collecting biometric data from all visa applicants in 67 countries and checking the data against records held on the Border and Immigration Agency's Immigration Fingerprint Service database. The intention is that in due course all fingerscans will be checked against the Border and Immigration Agency's Immigration and Asylum Fingerprint Service database held in the UK, and the police national database, prior to reaching a decision on the visa application.

Teachers: Foreign Workers

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued for teachers and lecturers from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia, *(c)* Latin America and *(d)* the Caribbean in each year since 2000. [139542]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The following table and list shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals, in the period 1 January 2000 to 31 March 2007 from *(a)* Africa, *(b)* Asia *(c)* Latin America and *(d)* the Caribbean.

Work permit approvals 2000 to March 2007

	Lecturer	*Teacher*	*Total*	*Total*
2000				
Africa	50	340	390	[1]—
Asia	160	80	235	[1]—
Latin America	15	5	20	[1]—
Caribbean	[2]—	20	5	[1]—
Total	225	440	665	[1]—
2001				
Africa	65	2,485	2,550	[1]—
Asia	155	285	440	[1]—
Latin America	15	40	55	[1]—
Caribbean	5	460	460	[1]—
Total	240	3,265	3,510	[1]—
2002				
Africa	80	3,380	3,460	[1]—
Asia	210	535	745	[1]—
Latin America	30	65	95	[1]—
Caribbean	5	620	625	[1]—
Total	325	4,600	4,925	[1]—
2003				
Africa	80	2,265	2,345	[1]—
Asia	295	370	665	[1]—
Latin America	30	50	75	[1]—
Caribbean	5	595	600	[1]—
Total	410	3,280	3,690	[1]—
2004				
Africa	105	1,680	1,790	[1]—
Asia	265	390	655	[1]—
Latin America	30	35	65	[1]—
Caribbean	10	415	425	[1]—
Total	410	2,525	2,935	[1]—
2005				
Africa	110	1,425	1,530	[1]—
Asia	290	365	660	[1]—
Latin America	35	60	95	[1]—
Caribbean	10	350	360	[1]—
Total	445	2,200	2,645	[1]—
2006				
Africa	80	1,225	1,305	[1]—
Asia	340	390	730	[1]—
Latin America	30	40	70	[1]—
Caribbean	10	310	320	[1]—

Work permit approvals 2000 to March 2007

	Lecturer	*Teacher*	*Total*	*Total*
Total	460	1,970	2,430	[1]—
2007[3]				
Africa	20	200	220	[1]—
Asia	70	70	140	[1]—
Latin America	5	[2]—	5	485
Caribbean	[2]—	40	40	[1]—
Total	90	315	410	[1]—

[1] Indicates Nil
[2] Indicates 1 or 2
[3] January to March

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Africa

Angola
Burundi
Benin
Burkina Faso
Botswana
Central African Republic
Ivory Coast
Cameroon
Congo
Comoros
Cape Verde
Djibouti
Algeria
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Gambia
Guinea Bissau
Equatorial Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Libya
Lesotho
Morocco
Madagascar
Mali
Mozambique
Mauritania
Mauritius
Malawi
Namibia
Niger
Nigeria
Reunion
Rwanda
Sudan
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
Sao Tome & Principe
Swaziland

Seychelles
Chad
Togo
Tunisia
Tanzania
Uganda
South Africa
Zaire
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Asia

Bangladesh
Bhutan
Cambodia
China
Hong Kong
India
Indonesia
Japan
Laos
Malaysia
Maldives
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Singapore
North Korea
South Korea
Sri Lanka
Taiwan
Thailand
Vietnam

Latin America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Ecuador
Guyana
Paraguay
Peru
Surinam
Uruguay
Venezuela

Caribbean

Antigua
Bahamas
Barbados
Bermuda
Cuba
Dominica
Grenada
Jamaica
Haiti
Montserrat
St. Kitts
St. Lucia
St. Vincent
Trinidad & Tobago

West Midlands Police: Standards

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police time was spent on frontline duties by West Midlands police in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [140199]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Information on the time spent by police officers on front-line duties in the West Midlands police is set out in the following table.

	Time spent on front-line duties (percentage)
2003-04 (baseline year)	62.20
2004-05	63.60
2005-06	61.80
2007-08 (force target)	73.10

Written Questions

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer question 128690, on migrant workers and the school age children of migrant workers, tabled by the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham on 20th March. [135524]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1330W.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to the question tabled on 3 May on children applying for asylum status; and what the reasons are for the delay in answering. [139545]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1241W.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has had with Serco on its management of complaints received on the treatment of women detainees at Yarl's Wood. [137997]

Mr. Byrne: All complaints are dealt with under a Detention Service Order (DSO). The complaints DSO 7/2006 clearly defines the way complaints are handled, with a right of appeal to the Prison and Probation Ombudsman.

Border and Immigration Agency staff at Yarl's Wood spend time on the accommodation units and closely monitor the care and welfare of detainees. I am placing a copy of the DSO in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps he has taken to improve the treatment of women detainees at Yarl's Wood. [137998]

Mr. Byrne: The contract that exists between the Home Office and Serco outlines the Border and Immigration Agency's requirements in regard to the services provided to detainees. The contract is underpinned by an ethos of improving services to the detainees both in terms of care and safety.

A bi-weekly meeting is in place to support direct communication between detainees and the managers of the centre. There is also a system of suggestion and comments books located on accommodation units to allow women and families to give a steer on the services and activities they would enjoy. This system has already resulted in an agreement to produce a weekly newsletter highlighting activities and service changes.

TREASURY

Business: Education

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many employees were involved in the Enterprise Summer School scheme in 2006; and how many are expected to be involved in 2007. [138020]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

We know from Young Enterprise that 236 businesses and other organisations were involved in the funding of the summer schools Pathfinders, and that on average at least two staff members from each company/organisation volunteered, so we would estimate that 472 individual employees were involved.

We have no plans at present for a second round of such enterprise summer schools in 2007, but are considering options for future years.

Constituency Size

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* actual and *(b)* percentage change in the size of the electorate in each parliamentary constituency was between the last two years for which figures are available, grouped according to region and listed in descending order according to percentage change. [140143]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 5 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning what the (a) actual and (b) percentage change in the size of the electorate in each parliamentary constituency was between the last two years for which figures are available, grouped according to region and listed in descending order according to percentage change. I am replying in her absence. (140143)

The attached table shows the actual and percentage change for parliamentary electors by parliamentary constituency between 1 December 2005 and 1 December 2006 and are sorted by percentage change in descending order by UK Country and Government Office Region in England. A copy of the table has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 7 June 2007

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Sex Discrimination

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 2W, on sex discrimination, if he will place in the Library the general advice issued in November 2003 by the Archbishops' Council to dioceses and parishes on the effect of the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2003 and the Employment Equality (Religion and Belief) Regulations 2003. [140677]

Sir Stuart Bell: I have placed a copy in the Library today, 7 June.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will ensure that the Discrimination Law Review explicitly considers age discrimination as part of its remit. [141110]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are considering whether there is a case for introducing legislation to prohibit harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services as part of the Discrimination Law Review. The proposals emerging from the review will be published for public consultation shortly.

Discrimination

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish for public consultation proposals emerging from the Discrimination Law Review. [141108]

Mr. Woolas: Proposals for a Single Equality Bill will be published for public consultation shortly.

Explosives: Transport

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance was offered by the Government to the fire authorities in England and Wales following the explosion on 22 March 1989 involving a vehicle carrying explosives on the Fengate Industrial Estate in Cambridgeshire; and whether that guidance has since been *(a)* amended, *(b)* added to and *(c)* withdrawn by her Department. [139591]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: Following the explosion on 22 March 1989 involving a vehicle carrying explosives on the Fengate Industrial Estate in Cambridgeshire, the Home Office issued the Chief Officer Letter 4/1989 on 25 May 1989, covering Road Traffic (Carriage and Explosives) regulations 1989. The regulation required vehicles carrying explosives to be marked front and rear with an orange rectangle and on the sides with an orange diamond carrying in black the classification division and the compatibility group and some cases the explosives symbol. Following the incident at Peterborough, the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) obtained the agreement of consignors of explosives to implement the vehicle marking requirement before the regulations formally came into effect.

Following the report of the investigation by the Health and Safety Executive, Chief Officer Letter 4/1989 was superseded on 3 May 1991 by Chief Officer Letter 4/1991, item 3, which made a distinction between fires that involve the load compartment, and those that do not and the possible evacuation of the area. The HSE advised that only where the rapid application of water would have a good chance of preventing an explosion, should an attack by firefighters be attempted.

On 6 May 1992, Chief Officers Letter 6/1992 item 7 introduced Technical Bulletin 1/1992: Explosives Guide. This Technical Bulletin gives general guidance about the common properties of explosives, the various uses to which they are put and the regulations covering their manufacture, storage and transportation.

Fire Services: Emergency Calls

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of fire service response times from time of call to time of first attendance for each fire and rescue service were of a duration of *(a)* up to five minutes, *(b)* six to 10 minutes, *(c)* 11 to 15 minutes and *(d)* over 15 minutes in each of the last five years. [140723]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 6 June 2007]*: The information requested is provided as follows.

Attendance time in minutes

	up to 5		*6 to 10*		*11 to 15*		*over 15*	
	Attendances	*Percentage*	*Attendances*	*Percentage*	*Attendances*	*Percentage*	*Attendances*	*Percentage*
2001	89,287	44	90,535	45	16,399	8	4,916	2
2002	81,662	43	86,166	46	15,861	8	4,869	3
2003	76,441	41	87,143	47	17,383	9	5,313	3

	Attendance time in minutes							
	up to 5		6 to 10		11 to 15		over 15	
	Attendances	Percentage	Attendances	Percentage	Attendances	Percentage	Attendances	Percentage
2004	62,580	39	77,814	48	15,335	10	5,075	3
2005	53,928	36	74,536	50	15,525	10	5,213	3

Note:
Figures are based on sampled data grossed to fire and rescue service totals and exclude any fires in November 2002 and January-February 2003 strike periods. Incidents with a response time of 60 minutes or more are excluded as these are likely to be 'late calls', where the fire is known to have been already been extinguished when the FRS were informed of the fire. Data are for England and Wales primary fires only.
Source:
Fire and Rescue Sendee returns to CLG

Fire and Rescue Service attendance times have been increasing gradually over the last 5 years, with 86 per cent. of primary fires attended within 10 minutes in 2005 compared with 89 per cent. in 2001. Over the same period the number of people in England killed in accidental dwelling fires, the public service agreement target has fallen by 27 per cent. from 321 to 233 and the number of calls to incidents has also reduced indicating the positive impact of risk based fire prevention.

Public Lavatories: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to ensure that the provision of disabled toilets by local authorities is compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [139777]

Angela E. Smith: New public conveniences provided by local authorities must comply with the Building Regulations. Toilets for use by disabled people, whether wheelchair users or ambulant disabled people, should comply with Part M of the Building Regulations (Access to and use of buildings). The guidance in Approved Document M shows one way of meeting these requirements.

Regulations made under the Disability Discrimination Act (The Disability Discrimination (Service Providers and Public Authorities Carrying Out Functions) Regulations 2005; S.I. 2005 No. 2901) provide an exemption from the requirement on service providers and public authorities to make 'reasonable adjustments' to physical features of a building provided they follow the guidance in the version of Approved Document M, which applied at the time of installation or construction. The exemption applies for a period of up to 10 years from the completion of installation or construction of the feature or, in the case of a physical feature provided as part of a larger building project, the day on which the works in relation to that project were completed.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date she met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the forward budget of her Department. [140018]

Tessa Jowell: As Secretary of State responsible for public expenditure I have had and will continue to have, wide-ranging and regular discussions on the Department's forward plans, principally with the Chief Secretary to the Treasury. I also have regular meetings and discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a range of issues.

English Heritage: Public Appointments

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on the appointment of a new chair of English Heritage. [140770]

Tessa Jowell: The costs incurred on the appointment of the new English Heritage chair are £38,221.39. The first campaign failed to identify a suitable candidate for appointment and was re-launched in February 2007.

The costs incurred under the first campaign are £15,693.34. This included £15,277.34 for advertising in the national press and £416 for independent assessor costs.

The costs incurred under the second campaign are £22,528.05. This includes £7,073.50 for advertising in the national press; £15,037.55 in fees to a recruitment agency engaged to search for suitable candidates and £417 for independent assessor costs.

Olympic Games: Greater London

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the total budget for the London Olympics in 2012 has been set aside for direct funding of cultural events as part of the Cultural Olympiad. [138402]

Tessa Jowell: The mandatory ceremonies will be directly funded from the London 2012 Organising Committee's budget for the 2012 Games. It is confident that the mandatory ceremonies will be funded within its £2 billion revenue budget. The bid projects and signature events and the UK-wide cultural festival will be delivered and funded in partnership with a range of public and private partners. For example, the Legacy Trust will invest at least £40 million in funding cultural and sporting activity in the run up to the 2012 Games.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will shortly set out more detail on the bid projects and the UK-wide Cultural Festival. However, we will not be in a position to provide an overall cost figure in advance for what will be a developing programme of events over the four years of the Cultural Olympiad, with funding being drawn in from a number of sources over that period.

DEFENCE

Food Supply: Security

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he last considered the defence implications for the UK of *(a)* the threat of and *(b)* actual contamination of food supplies; and if he will make a statement. [137430]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1050W.

Future Surface Combatant

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the initial concept and design work for the Future Surface Combatant. [139151]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: A project team has been established to develop the requirement for the Future Surface Combatant. The team has undertaken a considerable amount of work, including some concept design work in conjunction with industry.

Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1119W, on rendition, what arrangements exist for notification of landings by non-military state aircraft at civilian airfields. [135256]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 1 May 2007]*: The MOD is only responsible for flight clearance arrangements for foreign military aircraft entering and leaving UK airspace, and for civil aircraft using MOD airfields. Arrangements for aircraft from foreign non-military agencies and Departments transiting UK airspace or landing at UK civil airfields are the responsibility of the relevant counterpart UK Government Department.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what methodology is used by her Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140854]

Hilary Armstrong: The methodology used to account for carbon emissions for offsetting purposes is the same used across Government to calculate official and ministerial air travel. For energy purposes, we use the methodology published by the Carbon Trust.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much her Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139902]

Hilary Armstrong: The cost of fees paid for travel agency services cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Children's Centres: Maternity Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consideration is made of the requirements of maternity services in the development of Sure Start children's centres. [141117]

Beverley Hughes: All Sure Start children's centres should link with their local maternity services to improve the accessibility of ante and post-natal care and promote their integration with other services.

Joint Department of Health/Department of Education and Skills children's centre guidance set out policy that through children's trust arrangements, local authorities and PCTs should ensure these opportunities for the benefits are maximised, particularly for disadvantaged and excluded groups. It is up to local authorities and PCTs to agree the scope of the working arrangements and the level of resources allocated to them.

Dyspraxia

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what Government support is available for people suffering from dyspraxia. [139134]

Mr. Dhanda: Support for children with special educational needs (SEN) accounts for a high proportion of all school expenditure. We do not hold information centrally about expenditure on dyspraxia, but information collected from local authorities (LAs) shows planned expenditure on the education of school-age children with SEN of £4.5 billion in 2006-07. This is about 13 per cent. of all education spending.

Schools and LAs provide support to children with SEN, including those with dyspraxia, by taking account of guidance set out in the SEN Code of Practice (2001). The code recommends school based interventions at two levels—"School Action and School Action Plus". If a child does not make adequate progress or cannot access the curriculum at "School Action Plus", and it is considered the child may need support over and above what the school can provide, the LA may carry out a statutory assessment of the child's SEN, with the view to the issue of a statement. A statement sets out the child's needs, the provision to meet those needs, and the school the child attends.

Once a statement is issued the LA is under a duty to arrange the educational provision specified in the statement.

A statement may also, in the case of a child with dyspraxia, set out the support to be provided by health services, for example occupational therapy.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) is responsible for funding further education provision for post-16 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those people with dyspraxia. We do not hold information on the specific expenditure on dyspraxia. However, overall investment in provision for these learners has increased significantly over recent years, and in 2004/05 the LSC helped support more

than 640,000 learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities accounting for nearly £1.5 billion.

Continuing investment in this provision remains a priority and the LSC has made clear in their Annual Statement of Priorities for 2007-08 that they expect the proportion of learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to be maintained.

For young people in higher education, disabled students allowances can help meet the additional costs of undertaking the course which arise from their disability, mental health condition or specific learning disability, including dyspraxia.

Educational Institutions: Israel

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the decision of the University and College Union to consider a boycott of Israeli academic institutions; and if he will make a statement. [140967]

Bill Rammell: The UK Government fully support academic freedom and are firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics. While I appreciate the independence of the UCU, I am very disappointed that the union has decided to pass a motion which encourages its members to consider boycotting Israeli academics and education institutions. I profoundly believe this does nothing to promote the Middle East peace process, in fact the reverse.

Foundation Degrees

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of foundation degrees he estimates will be validated by *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* universities in each region in each year from 2009 to 2020, broken down by age group of students and taking into account the anticipated changes in demography in each region if the proposals currently before the House relating to franchise rights are enacted. [140715]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 June 2007]*: Estimates of the data requested have not been made by the Department.

A report published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in January 2007 (Foundation Degrees: Key Statistics 2001-02 to 2006-07) shows that in the academic year 2004-05, a total of 83 higher education institutions (HEIs) and 255 further education colleges were involved with foundation degree provision. The following table shows the number of students registered and taught at each type of institution, and whether these students were studying on a full-time or part-time basis:

Home foundation degree entrants in 2004-05 at HEIs and FEIs in England

Institution		Full-time		Part-time		Total		
Reg.	Taught	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Percentage full-time
HEI	HEI	4,950	39	4,365	56	9,315	45	53
HEI	HEI and FEI	145	1	40	1	185	1	78
HEI	FEI	4,365	34	1,665	21	6,030	29	72
FEI	FEI	3,295	26	1,750	22	5,040	25	66
Total		12,750	100	7,815	100	20,570	100	62

It should not, however, be inferred from this data that any particular proportion of foundation degree students will in future be undertaking programmes at a college with powers to award its own foundation degrees.

Further Education: Foundation Degrees

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* universities, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* further education colleges prior to taking the decision to bring forward legislation to permit further education colleges to apply for the right to award foundation degrees. [139271]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: The proposals in Clause 17 of the Further Education and Training Bill, to allow Further Education institutions in England to apply for the power to award Foundation Degrees, emerged after informal discussions with a number of interested parties in the further and higher education sectors. These followed up Sir Andrew Foster's recommendation that "consideration should be given to allowing some colleges, that meet quality criteria, the ability to award their own qualifications, rather than working through awarding bodies".

Officials discussed with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) how these proposals might be taken forward prior to the publication of the Further Education and Training Bill. The views of the Association of Colleges and other representative bodies from the Further Education sector were also sought.

Since publication of the Bill, the Department has undertaken extensive and extremely constructive discussions with a wide range of representatives from the Higher and Further Education sectors, as well as other interested stakeholder bodies. Over thirty written submissions were received in response to a circular letter inviting comment on the proposals; these included responses from a number of Sector Skills Councils and the Council for Industry and Higher Education. Ministers and officials have also maintained frequent contact with sector bodies such as Universities UK and the Association of Colleges, and have also corresponded with representatives from individual institutions in both sectors.

Further Education: Qualifications

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the completion rates were for students undertaking *(a)* higher national diplomas and *(b)* foundation degrees in each of the last 10 years. [138387]

Bill Rammell: Information on the completion rates of students on foundation degrees and higher national diplomas for the last 10 years is not held centrally.

The available information on the qualification rates of students on foundation degrees was published in January 2007 in 'Foundation degrees: key statistics 2001-02 to 2006-07' by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The information, covering students registered at higher education institutions, looked at the qualification rates of students on courses with expected course lengths of two and three years who qualified within these time frames.

The key findings were that, overall, around 77 to 86 per cent. of students had either qualified within the expected course length or were still studying either on a foundation degree course or on another higher education programme. The exact proportion varied depending on the length and mode of study of the course.

The report also contained comparable figures for students on HNDs. These showed a slightly wider variation in the proportion of students who had either qualified within the expected course length or were still studying either on a HND course or on another higher education programme of between 74 to 86 per cent. Again, the exact proportion depended on the length and mode of study.

The complete report is available from the HEFCE website only at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2007/

Learning and Skills Councils: Reorganisation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs of any redundancies which will arise from the proposed restructuring of learning and skills councils including the costs of payments to individuals and the costs of payments into the pension scheme. [139273]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: The LSC has been undertaking a major restructuring exercise under theme 7 of its 'Agenda for Change' reform programme. This exercise is expected to be completed later this summer, and will result in some 1,100 fewer staff posts across the whole of the organisation.

The LSC set aside provision of £55.7 million in its 2005-06 accounts to cover the one-off costs associated with these staff changes. Of this, £30.4 million is for redundancy and severance costs, £2.1 million for pension costs and £2.29 million for outplacement costs. The remainder is for property and HR related activities. Final outturn figures for 2006-07 are not yet available but will be published in the LSC's annual report and accounts in July.

We expect the LSC to achieve year-on-year savings of £40 million as a result of these changes. This is in addition to the £50 million savings it is already making year-on-year compared to predecessor bodies.

Medicine: Qualifications

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the *(a)* average number of A*s at GCSE and *(b)* average UKCAT score attained by successful (i) pre A-level and (ii) post A-level applicants to medical schools was in the academic year 2006-07. [140754]

Bill Rammell: Information on the average number of A*s at GCSE and average UKCAT scores is not held centrally. In 2006, there were 18,949 applicants to pre-clinical medicine courses, of whom 8,011 were accepted.

Vocational Training

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many vocational course places were available for 16 to 19 year olds in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [135789]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 8 May 2007]*: The following table shows numbers in full-time education, WBL and other forms of education and training by highest qualification aim over the last five years. It is not possible to split student numbers clearly between vocational and other routes, particularly as substantial numbers of young people will follow a mixed programme involving both vocational and general subjects.

End of calendar year	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Males and females					
Full-time education	1,027,400	1,059,700	1,086,100	1,127,600	1,176,800
Higher Education (Level 4 and above)	128,800	131,800	133,700	134,700	142,300
Further Education	898,700	928,300	952,400	992,900	1,034,500
NVQ3	6,600	6,400	6,400	8,100	8,300
VCE A/AS level or Advanced GNVQ	119,300	112,600	116,200	104,100	63,200
GCE A/AS level	472,100	486,000	481,900	494,700	533,200
NVQ 3 equivalents	91,900	102,800	117,500	136,700	167,900
NVQ 2	29,100	28,600	29,800	31,300	33,700
Intermediate GNVQ	53,200	49,000	40,300	33,200	23,100
GCSE	20,200	19,000	18,500	21,300	24,200
NVQ 2 equivalents	42,300	47,700	56,900	69,400	79,800
NVQ 1	9,100	9,800	10,100	12,500	14,900
Foundation GNVQ	10,800	11,500	10,200	8,200	5,100
NVQ 1 equivalents	15,700	20,900	26,400	31,800	40,500
Other courses[2]	28,500	33,800	38,200	41,600	40,600
Work Based Learning (WBL)	156,600	151,400	156,700	156,100	149,700
Of which:					
WBL in full-time education	3,200	3,300	3,400	3,400	3,500
WBL in part-time education	5,300	5,200	5,000	4,800	4,800

End of calendar year	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Employer Funded Training (EFT)	94,900	99,800	105,600	101,900	95,600
Of which:					
Part-time education	13,500	14,800	14,300	12,900	13,300
Other Education and Training (OET)[3]	107,000	103,100	102,500	98,300	96,300
Of which:					
Part-time education	95,900	89,500	87,400	85,300	82,500
Total Education and WBL[4]	1,290,200	1,312,100	1,341,000	1,378,400	1,418,800
Total Education and training[5]	1,382,700	1,410,700	1,447,500	1,480,500	1,515,000
Not in any education or training[6]	465,800	482,200	488,900	488,600	474,000
All	1,848,500	1,892,900	1,936,400	1,969,000	1,989,000
Population (Thousand)	1,848,500	1,892,900	1,936,400	1,969,000	1,989,000

[1] Provisional.
[2] Includes all courses below level 1 and those of unknown or unspecified level (also includes PRUs; and special schools, for which no qualification breakdown is available).
[3] Includes part-time education not funded by employers or through WBL; also full or part-time education in independent FE and HE institutions.
[4] Total of all full-time and part-time education and WBL (less WBL in full-time education), equivalent to local level estimates for education and training.
[5] Total of all full-time education and WBL (less WBL in full-time education) plus EFT and OET.
[6] The remainder of the age group.

Written Questions

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to provide a substantive answer to question 138625, on grammar schools, tabled by the right hon. Member for Holborn and St. Pancras on 17 May. [140694]

Jim Knight: A response was issued to my right hon. Friend on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 121W.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission if he will make a statement on the progress of the Electoral Commission's investigation into the legality of donations made by Mr. Michael Browne to the Liberal Democrats. [140026]

Peter Viggers: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer on this matter to my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 May, *Official Report*, column 748W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cattle: Exports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will prohibit the export of live young calves. [139731]

Mr. Bradshaw: No, the UK cannot place a unilateral ban on exports because to do so would be illegal under EU law.

Environment Protection: Publications

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the consultation paper on the social and environmental guidance due in March 2008. [141027]

Ian Pearson: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the social and environmental guidance to Ofwat. This will be influenced by the Government's new water strategy which is being developed for publication during the summer. We expect to carry out a public consultation on the draft social and environmental guidance in the autumn.

Eunomia Consultancy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies has paid to the Eunomia consultancy; and for what purpose. [104104]

Barry Gardiner *[pursuant to the reply, 8 January 2007, Official Report, c. 273W]:* My answer for the financial years, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were incorrect. The correct figures are in the table.

The rest of the answer remains correct and is detailed in full as follows. From information held centrally, the sums paid to the company Eunomia are as follows:

Financial year	*Value (£)*
2002-03	23,860.42
2003-04	107,094.23
2004-05	428,972.25
2005-06	711,929.20
1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006	9,380.49

The expenditure with Eunomia covers work commissioned by DEFRA on environment regulation policy and the waste implementation programme. Data on any expenditure with Eunomia by DEFRA's agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fly-tipping: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in Cambridgeshire in each year since 2004; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents; [139584]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were in Cambridgeshire for fly-tipping in each year since 2004; and how much has been recovered in related fines. [139585]

Mr. Bradshaw: Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, to record the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities.

The table shows the number of incidents and prosecutions recorded by local authorities in Cambridgeshire on Flycapture:

	Total number of incidents in Cambridgeshire	*Estimated clearance costs (£)*	*Number of prosecutions taken to court*	*Number of successful prosecutions*
2004-05	8,037	488,523	0	0
2005-06	11,978	665,420	2	2

Data for 2006-07 are not yet available, but will be published in the summer.

Flycapture does not record details of any costs awarded to local authorities by courts following successful prosecutions.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Disclosure of Information

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements exist on reporting of greenhouse gas emissions for which companies *(a)* subject to and *(b)* not subject to the European Emissions Trading Scheme are (i) directly and (ii) indirectly responsible; and how such reports are verified. [140401]

Ian Pearson: Installations participating in the European Union (EU) Emissions Trading Scheme are required to have their annual emissions verified by an independent accredited verifier. Installations that fail to do this will have their annual emissions determined by their regulator. Installations must also submit an annual report to the regulator on how they will improve their monitoring and reporting of emissions.

The data on emissions and associated energy use are made available to the Department for Trade and Industry in compiling the Digest of UK Energy Statistics (DUKES). The data are also made available to the UK National Greenhouse Gas Inventory.

To meet requirements of the EU Accounts Modernisation Directive (AMD) (2003), the Companies Act (2006) contains a requirement for large companies to produce a business review, contained within the annual report and accounts. This includes information on environmental matters where it is considered to be important to company performance.

Further to the EU AMD, the Government have introduced additional requirements. From 1 October 2007, quoted companies will need to ensure their business review includes information on environmental matters to the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance and position of the company's business. Where appropriate, the review will be required to include key performance indicators (KPIs). Directors have responsibility to decide what environmental matters and KPIs are included and this may contain information on climate related issues and greenhouse gas emissions data.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what expenditure plans he has for the £7.5 million funding designed to improve the relationship between Warm Front and the Energy Efficiency Commitment, as described in paragraph 7.42 of the 2006 pre-Budget report; and if he will make a statement; [139697]

(2) how local authorities planning area-based energy efficiency programmes will be able to access the £7.5 million proposed expenditure noted in paragraph 7.42 of the 2006 pre-Budget report; whom he expects to benefit from the expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [139699]

Ian Pearson: Following the announcement in the pre-Budget report, details have been developed for a competitive bidding process to determine the allocation of the £6.3 million of this funding that is available in England.

Organisations will be able to bid, against a set of criteria, for resources to support them in the development and delivery of local area-based initiatives designed to promote the installation of energy efficiency measures in households and tackle fuel poverty. Organisations will be encouraged to work in partnership with others and are required to secure agreement from the relevant local authority(ies), as their involvement is important in ensuring the success of local initiatives. Bidders will have to demonstrate their ability to provide a cost effective and sustainable service that works effectively and efficiently with the Energy Efficiency Commitment and Warm Front. I expect the open tender to be launched soon, with the successful bidders being selected on a competitive basis thereafter.

Further information is available on the fuel poverty pages on the DEFRA website.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to reply to the Fourth Report of the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee, Fourth Report on Radioactive Waste Management: an Update. [141122]

Ian Pearson: The Department expects to provide the Government's response to the Committee's Report within the recommended two month deadline.

Water: Publications

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the Water Strategy; and what account it will take of affordability. [141028]

Ian Pearson: Our aim is to publish the Government's new Water Strategy later this summer. The Strategy will set out a coherent policy framework to underpin our commitments for water availability and quality.

Its aim is to improve standards of service and quality while balancing environmental impacts, water quality, supply and demand, and social and economic effects. It will take into account affordability concerns, particularly for those on low incomes and vulnerable groups.

Weed Control

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the use of Diquat to control weed growth in watercourses; and if he will make a statement. [138830]

Ian Pearson: Along with all other pesticides approved for use in the UK, Diquat has been subject to the review programme initiated under the Plant Protection Products Directive 91/414/EEC. This ensures that risk assessments are updated in the light of the most recent scientific information. Diquat was approved under the directive, but aquatic use was not allowed because of the risks to fish, invertebrates and non-target plants. This restriction took effect in June 2004. As an interim measure, an emergency authorisation for the aquatic use of Diquat in the UK was granted in 2005 and in 2006 to enable the control of weeds. Emergency authorisations can be granted where there is an unforeseeable danger that cannot be controlled by other means.

In 2006, Ministers concluded that no further emergency authorisations would be granted until the Advisory Committee on Pesticides was satisfied by evidence that risk mitigation measures would render the aquatic use of Diquat acceptable.

Earlier this year, the Committee considered an application for a further emergency authorisation. It concluded that it was not appropriate to recommend a further emergency approval this year. The Committee noted that no new data were available proving acceptable risk. Furthermore, there was no evidence that alternative methods of control had been tried.

If the Government receive new evidence which demonstrates that this herbicide can be used without unacceptable risks to the aquatic environment, we will ask the Advisory Committee to review it and will consider any resulting advice.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Armed Conflict: Journalists

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions her officials have had with (i) European partners and (ii) others (A) regarding respect for the professional independence and rights of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel during armed conflict and (B) to obtain universal compliance with relevant obligations under international law to end impunity and prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international law against such persons; and if she will make a statement. [140893]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to promoting freedom of expression worldwide and to defending and protecting the professional independence and right of journalists and media professionals to work without fear of reprisal during armed conflict. Journalists, media professionals and associated personnel must be provided with the protection that they need under domestic and international law.

Last month, at the World Press Freedom Day, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Ian McCartney, reaffirmed our commitment to promote, defend, and protect the professional independence and right of journalists and media professionals to work without fear of reprisal. He also spoke out against impunity for crimes deliberately targeted against journalists. To intentionally direct an attack against civilians not taking direct part in hostilities is a war crime as defined under Article 8 (2)(b)(i) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Under Article 79 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, journalists are regarded as civilians, provided they do not take action adversely affecting their status. These provisions provide journalists, media professionals and associated personnel with protection under international law. The key challenge for the international community is to ensure that international law is respected and enforced in order to provide a strong deterrent.

To assist this process, and raise awareness of the violence directed against journalists in conflict zones, the UK and its EU partners tabled UN Security Council Resolution 1738 in December 2006. The resolution condemned violence directed against journalists in conflict zones. It called on parties involved in conflict to stop deliberate attacks against journalists and respect them as civilians under international law.

In addition to our discussions over the tabling of Resolution 1738, we also discussed this matter with outside experts at the meeting of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advisory Panel on Freedom of Expression on 24 May. We will continue to work with our EU partners and others to support efforts to promote and strengthen respect for international law, in particular in this area. An essential part of this is our strong support for the international criminal tribunals, including the ICC, which are a key part of international efforts to combat the crimes of most concern to the international community. We also discuss with EU partners and others joint action to protest at mistreatment of journalists.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions her Department has had since the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of Resolution 1738, on the protection of journalists in armed conflict, with States Parties to the Geneva Conventions, in order to ensure that (i) all necessary action is taken to search for persons who have committed, or ordered others to commit, breaches of those conventions and (ii) such people are tried before their own courts so that they are handed to another concerned state; and if she will make a statement. [140894]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to promoting freedom of expression and the media worldwide. Journalists, media professionals and

associated personnel must be provided with the protection that they need under domestic and international law.

In addition to tabling, with our EU partners, UN Security Council Resolution 1738 in December 2006, the UK will continue to work with partners to support efforts to promote and strengthen respect for international law, in particular in this area. An essential part of this is our strong support for the international criminal tribunals, including the International Criminal Court, which are a key part of international efforts to combat the crimes of most concern to the international community. We expect that the Red Cross Conference in Geneva in November will amongst other things discuss reaffirmation of international humanitarian law.

The UK regularly speaks out when journalists are murdered, attacked or harassed. We raise cases with foreign governments, urging compliance with international law. For example, we engaged with the Russian Federation following the death of Anna Politkovskaya.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what measures have been introduced to ensure the UK's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, on the protection of journalists in armed conflict; and if she will make a statement. [140897]

Dr. Howells: The Government are committed to promoting freedom of expression and the media worldwide. Journalists, media professionals and associated personnel must be provided with the protection that they need under domestic and international law.

To assist this process, and raise awareness of the violence directed against journalists in conflict zones, the UK and its EU partners tabled UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1738 in December 2006. The resolution condemned violence directed against journalists in conflict zones. It called on parties involved in conflict to stop deliberate attacks against journalists, and respect them as civilians under international law.

No specific new measures were required of the UK to implement UNSCR 1738. UK military forces are already required to act in compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law relating to the protection of civilians, including journalists, to which the resolution refers.

Funding is available to support measures to protect journalists in armed conflict through a new human rights strand of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Global Opportunities Fund. For example, we have funded work in Colombia, with the International News Safety Institute, aimed at creating a culture of safety in journalism and reducing the risks journalists face at work.

The UK regularly speaks out when journalists are murdered, attacked or harassed. We raise cases with foreign governments, urging compliance with international law. For example, we engaged with the Russian Federation following the death of Anna Politkovskaya.

The Government will continue to tackle the targeting of journalists. They are an essential component of healthy, democratic societies. They need and deserve protection for their role.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions her Department has had with (i) European partners and (ii) others to seek the earliest possible compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, on the protection of journalists in armed conflict; and if she will make a statement. [140898]

Dr. Howells: We have had no specific discussions with European partners and others on compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1738. Compliance is the responsibility of UN States. We do continue to discuss wider matters of international humanitarian law, under which journalists are covered, and to take joint action on individual cases.

Bangladesh

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the arrests of 10 British citizens in Syhlet, Bangladesh, on 14 May; what representations she has made on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [140633]

Dr. Howells: We understand that the 10 British citizens were part of a gathering of over 40 people who were arrested in Syhlet for allegedly breaching the current restrictions in Bangladesh on the holding of political meetings.

We take our consular responsibilities to British nationals very seriously. On becoming aware of the arrests, our High Commission in Dhaka raised the case with the caretaker government and sought consular access. Following an order of the High Court in Dhaka on 22 May nine of the detained British citizens have been released on bail and one has since returned to the UK. The High Commission continues to provide consular assistance to the remaining detainee.

We continue to emphasise to the caretaker government, and to the armed forces, the need to respect human rights and the rule of law.

EC Internal Relations

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which projects were funded by her Department's budget for EU Communications in each year since 1997; and how much the total budget was in each year. [137521]

Mr. Hoon: The spend in each financial year from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) EU Directorate budget codes related to EU communications in the UK are:

	£
1997-98	[1]13,500
1998-99	[2]—
1999-2000	102,574

	£
2000-01	258,000
2001-02	246,819
2002-03	167,891
2003-04	604,730
2004-05	400,499
2005-06[3]	274,274
2006-07	[4]
2007-08	[5]265,000

[1] Excluding EU presidency EU communications.
[2] Figures not available.
[3] Plus £434,233 EU presidency public diplomacy.
[4] Final figures not yet available.
[5] Allocated budget.

Funding may have been provided from other FCO budgets, for example on activities relating to the EU's roles on a range of FCO strategic priorities, for the 1998 UK presidency and for activities by UK embassies in Europe. Given the wide range of possible budgets and relevant projects comprehensive details could only be collated at disproportionate cost.

In line with the FCO's public service agreement, FCO spending on EU communications covers a wide range of projects to raise awareness and debate on EU issues, such as:

the europe.gov.uk

website, publications and public events on EU issues.

Ilois: Resettlement

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she intends to petition the House of Lords for leave to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeal on 23 May regarding the Chagos Islands; what estimate she has made of the likely cost of such an appeal; and if she will make a statement. [140497]

Margaret Beckett: I will consider the 23 May judgment of the Court of Appeal carefully and have in this regard asked officials for farther advice. I reserve the right to petition the House of Lords to grant permission to appeal, as I am entitled to do within one month.

The costs of a further appeal are estimated at £140,000.

The Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore remains the subject of possible ongoing legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1481W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether the two requests for assistance on behalf of three Iraqi nationals were agreed to. [140670]

Dr. Howells: In line with our policy worldwide we do not comment on the substance of individual immigration or consular cases.

As I said in my response to my hon. Friend on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1481W, all requests for assistance are dealt with on a case by case basis, taking account of individual circumstances. If after assessment we decide that an individual's circumstances do not merit our assistance, we encourage them to contact local UN High Commissioner for Refugees offices, available national refugee bodies or other relevant agencies.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will *(a)* make representations on behalf of the Christian community based in North West Frontier Province in Pakistan to seek greater protection for them and *(b)* make representations to the government of Pakistan to desist from imposing apostasy laws. [140984]

Dr. Howells: As my hon. Friend is aware, we regularly raise our concerns over the situation of religious minorities with the Government of Pakistan, bilaterally and together with our EU partners.

We are aware of the difficulties faced by the Christian community in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and will continue to follow developments. We will also continue to monitor the progress of the draft Apostasy Bill. Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right and we will continue to voice our concerns to the Government of Pakistan.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the number of blasphemy cases being heard in the Pakistani courts; and what representations she has made to the Pakistan government in the case of Younis Masih. [141055]

Dr. Howells: We follow closely the subject of blasphemy trials in Pakistan. We receive reports on blasphemy trials from human rights groups and monitor cases reported in the media.

We do not usually raise individual cases and have not recently made any representations to the Pakistani authorities on the case of Younis Masih. However, we regularly raise our concerns about blasphemy legislation and its effects on minority groups with the Government of Pakistan, both bilaterally and with our EU partners, and will continue to do so. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, Ian McCartney, most recently raised this issue in correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in February.

HEALTH

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if her Department will release the audit certificates for files containing documents mistakenly destroyed by the Department in the 1990s and which were the subject of an Internal Audit Report in April 2000 before the end of the inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement; [141006]

(2) what records her Department holds on the work of the Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood relating to the years 1989 to 1993; and if she will make a statement. [141032]

Caroline Flint: The Department holds seven files on the work of the Advisory Committee on the Virological Safety of Blood for the period 1989-93.

I regret that some volumes were destroyed in the 1990s, and this was the subject of an internal review and report in 2000 which is now in the public domain. The internal audit report clearly sets out the sequence of events which led to the destruction of files.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will release the documents returned to the Department by solicitors in a previous litigation against the Department as referred to in the Review of Documentation relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970 to 1985 to the independent public inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement. [141029]

Caroline Flint: The papers returned to the Department by solicitors have already been released in line with the Freedom of Information Act, and are in the public domain.

The Department has given an undertaking to release all the papers held on the issue of blood safety between 1970-85. The papers returned from solicitors and the references to the report "Self Sufficiency in Blood Products in England and Wales" will consequently be sent to the independent inquiry.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans her Department has to submit *(a)* written evidence and *(b)* oral evidence from (i) Ministers, (ii) civil servants and (iii) NHS staff to the independent public inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement; [141030]

(2) whether her Department has been asked to provide *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* NHS staff as witnesses for oral evidence in the independent public inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement. [141031]

Caroline Flint: Lord Archer of Sandwell wrote to the Secretary of State for Health in February to invite the Department to give evidence at the independent inquiry.

Officials met with members of the inquiry team on 25 April 2007 to discuss what information the Department may be able to provide to the inquiry. We have made available a recently completed document on the "Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985 (Non A Non B Hepatitis)", and the supporting references. Copies of the document are available in the Library.

Officials continue to liaise with the secretary to the inquiry team.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by her Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years; [137809]

(2) what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments was *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137811]

Andy Burnham: The value of annual private finance initiative payments made for each of the last five years is provided in the following table.

The annual payments made by national health service trusts to their private sector partners are taken from their revenue budgets and cover financing charges (capital repayment and interest charges), building maintenance and, in many cases, the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security. The building and support services can account for between 40 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the annual payments.

We are not able to provide precise figures breaking down the annual payments into financing charges and other expenditure as this would require examining the financial model for each scheme which would incur disproportionate costs.

Payments made under PFI contracts 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

		Unitary charge payment				
NHS Trust/PCT	*Total capital value*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Dartford and Gravesham Hospital NHS Trust	94	20.5	19.1	19.5	20.0	20.5
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	67	13.0	13.4	13.7	14.8	15.1
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	45	10.5	10.8	11.1	11.4	11.6
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	158	38.7	39.7	40.7	41.7	42.7
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	61	12.3	12.6	12.9	13.2	13.5
South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	67	19.0	19.5	20.0	21.7	22.2
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	96	19.1	19.6	20.1	20.6	21.1
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	65	17.1	17.5	17.9	18.4	18.8
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	118	5.8	18.7	19.2	19.6	20.1
Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup NHS Trust	15	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	54	20.2	19.9	19.8	15.1	15.5

Payments made under PFI contracts 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

NHS Trust/PCT	*Total capital value*	*Unitary charge payment*				
		2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	87	18.3	18.7	22.3	22.8	23.4
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	64	10.8	11.1	11.4	11.7	11.9
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	17	2.7	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.0
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	48	6.5	8.6	8.8	9.0	9.3
Sussex Partnership NHS Trust	22	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.9	4.0
South Tees Acute Hospital NHS Trust	122	—	26.2	26.8	27.5	28.2
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	100	4.5	18.1	18.6	19.0	19.5
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	76	12.3	17.5	18.4	18.4	18.3
North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	28	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.8	3.9
Leeds Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	47	8.3	8.5	8.7	8.9	9.1
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	46	—	7.3	7.6	7.8	7.8
Oxleas NHS Trust	11	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.5
University College London Hospitals NHS Trust	422	—	—	—	40.0	41.0
North East London Mental Health NHS Trust	11	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	18	5.8	5.2	6.1	6.2	6.4
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	15	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.6	1.6
Cornwall Healthcare NHS Trust	10	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.7
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	18	0.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.9
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	15	0.8	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	22	0.5	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	60	—	9.7	10.5	10.8	11.0
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	55	—	2.2	3.8	3.9	4.0
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	137	—	—	—	18.2	18.2
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	30	—	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	15	—	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0
Surrey PCT	29	—	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.2
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	13	—	0.1	3.1	3.2	3.3
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust	37	—	—	—	—	4.4
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	32	—	—	3.3	3.3	3.4
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	10	—	—	0.9	2.1	2.2
Devon PCT	10	—	—	1.4	1.5	1.5
West Berkshire PCT	19	—	—	3.2	3.2	3.3
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	14	—	—	0.6	1.7	1.8
The Whittington NHS Trust	32	—	—	—	—	0.2
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	379	—	—	—	—	53.9
Brent PCT	21	—	—	—	2.8	2.9
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	26	—	—	0.0	3.2	3.2
County Durham and Darlington Priority Services NHS Trust	16	—	—	0.5	0.8	0.8
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	110	—	—	—	—	8.5
Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust	12	—	—	—	1.6	1.8
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	30	—	—	—	2.6	3.1
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	69	—	—	—	3.5	7.1
Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust	238	—	—	—	—	13.2
Newham Healthcare NHS Trust	52	—	—	—	—	11.2
Avon and Western Wiltshire MH NHS Trust	33	—	—	—	—	6.3
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	24	—	—	—	0.4	2.5
Kirklees PCT	25	—	—	—	1.1	2.1
Wandsworth PCT	75	—	—	—	2.5	10.2
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	31	—	—	—	0.4	5.0
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	47	—	—	—	—	8.6
Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	51	—	—	—	—	2.9
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	76	—	—	—	—	0.1
Hampshire PCT	36	—	—	—	—	1.9
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	28	—	—	—	—	7.2

Payments made under PFI contracts 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

NHS Trust/PCT	Total capital value	Unitary charge payment				
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	30	—	—	—	—	1.1
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	19	—	—	—	—	0.4

The annual payments made by NHS Trusts are from their revenue budgets to their private sector partners cover financing charges, building maintenance and, in many cases, the non-clinical support services such as cleaning, laundry, catering, portering and security, which can account for between 40 per cent. and 50 per cent. of the annual payments

General Practitioners

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date her Department received Treasury approval for the new contract for the delivery of general medical services agreed in June 2003. [140010]

Andy Burnham: The new contract for the delivery of general medical services formed part of the discussions between the Department and HM Treasury on the SR02 Spending Review, which concluded in July 2002.

Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the *(a)* National Adviser for Surgery, *(b)* National Director for Primary Care, *(c)* National Director for Emergency Access, *(d)* National Director for Heart Disease and Stroke, *(e)* National Clinical Director for Children, Young People and Maternity Services and *(f)* National Director for Older People were asked to produce their clinical case for change reports; by whom they were asked in each case; for what reasons; and if she will make a statement. [138419]

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State asked these national clinical directors and national advisers to produce personal reports which explain the clinical case for change in their areas. These seven reports were commissioned at the following times:

(a) 8 February 2007;

(b) 6 December 2006;

(c-f) 7 November 2006.

Hospitals

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 590W, on hospitals, where each of the new hospitals opened since 1979 are located. [138834]

Andy Burnham: A copy of the full list of hospital building projects that have become operational since January 1980 with values over £25 is shown in the following table.

Hospital building programme 1979 to present—schemes becoming operational by year

	Hospital scheme	PFI/Public Capital
1983	Milton Keynes DGH—Phase 1	Public Capital
	Glenfield DGH—Phase 1 (Leicester)	Public Capital
1984	North Tyneside—Scheme 1 Phase 1 (North Shields)	Public Capital
	Colchester DGH—Phase 2	Public Capital
	Central Public Health Laboratory Colindale	Public Capital
	Lincoln County—Phase 1	Public Capital
1985	St. Georges—Blocks G2 and F Phase 2 (Tooting)	Public Capital
	Homerton Hospital—Phase 1 (Hackney)	Public Capital
	Blood Products Manufacturing Unit Elstree	Public Capital
	Royal Hants County—PH4 Main Development (Winchester)	Public Capital
1986	Weston-Super-Mare New Hospital	Public Capital
	Royal S. Hants—Phase 3 (Southampton)	
	Derby City Hospital—Phase 1	Public Capital
	Redditch DGH—PH1 Contract 2 Nucleus	Public Capital
	Clare Hall Laboratory Project (Hertfordshire)	Public Capital
	Royal S. Hants-Phase 3 (Southampton)	Public Capital
	West Dorset DGH—Phase 1 (Dorchester)	Public Capital
1987	St. Mary's—W.2. Phase 1B (Paddington)	Public Capital
	Tameside General—Phase 2	Public Capital
	Bournemouth DGH—Phase 1a Nucleus	Public Capital
	Peterborough—2nd DGH Phase 1	Public Capital
	North Sefton DGH Phase 1, Nucleus (Southport)	Public Capital
	St. Georges—Block H Phase 2a (Tooting)	Public Capital
1988	Bridlington New Community Hospital	Public Capital
	Oldham DGH—Phase 1	Public Capital
	Hammersmith Hospital Redevelopment—Phase 1	Public Capital
	Telford DGH—Phase 1, Nucleus	Public Capital
	Stacliffe DGH—Phase 1, Nucleus (Dewsbury)	Public Capital
	Walsall—Phase 4a and 4b, Nucleus	Public Capital
	City General—Surgical Accomm, Nucleus (Stoke)	Public Capital

Hospital building programme 1979 to present—schemes becoming operational by year

	Hospital scheme	*PFI/Public Capital*
	St Mary's Isle Of Wight—Phase 3b, Nucleus	Public Capital
	Eastbourne New DGH—Phase 2	Public Capital
1989	Medway DGH—Phase 3b (Gillingham)	Public Capital
	Mid Sussex—Phase 1 (Haywards Heath)	Public Capital
	National Heart And Chest Centre Brompton—Phase 1	Public Capital
	Royal Surrey County—Phase 2 (Guildford)	Public Capital
1990	Manchester Royal Infirmary—Phase 2	Public Capital
	South Shields General—Scheme 3 Phase 1	Public Capital
	Glenfield DGH—Phase 2 (Leicester)	Public Capital
	Leicester Royal Infirmary—Phase 4b	Public Capital
	Westmoreland DGH—Scheme 1 Phase 1 (Kendal)	Public Capital
	Whipps Cross—Phase 1	Public Capital
1991	Cannock Community Hospital	Public Capital
	East Surrey DGH—Phase 2 (Redhill)	Public Capital
	Royal Victoria Infirmary—Scheme 1 Phase 5 (Newcastle)	Public Capital
	Salisbury District Hospital—Phase 1 (Nucleus)	Public Capital
	Milton Keynes DGH—Phase 2	Public Capital
	Royal Devon and Exeter—Priority 1 (Exeter)	Public Capital
	Bournemouth DGH—Phase 2b, Nucleus	Public Capital
	Kings Mill Phase 3—Acute/Geriatric/A&E (Sutton-in-Ashfield)	Public Capital
	Hastings DGH—Main Phase 1	Public Capital
1992	Northern General—Phase 2 North Block (Sheffield)	Public Capital
	Wansbeck General Hospital—Scheme 1 Phase 1, (Nucleus	Public Capital
	Westminster and Chelsea Hospital	Public Capital
	Lincoln County—Phase 2	Public Capital
	Goodmayes—DGH (Ilford)	Public Capital
	Ormskirk District General Hospital—Phase 1a	Public Capital
	Nottingham City Renal/Radiotherapy	Public Capital
	Derriford DGH—Phase 2 (Plymouth)	Public Capital
1993	North Manchester General—Phase 1	Public Capital
	Burton DGH—Phase 2.4 Main Hospital	Public Capital
	St. Lukes Development—Phase 1a, Nucleus	Public Capital
	National Hospital For Neurology—Phase 1b (Bloomsbury)	Public Capital
	Great Ormond St.—Phase 1 Redevelopment	Public Capital
	George Eliot—Phase 3, Nucleus (Nuneaton)	Public Capital

Hospital building programme 1979 to present—schemes becoming operational by year

	Hospital scheme	*PFI/Public Capital*
1994	Solihull DGH—Phase 2 Contract 1, Nucleus	Public Capital
1995	Guy's Hospital Development—Phase 3	Public Capital
	Liverpool Hospital for Obstetrics and Gynaecology	Public Capital
	Taunton And Somerset Hospital—Phase 2	Public Capital
	North Tyneside—Scheme 3 (North Shields)	Public Capital
	Royal Devon and Exeter , Priority 2, Nucleus (Exeter)	Public Capital
	Royal Lancaster Infirmary—Phase 3	Public Capital
1996	Bolton DGH—Main Phase	Public Capital
	Worthing Acute and Elderly Services—Main Contract	Public Capital
	Royal West Sussex St. Richard's Redevelopment (Chichester)	Public Capital
	Chorley Major Development—Phase 3	Public Capital
	Barnet General Hospital	Public Capital
	Leeds General Infirmary Redevelopment	Public Capital
1997	Lewisham—Phase 2 Redevelopment	Public Capital
	Birmingham CH Relocation to Steelhouse Lane	Public Capital
	Royal Sussex County Hospital—Contracts 1-9 (Guildford)	Public Capital
	Derriford DGH—Phase Iv (Plymouth)	Public Capital
	Reprovision Black Notley and St. Andrews to Broomfield (Chelmsford)	Public Capital
1998	Royal Cornwall Hosp—Phase 5 (Treliske, Truro)	Public Capital
	West Dorset DGH—Phase 2 (Dorchester)	Public Capital
	Harrogate Rationalisation of Acute Services	Public Capital
	Medway DGH Development (Gillingham)	Public Capital
1999	None	—
2000	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals (Carlisle)	PFI
	Pennine Acute Hospitals (Rochdale)	Public Capital
	Dartford And Gravesham (Dartford)	PFI
	Buckinghamshire Hospitals (Amersham and Wycombe)	PFI
2001	Sussex Partnership (Chichester)	PFI
	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals—Stonegrove	Public Capital
	Queen Elizabeth Hospital (Greenwich)	PFI
	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals (Durham)	PFI
	Calderdale and Huddersfield (Halifax)	PFI
	South Manchester University Hospitals	PFI
	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare (Stoke-on-Trent)	PFI

Hospital building programme 1979 to present—schemes becoming operational by year

	Hospital scheme	*PFI/Public Capital*
	Norfolk and Norwich Health Care (Norfolk)	PFI
2002	Hereford Hospitals	PFI
	Barnet and Chase Farm (Barnet)	PFI
	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals (Worcester)	PFI
	Blackpool Victoria Hospital Phase 5	Public Capital
	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals (Bishop Auckland)	PFI
	Royal Berkshire and Rattle Hospital (Reading)	Public Capital
	Royal United Hospital Bath Redevelopment	Public Capital
	King's Healthcare	PFI
	Swindon and Marlborough	PFI
	Leeds Mental Health Teaching	PFI
2003	Bromley Hospitals	PFI
	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals	PFI
	Berkshire Healthcare (Reading)	PFI
	West Middlesex University Hospitals	PFI
	Northumbria Healthcare (Hexham)	PFI
	South Tees Acute Hospitals (Middlesbrough)	PFI
	St George's Hospital (Tooting)	PFI
	Surrey PCT (Farnham)	PFI
2004	Barnet PCT	Public Capital
	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals (Preston)	Public Capital
	Central and North West London Mental Health (Chelsea and Westminster)	Public Capital
	Wolverhampton—Cardiac	Public Capital
	Gloucestershire Hospitals	PFI
2005	Dudley Group of Hospitals	PFI
	University College London Hospitals	PFI
	West London Mental Health (Broadmoor)	Public Capital
	Guys and St. Thomas'	Public Capital
	Hammersmith Hospital—Renal Centre	Public Capital
	Kirklees PCT	PFI
	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals—City Hospital (Sandwell)	PFI
	East London and The City Mental Health (Tower Hamlets)	Public Capital
2006	Plymouth—Cardiac	Public Capital
	Liverpool—Cardiac	Public Capital
	Wandsworth PCT (Roehampton)	PFI
	North West London Hospitals (Central Middlesex)	PFI
	Blackpool—Cardiac	Public Capital
	Buckinghamshire Hospitals (Stoke Mandeville)	PFI
	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Morpeth)	PFI

Hospital building programme 1979 to present—schemes becoming operational by year

	Hospital scheme	*PFI/Public Capital*
	Salisbury Health Care	PFI
	East Lancashire Hospitals (Burnley)	PFI
	Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership	PFI
	East Lancashire Hospitals (Blackburn)	PFI
	Newham University Hospital	PFI
	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (Coventry)	PFI
	Southampton—Cardiac	Public Capital
	The Whittington Hospital (Highgate)	PFI
	Lewisham Hospital	PFI
	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals (Romford)	PFI
2007	Hampshire PCT (Lymington)	PFI
	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals—Relocation	PFI
	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre (Oxford)	PFI
	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals	PFI
	Northgate and Prudhoe (Newcastle)	PFI
	Cambridge University Hospitals—Addenbrookes	PFI

Hospitals: Costs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the through-life costs of *(a)* a conventionally procured hospital and *(b)* a private finance initiative hospital. [139817]

Andy Burnham: To be approved, the private finance initiative (PFI) option for every national health service capital investment project must demonstrate that, overall, it is better value for money when compared to the publicly funded alternative, the public sector comparator (PSC). As part of the business case process a quantitative assessment involving an estimation of the discounted, risk adjusted whole life costs (facilities management, life-cycle for the full life of the contract) for both PSC and PFI options, is now performed using a standard model designed by HM Treasury.

Maternity Services: Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on changes to neonatal care at the Royal Shrewsbury hospital, with particular reference to the care of babies born under 27 weeks gestation. [140709]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The NHS West Midlands strategic health authority reports that there has been no change in where babies of less than 27 weeks gestation are cared for within the Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Newborn Network.

Primary care trusts locally have provided additional funding in 2007-08 for neonatal services in the locality. Commissioners are working with the network to use this extra funding to increase the resources at the two proposed level 3 units. This will ensure that they can be staffed appropriately to provide the improved standard of care necessary for the smallest and sickest babies in

the network, as described in the report by the expert review group on neonatal intensive care, published in 2003.

Decisions about the size and locations of networks, including the number of hospitals and the levels of care provided, are for local decision and should reflect local need and geography.

NHS Direct

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the service provided by NHS Direct NHS Trust; and in what ways she plans to inform Parliament of its performance. [140194]

Andy Burnham: NHS Direct became an national health service trust on 1 April this year. The NHS Direct Board is responsible for monitoring the performance standards, which we have agreed with them. Senior officials will be meeting with the chief executive and senior management team quarterly to review performance against the objectives set out and agreed in their business plan. NHS Direct NHS Trust will lay before Parliament its annual report and accounts shortly.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of operating NHS Direct in each of the last three years. [140196]

Andy Burnham: Expenditure on NHS Direct for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 is shown in the following table. Expenditure figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

	Revenue[1]	*Capital*[2]	*£ million Total*
2003-04	117.5	7.5	125
2004-05	121	10	131
2005-06	163	10	173

[1] Revenue funding available to NHS Direct via primary care trusts.
[2] Capital funding from the Department to NHS Direct.
Source:
Department of Health

Primary Care Trusts

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts serve each parliamentary constituency. [140436]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: Information on parliamentary constituencies served by primary care trusts is available via the Department's website at:

www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf.

Psychiatric Services: Waiting Times

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time was for outpatient psychiatric care in each NHS Trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [140695]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 June 2007]*: Information on the median waiting time for a first out-patient appointment with a mental health consultant in the latest period for which figures are available is shown in the following table. It should be noted that waiting times collected by the Department relate to consultant-led services only.

Provider based out-patients waiting time information, mental health specialties, end of March 2007

			Number waiting (weeks)			
Organisation name	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*0 <4*	*4 <8*	*8 <13*	*13+*
Herefordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)	76	2.2	61	13	2	0
Milton Keynes PCT	101	6.7	12	51	38	0
North Lincolnshire PCT	4	n/a	0	4	0	0
Portsmouth City PCT	47	n/a	37	10	0	0
Blackpool PCT	54	4.0	27	21	6	0
Barnsley PCT	4	n/a	0	4	0	0
Walsall PCT	11	n/a	8	3	0	0
Wolverhampton City PCT	65	2.2	47	16	2	0
Central Lancashire	33	n/a	20	10	3	0
North Yorkshire and York	42	n/a	33	8	1	0
Dudley	84	3.5	48	27	9	0
Hampshire	39	n/a	26	8	5	0
Isle of Wight Healthcare	45	n/a	38	7	0	0
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	7	n/a	5	2	0	0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	4	n/a	3	1	0	0
Leeds Community and Mental Health Services Teaching NHS Trust	188	3.5	104	65	19	0
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	28	n/a	18	10	0	0
Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	309	2.8	196	88	25	0
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	475	3.1	302	158	15	0
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	30	n/a	5	15	10	0
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	4	n/a	0	1	3	0
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	21	n/a	15	6	0	0
Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust	132	3.3	77	42	13	0

Provider based out-patient waiting time information, mental health specialties, end of March 2007

Organisation name	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Number waiting (weeks)* 0 <4	4 <8	8 <13	13+
North Cumbria Mental Health and Learning Disabilities NHS Trust	39	n/a	22	16	1	0
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	61	2.6	46	13	2	0
Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust	5	n/a	4	0	1	0
Lincolnshire Healthcare NHS Trust	113	3.0	67	32	14	0
Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust	82	6.6	21	32	29	0
SW London and St. Georges NHS Trust	858	3.6	511	272	75	0
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	90	2.5	66	22	2	0
North Essex Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	242	2.2	190	44	8	0
South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	37	n/a	20	15	2	0
University College London NHS Foundation Trust	4	n/a	4	0	0	0
Pennine Care NHS Trust	154	2.4	111	42	1	0
Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	432	3.1	282	138	12	0
Suffolk Mental Health Partnerships NHS Trust	3	n/a	2	0	1	0
5 Borough Partnership NHS Trust	92	3.8	49	38	5	0
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	299	3.9	152	113	34	0
Hull and East Riding Community Health NHS Trust	170	2.8	112	53	5	0
North Bristol NHS Trust	31	n/a	9	16	6	0
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS	130	4.4	60	57	13	0
Mersey Care NHS Trust	576	2.8	379	182	15	0
Lancashire Care NHS Trust	52	4.1	25	22	5	0
East London and The City Mental Health NHS Trust	175	4.3	79	80	16	0
South Essex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust	2	n/a	1	1	0	0
Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	22	n/a	21	1	0	0
Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	97	2.3	71	22	4	0
Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	170	2.6	119	40	11	0
Doncaster and South Humber Healthcare NHS Trust	23	n/a	11	10	2	0
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	34	n/a	20	13	1	0
Derbyshire Mental Health Services NHS Trust	259	3.2	165	73	21	0
Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Trust	248	2.6	179	64	5	0
Bolton, Salford and Trafford Mental Health NHS Trust	254	3.1	160	69	25	0
Bradford District Care Trust	102	2.8	68	32	2	0
Manchester Health and Social Care Trust	238	3.0	150	77	11	0
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	3	n/a	0	1	2	0
Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Care Trust	65	2.0	52	11	2	0

Notes:
1. The figures are based on combined data from the following mental health specialties: mental illness, child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, psychotherapy and old age psychiatry.
2. Statistically meaningful medians cannot be calculated where there is a total waiting list of less than 50.

Source:
Department of Health QM08

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* average and *(b)* longest waiting time was for psychiatric assessment referrals in each primary care trust in the latest period for which figures are available. [140696]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* Information on waiting times for psychiatric assessment referrals is not centrally available. Information on the median waiting time for a first out-patient appointment with a mental health consultant in each primary care trust is shown in the following table. It should be noted that waiting times collected by the Department relate to consultant-led services only.

Commissioner based out-patient waiting time information, mental health specialties, end of March 2007

Organisation name—Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Number waiting (weeks)* 0 <4	4<8	8< 13	13+
South Gloucestershire PCT	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Havering PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0

Commissioner based out-patient waiting time information, mental health specialties, end of March 2007

Organisation name—Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Number waiting (weeks)*			
			0 <4	*4<8*	*8< 13*	*13+*
Kingston PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Bromley PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Greenwich PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Barnet PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
North East Lincolnshire PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon PCT	25	n/a	6	10	9	0
Enfield PCT	1	n/a	1	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
City and Hackney PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Newham PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Haringey PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	2	n/a	2	0	0	0
Herefordshire PCT	76	2.2	61	13	2	0
Milton Keynes PCT	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Newcastle PCT	13	n/a	13	0	0	0
North Tyneside PCT	2	n/a	2	0	0	0
Hartlepool PCT	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
North Tees PCT	28	n/a	19	8	1	0
North Lincolnshire PCT	4	n/a	0	4	0	0
Nottingham City PCT	79	3.4	45	28	6	0
Bassetlaw PCT	69	2.0	53	10	6	0
Plymouth PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Salford PCT	165	3.4	99	52	14	0
Stockport PCT	65	2.6	44	20	1	0
Portsmouth City PCT	51	2.7	41	10	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	45	n/a	21	11	13	0
Luton PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Rotherham PCT	20	n/a	10	8	2	0
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	38	n/a	17	20	1	0
Blackpool PCT	8	n/a	7	1	0	0
Bolton PCT	58	3.2	39	16	3	0
Ealing PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Hounslow PCT	1	n/a	1	0	0	0
Warrington PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Knowsley PCT	92	3.0	57	29	6	0
Oldham PCT	16	n/a	8	8	0	0
Calderdale PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Darlington PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Barnsley PCT	4	n/a	0	4	0	0
Bury PCT	37	n/a	24	11	2	0
Swindon PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Brent PCT	1	n/a	1	0	0	0
Harrow PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Camden PCT	3	n/a	3	0	0	0
Islington PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Croydon PCT	1	n/a	0	0	1	0
Gateshead PCT	89	2.4	65	22	2	0
South Tyneside PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Sunderland Teaching PCT	172	3.2	99	53	20	0
Middlesbrough PCT	28	n/a	19	7	2	0
Southampton City PCT	52	1.6	43	9	0	0
Medway PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Westminster PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Lambeth PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Southwark PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Lewisham PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0

Commissioner based out-patient waiting time information, mental health specialties, end of March 2007

Organisation name—Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Number waiting (weeks)*			
			0 <4	*4<8*	*8< 13*	*13+*
Wandsworth PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	31	n/a	26	5	0	0
Brighton and Hove City PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
South Birmingham PCT	170	2.5	126	42	2	0
Shropshire County PCT	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Walsall PCT	21	n/a	14	7	0	0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
North Somerset PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Coventry PCT	4	n/a	3	1	0	0
Telford and Wrekin PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Wolverhampton City PCT	63	2.3	44	17	2	0
Heart of Birmingham PCT	35	n/a	24	10	1	0
Leeds	153	3.0	94	45	14	0
Kirklees	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Derbyshire County	195	3.3	123	51	21	0
Derby City	134	1.0	103	24	7	0
Nottinghamshire County Teaching	150	2.9	91	46	13	0
Lincolnshire Teaching	113	3.0	67	32	14	0
Redbridge PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest PCT	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
County Durham	2	n/a	1	0	1	0
Cumbria	39	n/a	22	16	1	0
North Lancashire	15	n/a	6	7	2	0
Central Lancashire	41	n/a	22	15	4	0
East Lancashire	1	n/a	1	0	0	0
Sefton	18	n/a	16	2	0	0
Wirral	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Liverpool	352	2.9	228	112	12	0
Halton and St. Helens	50	2.8	33	16	1	0
West Cheshire	1	n/a	1	0	0	0
Central and Eastern Cheshire	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton	42	n/a	29	11	2	0
Trafford	48	n/a	29	14	5	0
Manchester	280	3.0	167	92	21	0
North Yorkshire and York	63	1.9	50	11	2	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	66	2.5	45	20	1	0
Hull Teaching	103	3.1	66	33	4	0
Bradford and Airedale Teaching	96	2.7	62	32	2	0
South East Essex	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
East and North Hertfordshire	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
West Hertfordshire	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
West Sussex Teaching	1	n/a	1	0	0	0
East Sussex Downs and Weald	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Hastings and Rother	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
West Kent	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire County and Rutland	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Leicester City Teaching	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Northamptonshire Teaching	60	2.6	46	12	2	0
Dudley	78	3.3	47	22	9	0
Sandwell	80	2.4	59	20	1	0
Birmingham East and North	25	n/a	15	8	2	0
North Staffordshire	81	2.8	54	24	3	0
Stoke on Trent Teaching	72	3.9	37	29	6	0

Commissioner based out-patient waiting time information, mental health specialties, end of March 2007

Organisation name—Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Total number waiting*	*Median waiting time (weeks)*	*Number waiting (weeks)* 0 <4	4<8	8< 13	13+
South Staffordshire	42	n/a	25	15	2	0
Worcestershire	12	n/a	6	5	1	0
Warwickshire	2	n/a	1	1	0	0
Peterborough	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	30	n/a	19	10	1	0
West Essex	62	1.9	49	13	0	0
North East Essex	85	2.3	64	15	6	0
Mid Essex	92	2.2	75	15	2	0
South West Essex Teaching	2	n/a	2	0	0	0
Eastern and Coastal Kent Teaching	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	198	2.6	145	41	12	0
Buckinghamshire	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	1	n/a	0	1	0	0
Berkshire West	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Berkshire East Teaching	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	2	n/a	1	1	0	0
Bristol Teaching	29	n/a	12	12	5	0
Wiltshire	3	n/a	0	3	0	0
Somerset	3	n/a	1	1	1	0
Dorset	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Devon	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	18	n/a	16	2	0	0
Isle of Wight Healthcare	45	n/a	38	7	0	0
Northumberland Care Trust	13	n/a	11	2	0	0
Bexley Care Trust	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Torbay Care Trust	0	n/a	0	0	0	0
Solihull PCT	15	n/a	12	3	0	0

Notes:
The figures are based on combined data from the following mental health specialties: mental illness, child and adolescent psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, psychotherapy and old age psychiatry.
Statistically meaningful medians cannot be calculated where there is a total waiting list of less than 50.
Source:
Department of Health QM08r

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of recipients of antisocial behaviour orders in each year since their introduction were aged *(a)* under 18 years, *(b)* 18 to 64 years and *(c)* 65 years and over; [137151]

(2) how many and what percentage of those breaching an antisocial behaviour order in each year since their introduction were aged *(a)* under 18 years, *(b)* 18 to 64 years and *(c)* 65 years and over. [137152]

Mr. Coaker: The available information (up to 31 December 2005, latest available) is given in the tables. Information for those aged 65 years and over is not available separately.

Table A: Number of ASBOs proven in court to have been breached in England and Wales in each year

Age group[1]	*Number of ASBOs breached*[2] 2000[3]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	*Percentage distribution of ASBOs breached by age group* 2000[3]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
10-17	7	64	134	354	828	1,353	54	52	53	50	44	40
18+	6	60	120	361	1,036	2,037	46	48	47	50	56	60
Total	13	124	254	715	1,864	3,390	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] Age group is based on age at breach, not issue.
[2] From 1 June 2000.
[3] Note that an ASBO can be breached in more than one year, therefore persons may be counted more than once in this table.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts in England and Wales in each year between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2005 broken down by age group

	Number of ASBOs issued							*Percentage distribution of ASBOs issued by age group*[2]						
Age group	*2000*[1]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*	*2000*[1]	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*Total*
10-17	62	193	249	620	1,318	1,555	3,997	45	55	58	46	38	38	41
18+	63	144	169	698	2,057	2,416	5,547	46	41	40	52	60	60	57
Unknown	12	13	8	18	65	89	205	9	4	2	1	2	2	2
Total	137	350	426	1,336	3,440	4,060	9,749	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

[1] From 1 June 2000
[2] Percentages have been rounded independently.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
As reported to the Home Office by the Court Service.

Asylum: Fingerprints

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will introduce age restrictions on the fingerprinting of asylum seekers. [137508]

John Reid: We have no plans to change our policy on fingerprinting children who apply for asylum or who are the dependant of an asylum applicant. We currently start routine fingerprinting of asylum seekers at the age of five. Fingerprinting of asylum seeking children and dependants of asylum seekers who are aged under five years may be carried out when considered appropriate. Fingerprinting helps to protect children from being presented several times as dependants by different asylum applicants, provides us with a tool to combat possible trafficking operations and will help with identity management in the future.

Citizenship

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for citizenship were rejected on the grounds of *(a)* character in each month since December 2006 and *(b)* language or knowledge of the UK in each month since Nov[illegible]r 2005. [138873]

Mr. [illegible]e: The requested information is shown in the table[illegible]

Applic[illegible]s for British citizenship can be rejected (before full consideration) or refused (after full consideration). Applications for British citizenship are not rejected on the basis of an applicant's character. Data have therefore been provided on the number of applications refused on the basis of character. Applications can be both refused and rejected on the grounds of an applicant's knowledge of English or life in the UK so a total of both has been provided.

Figures for 2005 and 2006 are a subset of data published as National Statistics. Data for 2007 are drawn from local management information and so have not been quality assured and are therefore provisional and subject to change; the figures are not part of National Statistics.

Statistics on persons applying for British citizenship in the United Kingdom are published in the Home Office annual statistical bulletin, 'Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom'. This publication is available from the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Applications for British citizenship refused[1] on grounds of the applicant's character, December 2006 to April 2007[2, 3]

Month of refusal	*Number*
2006	
December	110
2007	
January	185
February	165
March	145
April	115

Applications for British citizenship refuse[1] or rejected[4] on grounds of the applicant's knowledge of English or life in the UK, November 2005 to April 2007[2, 3]

Month of refusal or rejection	*Number*
2005	
November	2,150
December	1,155
2006	
January	760
February	1,010
March	835
April	1,080
May	690

Applications for British citizenship refused[1] or rejected[4] on grounds of the applicant's knowledge of English or life in the UK, November 2005 to April 2007[2, 3]

Month of refusal or rejection	*Number*
June	565
July	490
August	360
September	320
October	220
November	110
December	75
2007	
January	100
February	160
March	140
April	100

[1] Applications for citizenship refused after substantive consideration of the application.
[2] Figures for 2005 and 2006 are a subset of data published as National Statistics. Data for 2007 are drawn from local management information and so have not been quality assured and are therefore subject to change.
[3] Figures are rounded to five.
[4] Applications for citizenship rejected before substantive consideration of the application due to a lack of evidence of qualification.

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people met the requirements for citizenship but have not attended the citizenship ceremony in each month since the introduction of the ceremony; and how many of those were granted citizenship at his discretion. [138876]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost. When a citizenship application is successful, the basis of its success is not recorded for statistical purposes.

Costs: Ministry of Justice

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the formation of the Ministry of Justice has cost his Department. [138289]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* There will be no additional costs to the Home Office arising from the establishment of the Ministry of Justice; certain agreed costs incurred by the Home Office as part of this process will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Justice.

Crimes Against Property: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded offences of criminal damage by under 18-year-olds there were in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of these resulted in a criminal conviction, in each borough. [141098]

Mr. Coaker: Figures for the number of recorded offences of criminal damage committed by persons under 18 years old are not collected centrally. As a result it is not possible to determine the number which resulted in a conviction.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1244W, on Departments: Delivery Unit, if he will place in the Library copies of the reviews conducted with the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit. [141384]

Mr. Byrne: Reports arising from reviews undertaken by the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit in conjunction with individual Departments are confidential advice to the Prime Minister and departmental Ministers, and are not published.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137670]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office, which includes the Border and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and Criminal Records Bureau, has 99 staff currently funded by the public purse who are classified as people without permanent posts. This figure represents less than 0.33 per cent. of total Home Office staff.

These staff are currently undertaking work for the Department while actively seeking other permanent posts either within the Home Office and its Agencies or in another Government Department.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by his Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137805]

Mr. Byrne: PFI payments for the last five years are in the following table. All the payments are from revenue budgets.

£ million

PFI project	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Home Office HQ 2 Marsham Street	—	—	3.55	38.36	40.48
Identity and Passport Service PASS	19.80	19.80	20.70	19.90	—
Home Office Sirius IT	—	81.90	76.30	74.00	75.80
Total	19.80	101.70	100.55	132.26	116.28

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much money from the public purse *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies gave to (i) the Smith Institute and (ii) its subsidiary SI Events Ltd. in each year since 1997; and for what purpose each payment was made. [123110]

Mr. Byrne: The central Home Office and the Border and Immigration Agency accounting systems do not have any record of transactions with either of the organisations mentioned for the requested period.

The two Home Office agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service, also do not have any record of transactions with either of the organisations mentioned for the requested period.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the *(a)* 0800, *(b)* 0845 and *(c)* 0870 telephone numbers for the public administered by his Department. [131750]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Number	*Purpose*	*Type*
0870 521 0410	Passport advice line	Phone
0870 240 8090	Passport advice line (Text Phone Service)	Minicom
0870 243 4477	Passport Inquiries for High Street Partners	Phone
0870 243 1902	Passport Complaints	Phone
0870 909 0778	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure dispute line	Phone
0870 125 1256	Siemens Business Services Query Letters	Phone
0870 909 0844	Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure application line	Phone
0870 909 0223	Criminal Records Bureau Welsh Language Line	Phone
0870 909 0344	Criminal Records Bureau	Minicom
0870 241 4680	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Phone
0870 241 4786	Home Office's mailing house, Prolog	Fax
0870 220 2000	TOGETHER (advice line for practitioners on tackling antisocial behaviour)	Phone
0870 336 9031	Contact Private Office to John Reid	Fax
0870 336 9032	Contact Private Office to Baroness Scotland	Fax
0870 336 9033	Contact Private Office to Vernon Coaker	Fax
0870 336 9034	Contact Private Office to Liam Byrnes	Fax
0870 336 9035	Contact Private Office to Tony McNulty	Fax
0870 336 9036	Contact Private Office to Joan Ryan	Fax
0870 336 9038	Contact Private Office to Gerry Sutcliffe	Fax
0870 336 9048	Contact Parliamentary Branch	Fax
0870 336 9045	Contact Ministers' Special Advisers	Phone
0870 336 9041	Contact Private Office Management Support Unit	Phone
0870 336 9039	Contact Helen Edwards (Home Office Board Member)	Phone
0870 336 9037	Contact Permanent Secretary's Office	Phone
0870 606 1592	Immigration cases currently under consideration	Phone
0870 243 0100	Security Industry Authority	Phone
0800 389 7913	Asylum Support Tribunals (1 April 2007)	Phone
0800 587 5572	Work Permits UK Helpline	Phone
0845 010 6677	Employers' Helpline	Phone
0845 039 8002	PROSPECTS helpline	Phone
0845 601 1143	BIA Telephone Inquiry Bureau (MASS)	Fax
0845 601 2298	BIA Evidence and Inquiry line	Phone
0870 240 3781	Immigration Inquiry Bureau (enforcement and removals)	Phone
0845 300 2002	Independent Police Complaints Commission	Phone
0870 909 0811	Criminal Records Bureau General Inquiries	Phone
0870 909 0822	Criminal Records Bureau Registration Information Line	Phone
0845 602 1739	Inquiries about asylum support applications	Phone
0870 606 7766	Immigration Inquiry Bureau	Phone
0800 389 8289	Immigration Inquiry Bureau	Minicom
0870 241 0645	Requests for immigration application forms	Phone
0845 010 5200	Nationality telephone Inquiries	Phone
0870 521 0224	Request for work permit application forms	Phone
0845 600 0914	Voucher and discontinuation helpline	Phone
0870 241 6523	Inquiries about the work of the BIA Complaints Unit and advice to callers about how to complain	Phone
0845 010 5555	Inquiries about visas	Phone
0800 528 0982	HMP Preston	Phone
0800 496 0060	HMP Whitemoor	Phone
0800 496 0155	HMP Holloway	Phone
0800 496 3500	National Shared Service Centre	Phone
0800 528 0021	Remote Access Services	Phone
0800 528 0966	Prisoner Safety Line	Phone
0800 528 0967	HMP Feltham Young Offenders Substance Misuse Service	Phone

Number	Purpose	Type
0800 528 0970	HMP Liverpool Anti-Bullying Hotline	Phone
0800 692 0170	HMP Stanford Hill	Phone
0845 010 0140	National Shared Service Centre	Phone
0845 010 0142	National Shared Service Centre	Phone
0845 010 3504	National Shared Service Centre	Phone
0870 000 0575	HMP Holloway	Phone
0845 010 3502	National Shared Service Centre	Phone
0845 010 3506	Phoenix User Support	Phone
0870 000 0504	PECS	Phone
0800 528 0950	HMP Belmarsh	Phone
0870 000 1397	Central Operators Glasgow	Phone

Departments: Vetting

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what checks are made of the membership of, and affiliation to, extremist groups of those employed by his Department. [124524]

Mr. Byrne: All staff joining the Home Office require security clearance, and the level at which this is carried out is dependent on particular roles and responsibilities.

Staff are security cleared to Enhanced Baseline Standard level and some are additionally cleared at a higher level—Counter Terrorist Checks, Security Check or Developed Vetting. Where a higher level check is carried out an individual is asked to complete a questionnaire which asks about involvement in terrorism, sabotage or actions intended to overthrow or undermine Parliament by political, industrial or violent means. Where Developed Vetting is carried out—the highest level check—there is a mandatory face-to-face interview where these questions are put to individuals again and may be explored.

If at any stage of the vetting process, or subsequently, information comes to light that a person has any affiliations which give cause for concern, full inquiries are made and appropriate steps taken. These could include refusal or withdrawal of clearance or even dismissal. Against the background of these checks, it would be redundant to ask Home Office staff to declare membership of extremist organisations.

Domestic Violence: Edmonton

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded instances of *(a)* domestic violence towards women and *(b)* trafficked women there were in Edmonton constituency in 2006. [140755]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

The offence of trafficking for sexual exploitation was introduced by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and was implemented in May 2004. Edmonton comes within the Enfield basic command unit and there were two offences of trafficking for sexual exploitation recorded by the police in Enfield in 2005-06.

Driving Under Influence: Breathalysers

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving tests have been carried out by each police force in each of the last 10 years. [140771]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Screening breath tests by police force area, 1995 to 2004

										Total tests
	1995	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
Avon and Somerset	6,700	15,100	16,000	19,700	19,200	15,800	15,400	15,100	24,500	27,300
Bedfordshire	6,100	6,400	6,000	5,300	2,900	3,300	4,200	6,200	6,600	7,800
Cambridgeshire	16,300	16,200	19,100	17,800	13,600	12,800	12,700	13,000	12,300	12,300
Cheshire	15,300	21,300	25,500	23,300	20,500	15,800	13,600	12,200	11,900	20,200
Cleveland	28,200	26,100	31,600	34,200	28,600	18,800	14,100	11,000	8,700	8,100
Cumbria	7,800	9,800	11,200	9,400	7,100	6,100	5,100	4,700	5,500	8,400
Derbyshire	20,500	28,600	34,500	35,700	49,200	52,000	42,100	37,900	32,600	31,000
Devon and Cornwall	6,800	9,100	15,200	15,700	14,700	13,000	13,500	12,600	10,900	10,700
Dorset	5,800	7,400	9,100	10,100	9,200	12,300	10,400	10,400	8,500	7,000
Durham	4,500	4,100	4,300	7,400	12,700	15,300	16,300	9,500	7,600	6,100
Essex	27,700	32,400	28,700	28,400	24,100	27,200	18,900	16,100	15,500	25,300
Gloucestershire	5,200	7,000	9,400	9,300	8,300	8,200	9,600	9,300	8,600	7,100

Screening breath tests by police force area, 1995 to 2004

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Total tests 2004
Greater Manchester[1]	102,400	100,400	35,500	31,200	21,500	27,300	23,900	23,200	20,900	19,900
Hampshire	17,000	18,200	25,000	27,300	31,600	35,200	35,200	35,200	37,500	38,400
Hertfordshire	6,400	5,900	7,400	8,100	7,000	6,000	5,500	4,300	4,000	7,300
Humberside	8,900	7,500	6,500	8,300	8,100	9,400	7,500	8,700	6,500	5,600
Kent	9,200	8,100	9,100	27,500	32,700	32,200	32,200	34,200	24,600	32,000
Lancashire	15,900	26,100	21,300	20,300	19,100	15,500	10,000	10,600	8,000	10,200
Leicestershire	11,700	10,300	10,200	20,200	21,100	18,600	14,900	14,500	12,000	15,400
Lincolnshire	15,600	15,800	20,200	25,900	21,000	12,100	13,600	9,000	12,100	11,300
London, City of	3,300	4,500	3,600	3,300	1,700	1,100	1,100	1,400	1,200	700
Merseyside	15,300	15,900	14,800	18,700	18,600	12,800	7,200	7,000	7,700	5,000
Metropolitan Police	123,300	123,000	137,900	111,400	99,800	93,800	65,100	57,200	56,000	61,500
Norfolk	4,200	5,500	9,200	12,400	11,600	9,100	9,100	5,300	4,000	4,800
Northamptonshire	5,100	7,400	7,100	4,700	5,300	5,800	4,500	3,300	3,100	3,200
Northumbria	5,800	8,400	11,900	12,200	12,500	12,700	12,400	11,800	11,100	9,800
North Yorkshire	4,800	7,800	10,500	9,900	8,100	6,700	7,400	7,300	8,300	8,600
Nottinghamshire	5,700	9,300	11,500	8,900	8,400	8,400	7,700	5,800	7,100	8,200
South Yorkshire	11,000	13,300	14,200	12,600	16,100	19,200	18,000	14,400	12,100	6,500
Staffordshire	6,300	9,700	13,800	15,400	10,100	7,700	4,700	5,300	5,100	13,700
Suffolk	7,500	8,200	12,300	15,600	15,100	9,200	8,600	8,900	11,600	10,600
Surrey	9,300	11,200	11,200	11,400	11,700	12,400	13,300	7,500	8,900	9,500
Sussex	15,900	24,300	26,100	17,400	17,900	20,800	21,800	17,300	17,200	15,200
Thames Valley	47,200	39,700	33,100	34,200	30,300	30,800	26,200	25,300	16,000	15,400
Warwickshire	8,200	9,200	8,700	8,700	8,600	7,100	5,800	5,100	5,800	5,500
West Mercia	19,900	18,100	18,300	19,100	12,300	8,900	9,100	8,200	6,300	8,000
West Midlands	9,100	19,500	22,600	24,100	21,300	16,200	12,200	10,500	11,000	6,600
West Yorkshire	15,800	19,500	23,300	22,900	18,800	18,300	17,200	16,700	14,200	16,900
Wiltshire	10,000	6,300	7,400	7,100	6,800	6,500	5,900	5,900	5,900	7,400
Dyfed-Powys	5,000	5,900	8,500	9,200	9,900	7,400	7,000	7,300	6,000	6,700
Gwent	4,900	9,300	12,200	11,200	10,600	10,100	6,400	3,800	2,800	1,600
North Wales	14,900	14,900	13,300	15,200	15,900	15,000	15,100	19,600	17,300	24,200
South Wales	12,200	14,900	23,100	24,900	20,700	17,800	19,300	17,500	16,900	16,700
Total	702,700	781,100	800,300	815,500	764,500	714,800	623,900	570,200	534,300	577,600

[1] Following the introduction of new breath testing equipment in Greater Manchester in 1998, it became apparent that the total number of tests had been over-estimated in 1997 and adjustments were made. No adjustments for years prior to 1997 were recorded.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Breath Tests Statistical Collection, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what forecast he has made of the number of individuals who will have profiles on the National DNA Database in the next *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* five years, broken down by ethnicity. [139975]

John Reid: A forecast of the total number of people expected to be on the NDNAD (not broken down by ethnicity) was produced for internal purposes in early 2006, giving an estimate of the total number of individuals expected to be on the Database in each year between 2007 and 2010. The then Home Office Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leigh (Andy Burnham) made this public in response to a question from the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green) on 18 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 290W. In a further reply to the hon. Member on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 1409W, he stated that there were no plans to estimate the future composition of the database by age, gender or ethnicity.

There are no plans at present to make any further forecasts of the future numbers on the database, either in total, or broken down by ethnicity.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to remove replicate samples from the National DNA Database. [139977]

John Reid: A study is being conducted of the issues involved in identifying and removing replicate profiles from the NDNAD, which is expected to report by the end of the year. Plans for handling of replicate profiles will then be made in the light of the conclusions.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people work in the National DNA Database Quality Team; what specialist training they receive; and if he will make a statement. [140197]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* There are currently five members of staff working in the National DNA Database Data Quality and Integrity Team (DQIT).

All members of the team are trained to use the National DNA Database (NDNAD). Three members of the team also attended a formal Police National Computer training course while working in the police service. The other two members of the team are awaiting formal PNC training.

The team is extremely experienced in dealing with PNC and NDNAD issues. Three members of the team are retired police officers who between them served over 87 years in the police service; the other two members of the team between them have over 12 years experience of working for the NDNAD Service Delivery Team.

Human Trafficking: Deportation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many under-age victims of human trafficking were returned by the Government to their country of origin when they reached 18 years old in each of the last five years. [124274]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 5 March 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency does not hold central records of the number of trafficked children, returned to their country of origin on reaching the age of 18 in the last five years.

The Government published their UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking on 23 March 2007. On the same day, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary signed the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. Signature of the Convention marks a real commitment to implement the obligations it imposes and will provide a framework for the minimum rights and protection of all identified victims of trafficking, including those who reach the age of 18, having been trafficked to the UK as children. The Government are currently working through the detail of what is required to implement the convention effectively.

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report,* column 459W, on identity cards, how long he expects the initial development period of the Employer Verification Service to be; and how he will set charges once the development period comes to an end. [135840]

John Reid: The development of the Border and Immigration Agency Employer Verification Service will continue throughout 2007. A charging model for any future checking service has not been defined but we will continue to keep this matter under review.

Licensing Laws: Bridgend

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the new licensing laws on combating crime in Bridgend. [141542]

Mr. Coaker: We are conducting a full evaluation of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on crime and disorder. This is ongoing and is due to be published towards the end of 2007. A separate monitoring exercise is looking at the impact of the Act on police recorded violent crime and criminal damage. Interim results from this exercise were published in July 2006. They show that there has been no change in the overall volume or timing of offences following the introduction of the Act. No separate arrangements have been made to examine the impact of the Act in Bridgend.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter to him dated 12 February from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Geniene Patricia Williams. [131621]

John Reid: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 16 April 2007.

Migrant Workers

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many migrant workers are registered in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* England, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Northern Ireland, broken down by country of origin. [126828]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 March 2007]:* Work permits may be issued for periods of up to five years. The following table displays the number of currently valid work permits issued to non-EU citizens, plus Bulgaria and Romania, according to the area of the UK for which they provided an employer address.

Data on the Worker Registration Scheme (WRS—EU citizens) is published quarterly in the Accession Monitoring Report (broken down by post office region), which can be accessed through the following website:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Statistics on grants of settlement on the basis of employment are published annually in table 5.4 of the Command Paper entitled "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom". The latest edition is that for 2005. Copies are available from the Library of the House and on the Home Office Research Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

	England	*Northern Ireland*	*Scotland*	*Wales*	*Total*
Afghanistan	52	0	0	0	52
Albania	230	1	6	3	240
Algeria	274	5	32	2	313
Andorra	4	0	0	0	4
Angola	74	0	19	0	93

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
Antigua	20	0	0	0	20
Argentina	1,562	17	41	10	1,630
Armenia	63	1	5	1	70
Australia	19,944	54	630	139	20,767
Azerbaijan	146	0	37	0	183
Bahamas	31	0	0	0	31
Bahrain	45	1	3	2	51
Bangladesh	3,611	26	186	101	3,924
Barbados	259	0	5	8	272
Belarus	434	14	120	6	574
Belize	32	2	2	1	37
Benin	8	0	2	0	10
Bhutan	5	0	0	0	5
Bolivia	50	0	3	0	53
Bosnia-Herzegovina	82	1	7	0	90
Botswana	443	21	42	10	516
Brazil	2,016	12	68	19	2,115
British Dependant Terr.	15	0	0	1	16
British National Overseas	1,633	66	172	50	1,921
British Overseas Citz.	52	0	3	0	55
Brunei	74	0	14	0	88
Bulgaria	4,125	127	379	497	5,128
Burkina Faso	13	0	0	0	13
Burma	2	0	0	0	2
Burundi	10	0	0	0	10
Cambodia	5	0	1	0	6
Cameroon	532	3	18	11	564
Canada	7,402	49	416	124	7,991
Chad	2	0	2	0	4
Chile	289	1	21	4	315
China Peoples Republic of	19,855	473	1,126	684	22,138
Colombia	712	3	53	4	772
Comoros	2	0	0	0	2
Congo	120	0	1	0	121
Costa Rica	46	0	3	1	50
Croatia	427	1	10	6	444
Cuba	212	1	0	4	217
Djibouti	1	0	0	0	1
Dominica	62	0	4	0	66
Dominican Republic	42	0	0	0	42
Ecuador	58	0	2	0	60
Egypt	999	8	62	38	1,107
El Salvador	18	0	1	0	19
Eritrea	9	0	5	0	14
Ethiopia	86	1	5	1	93
Faroe Islands	0	0	1	0	1
Fiji	57	1	7	2	67
Gabon	7	0	2	0	9
Gambia	198	1	12	1	212
Georgia	114	0	2	1	117
Ghana	4,067	11	129	41	4,248
Grenada	58	0	1	0	59

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
Guatemala	16	1	2	0	19
Guinea	14	0	1	0	15
Guyana	615	3	168	16	802
Haiti	11	0	0	0	11
Honduras	18	0	2	1	21
Hong Kong (British)	351	19	37	12	419
Hong Kong (Chinese)	996	44	113	44	1,197
India	104,111	2,116	3,256	2,284	111,767
Indonesia	631	1	40	10	682
Iran	889	3	88	25	1,005
Iraq	152	1	12	11	176
Israel	1,280	4	33	23	1,340
Ivory Coast	48	0	2	0	50
Jamaica	2,443	1	45	9	2,498
Japan	10,369	21	206	244	10,840
Jordan	489	7	11	13	520
Kazakhstan	303	1	29	2	335
Kenya	3,125	37	126	54	3,342
Kiribati	1	0	0	0	1
Kosovo	27	0	3	0	30
Kuwait	84	0	3	0	87
Kyrgyzstan	60	0	1	0	61
Laos	1	0	0	0	1
Lebanon	919	1	16	2	938
Lesotho	182	8	15	8	213
Liberia	14	0	1	0	15
Libya	221	1	23	15	260
Macedonia	163	0	4	1	168
Madagascar	9	0	0	0	9
Malawi	526	3	35	23	587
Malaysia	10,459	146	498	218	11,321
Maldives	24	0	1	2	27
Mali	44	0	0	0	44
Mauritania	4	0	0	0	4
Mauritius	2,996	7	49	19	3,071
Mexico	917	2	43	10	972
Moldova	912	71	11	4	998
Monaco	7	0	0	0	7
Mongolia	72	1	10	0	83
Montenegro	6	0	0	0	6
Morocco	428	8	9	4	449
Mozambique	12	0	0	1	13
Myanmar	340	8	14	7	369
Namibia	188	2	9	4	203
Nauru	17	0	1	0	18
Nepal	1,865	54	197	79	2,195
New Zealand	7,034	9	188	59	7,290
Nicaragua	8	0	0	0	8
Niger	13	0	0	0	13
Nigeria	7,175	65	330	130	7,700
North Korea	4	0	0	0	4
Oman	44	0	18	2	64
Pakistan	11,784	137	922	211	13,054
Palestine	114	1	6	1	122
Palestinian Authority	9	0	2	0	11
Panama	23	0	0	0	23
Papua New Guinea	15	0	0	0	15

	England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales	Total
Paraguay	22	0	0	2	24
Peru	170	1	9	1	181
Philippines	34,983	1,385	1,405	2,060	39,833
Puerto Rica	1	0	0	0	1
Qatar	16	0	0	0	16
Romania	4,074	314	169	244	4,801
Russia	3,475	52	217	41	3,785
Rwanda	11	0	1	1	13
Samoa	30	0	2	0	32
Sao Tome and Principe	2	0	1	0	3
Saudi Arabia	379	0	5	3	387
Senegal	104	0	1	0	105
Serbia	303	1	12	1	317
Seychelles	137	1	4	0	142
Sierra Leone	387	0	6	2	395
Singapore	2,083	5	79	11	2,178
Soloman Islands	0	0	2	0	2
Somalia	26	0	0	0	26
South Africa	26,850	184	873	574	28,481
South Korea	3,015	25	80	51	3,171
Sri Lanka	3,257	14	83	60	3,414
St. Helena	40	0	0	0	40
St. Kitts	18	0	0	0	18
St. Lucia	170	0	5	0	175
St. Vincent	69	0	0	0	69
Stateless	16	0	0	2	18
Sudan	261	3	14	8	286
Surinam	6	0	2	0	8
Swaziland	290	3	36	11	340
Switzerland	142	0	6	3	151
Syrian Arab Republic	348	2	16	13	379
Tajikistan	20	0	1	0	21
Taiwan	703	10	24	10	747
Tanzania	427	6	7	5	445
Thailand	3,888	24	146	45	4,103
Togo	19	0	4	0	23
Tonga	13	0	0	13	26
Trinidad and Tobago	1,646	1	35	22	1,704
Tunisia	199	1	13	0	213
Turkey	2,342	4	67	17	2,430
Turkmenistan	27	0	5	0	32
Turks and Caicos Islands	1	0	0	0	1
Uganda	602	3	14	4	623
Ukraine	3,253	462	162	136	4,013
United Arab Emirates	44	0	3	0	47
United States of America	34,308	118	1,135	316	35,877
Uruguay	66	0	4	2	72
Uzbekistan	128	0	2	1	131
Vanuatu	4	0	0	0	4
Venezuela	433	1	73	4	511
Vietnam	231	10	9	9	259
Western Samoa	1	0	0	0	1
Yemen	28	1	1	0	30
Republic of Yugoslavia	377	0	22	3	402
Zaire	2	0	0	0	2
Zambia	1,862	35	79	67	2,043
Zimbabwe	12,750	43	327	154	13,274
Total	387,330	6,393	15,401	9,216	418,340

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will sign the UN Convention on the rights of migrant workers and their families. [137696]

Mr. Byrne: We have no plans to sign the UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The rights of migrant workers are already protected in UK legislation, including under the Human Rights Act 1998.

Migrant Telephone Services

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was provided by his Department to Migrant Helpline in the last year. [121966]

Mr. Byrne: Migrant Helpline received funds totalling £13.4 million in the financial year 2006-07 to provide one stop services in Dover, Gravesend, Hastings and Margate, and initial accommodation services in Ashford, Croydon, Dover and Margate.

Passports

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information is retained by the Identity and Passport Service on people to whom passports have been issued. [139974]

John Reid: The Passport Application Support System (PASS) contains the personal data provided by the individual on the application form, the progress history of the application, and details of the passport issued, as shown on the personal data page of the passport.

Thus, the personal details held on the system are:

(1) applicant's name,

(2) gender,

(3) date of birth,

(4) town and country of birth,

(5) the names, dates of birth and places of birth of both parents (in most cases),

(6) details of naturalisation or registration certificates where appropriate,

(7) address and other contact details,

(8) name and passport number of countersignatory,

(9) passport number,

(10) issuing authority,

(11) dates of validity,

(12) the photograph displayed on the passport,

(13) the signature displayed on the passport,

(14) nationality.

In addition, the full progress history of an application is held on the system. This would include information such as the date the record was created, the date the issue of a passport was authorised as well as any notes made by UKPS staff during the consideration of the application. A complete copy of the application form is also stored on the system. Supporting documents provided by applicants to verify information provided may also be scanned into the record and since December 2003, all completed forms reporting lost, stolen or recovered passports have been stored on the database.

The system also holds information about all passports issued to a person under the same name. Furthermore, since September 2004, when an applicant has applied for a renewed passport and has changed their name, PASS automatically adds notes linking the new and previous passport records.

The UK Passport Service has an outsourced PFI contract with Siemens Business Services, a component part of which is to provide support and maintenance to PASS. The contract provides for per transaction charges which also includes receipt, cashiering and data capture of all passport applications, therefore it is not possible to separate the amount relevant solely to the system costs.

Police Custody

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been remanded in police custody for a further period of 192 hours provided for under the Drugs Act 2005 for drug trafficking offences. [137024]

John Reid: The Home Office does not collect this data centrally.

Police National Computer

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1076W, on the police national computer (PNC), how many PNC records were checked for the purposes of the audit; and what percentage this was of the total number of records on the PNC at the time. [126399]

John Reid: The audits were two research exercises in 2001 and 2002 undertaken by the Home Office to assess the accuracy of criminal record information held on the Police National Computer partly in preparation for the establishment of the Criminal Records Bureau. The first exercise compared 5,543 offence records extracted from the Court Proceedings database with the equivalent information on the Police National Computer. This comprised court results for all courts in England and Wales on a single day selected at random. The second exercise focused on a sample of convictions for sex offences and comprised three periods of one month each spanning a three year period. A total of 3,236 offence records were checked in respect of 1,298 people. The research does not show what percentage of this was the total number of records on the PNC at the time.

Police: Lost Working Days

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of working days were lost due to *(a)* sickness and *(b)* stress, anxiety or depression in each police authority area over the last five years. [139984]

Mr. McNulty: Sickness data for each police authority area are not available for the last five years and the Home Office does not collect sickness data with relation to specific illnesses. Sickness data for each police authority are collected in the published Police Performance Assessments 2005-06 and are available in the House of Commons Library and electronically at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/assessments-2005-2006/

Proscribed Organisations

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations have been proscribed using terrorism legislation; and for what reasons in each case. [139262]

John Reid: A total of 42 international terrorist groups, two domestic groups and 14 Irish groups are currently proscribed. There have been four orders to date. The first, proscribing 21 international organisations became effective in March 2001. The second, adding four more organisations, was in November 2002 after the bombings in Bali. The third was in October 2005, adding another 15 organisations to the list. The most recent order came into force on 26 July 2006 and added two organisations under the Terrorism Act 2000 and two organisations under powers introduced in the Terrorism Act 2006 for glorifying terrorism. The Irish groups were proscribed under the previous emergency legislation. A full list of proscribed organisations can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/security/terrorism-and-the-law/terrorism-act/proscribed-groups

A copy of the list has been placed in the Library.

A summary of the reasons for the proscriptions of each group were laid in Parliament at the time of each order in an explanatory memorandum.

Written Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer question 105573, on special advisers, tabled on 6 December 2006 by the hon. Member for Fareham. [139941]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 268W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political

matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on Wednesday 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140127]

Hilary Benn: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Iraq: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development who represented the UK at the United Nations conference in Geneva on Iraqi refugees and internally displaced people on 17 and 18 April 2007; and if he will make a statement on the outcome of that conference. [140494]

Hilary Benn: At the UNHCR Conference in Geneva, the UK delegation consisted of senior officials from DFID, FCO and the Home Office.

The conference was successful in drawing international attention to the plight of the displaced Iraqis inside Iraq and in the region, and recognising the burden this places on host communities and countries. The main outcome of the conference was the Government of Iraq's commitment to take the lead in providing support and security for its citizens, including for those who have fled the country. The conference also agreed a new UN Strategic Framework for humanitarian action in Iraq, which will coordinate UN action in support of the Iraqi Government's efforts. Further assistance to support the displaced was also pledged by a number of international donors. We are now working with the UN and other partners to ensure that the Strategic Framework is taken forward.

Since January, DFID has provided £10 million to support emergency relief and other services to displaced and vulnerable Iraqis. This takes our total humanitarian assistance to over £125 million since 2003. We will continue to work closely with the Iraqi Government and our international partners to ensure needs are met.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of internally displaced people in Iraq; and what efforts the UK Government is taking to help those displaced people. [140495]

Hilary Benn: The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there are approximately 2 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Iraq. Over 820,000 of these have been displaced since February 2006 following the attack in Samarra.

In 2007, DFID has provided £10 million to support humanitarian relief efforts to help vulnerable Iraqi groups, including those displaced in Iraq and across the region. This includes a £7 million contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); a £1 million contribution to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support internally displaced people; a £1.5 million contribution to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) to support displaced Iraqis in the region; and a £500,000 contribution towards the setting up of a UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordination office in Amman and Baghdad, to help support the Iraqi Government's efforts and facilitate a coherent international response to the situation. Since 2003, we have contributed over £125 million for humanitarian assistance to Iran.

JUSTICE

Administration of Justice

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to improve access for litigants to copies of statutes in force. [140830]

Mr. Hanson: Litigants in person, as members of the public, have access online to two main sources of current legislation. First, the website of the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI) at www.opsi.gov.uk provides access to both primary and secondary legislation in the form in which it was enacted. Secondly, the statute law database (SLD), maintained by the Statutory Publications Office (SPO), provides access to primary legislation revised to incorporate the effects of subsequent legislation. SLD was made available to the public in December 2006 and can be accessed at:

www.statutelaw.gov.uk.

All the primary legislation held on SLD has been updated with the effects of legislation enacted at least up to the end of 2001. Most of the legislation on the database is also up to date to the present. The effects of legislation enacted in the years 2002 to 2006 are currently being applied to the database. SPO and OPSI are currently undertaking a programme of work designed to avoid unnecessary duplication between the two websites and to make access to legislation as seamless as possible to the public.

Children's Act 1989

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether she has plans to publish on the internet the Children's Act 1989 consolidated with the Adoption and Children Act 2002, the Children Act 2006 and other relevant legislation. [140832]

Mr. Hanson: The revised version of the Children Act 1989, incorporating the effects of legislation enacted up to the end of 2002, and including those of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, was published on the internet when the statute law database was made available to the public in December 2006. The effects of legislation enacted in the years 2003 to 2006, including those of the Children Act 2006, are in the process of being applied to the database. It is expected that the Children Act 1989 will be republished with those effects incorporated by the end of August 2007.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many of her Department's special advisers

were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140119]

Bridget Prentice: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Family Courts

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what measures are in place to ensure that family lawyers dealing with children have the required staff training and qualifications to ensure that the children in their care have the best representation; and how many family lawyers have been disciplined for practising without having the required training and qualifications in the last five years. [138361]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) operates accreditation schemes for solicitors practising in family law and specifically for solicitors acting for children (and adults) in public law care proceedings. There are currently around 3,000 solicitors on the family law scheme and around 2,000 solicitors on the child law scheme.

Accreditation is not a requirement for practice in family or child law, but it would be a disciplinary matter for a solicitor to claim accreditation if they do not have it. We are not aware of any cases referred to the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal in relation to this matter.

The Bar Council, which is responsible for the training of barristers, does not impose any requirements on barristers to undertake training in family or child law.

Members of the Institute of Legal Executives must work under the supervision of a solicitor. Only those legal executives who are members of the SRA's Children Panel may represent children in family proceedings. In the last five years, one member was disciplined for practising without having the required training in a family matter.

Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what plenary and functional meetings of the Joint Ministerial Committee there have been since 1999; which Ministers attended; and what the subject matter was of each meeting; [140744]

(2) what the date is of the next scheduled plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee. [140837]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are not at present proposing to organise a plenary meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC).

The JMC has met in various functional formats to discuss specific policy areas such as Health, Poverty, the Knowledge Economy and Europe. There have been at least 48 plenary and functional meetings of the JMC since 1999. Of these four subject areas, the JMC on Europe meets most regularly and is serviced by staff from the Cabinet Office. The Department does not hold a complete record of which Ministers have attended these meetings.

Probation: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the social impact of the performance of the community probation service in Nottinghamshire. [139664]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Details of the performance of the 42 probation areas in England and Wales against targets set for the National Probation Service for the years between 2001-02 and 2006-07 may be found in the National Probation Service performance report issues one to 24, all of which are posted on the NPS web site at:

www.probation.homeoffice.gov.uk/output/page34.asp

Performance report 24, detailing performance for the 2006-07 reporting year, showed Nottinghamshire to be the fifth highest performing area in the weighted scorecard. The scorecard ranks probation areas according to their performance across the range of key indicators.

Restoration Justice Programmes

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Government have spent on restorative justice programmes in 2006-07; and what plans it has for future funding. [140629]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not provided any specific funding for adult restorative programmes in 2006-07. It is for Local Criminal Justice Boards and other criminal justice agencies to consider how best to use their funding to meet their targets and local needs and a number of areas have established schemes to deliver adult restorative justice. The Government's strategy is to encourage, but not require, the use of adult restorative justice while building the evidence base to establish the impact of its use, particularly in relation to re-offending. It has commissioned independent research to evaluate the Crime Reduction Programme Restorative Justice Pilots, which is expected to be completed and published this year and this will inform its future strategy.

Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) use restorative justice as part of their work to prevent offending and increase victim satisfaction. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has currently set a key performance indicator that

"victims participate in restorative processes in 25 per cent. of relevant disposals referred to the YOT, and 85 per cent. of victims participating are satisfied."

YOTs implement this work from their own resources which, during 2005-06, included YJB grant covering approximately 20 per cent. of YOT resources.

Under the Treasury Invest to Save (Round 6) programme, £1.5 million was allocated to pilots of Family Group Conferences to enhance the overall effectiveness of Youth Inclusion Support Panels. The

FGC pilot ceased on 31 March 2007 when the three year funding came to an end.

From April 2007-10, Treasury ISB funding has been allocated to a Restorative Teen Panels project in Preston, Lancashire and a "Restorative Justice in Residential Children's Homes" project in Leicestershire.

The YJB publication, "Developing Restorative Justice—An Action Plan" sets out how restorative justice will be broadened and extended in the youth justice system.

Sexual Offences: Essex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many of those convicted of sexual offences have absconded while *(a)* on parole, *(b)* on early release and *(c)* serving a suspended sentence in Essex in each of the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [118151]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information is not available in the precise form requested.

In the period between April 2005 and February 2007 all offenders who were (i) serving a determinate sentence for a sexual offence; (ii) released on licence either automatically at the halfway point of sentence or on parole licence: (iii) on licence and subject to supervision by the Essex Probation Service; and (iv) recalled to prison for breaching the conditions of their licence were apprehended by the police and returned to custody.

Out of 32 cases recorded on the sex offender register and on a suspended sentence supervision order within the past 12 months in Essex, 1 has absconded. Essex Probation Service raised a warrant without bail immediately, and the offender was arrested. Records indicate that no further offence was committed during the abscond period.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Pay Gap

25. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent progress has been made in reducing the pay gap between men and women. [140950]

Meg Munn: Latest data show that the pay gap between men and women has been falling steadily but not fast enough. On 2 April we launched a report setting out the comprehensive programme of action across government to reduce the gender pay gap, one year on from the Women and Work Commission's recommendations. Last month my Department hosted a conference with Opportunity Now for employers to discuss best practice on increasing gender equality in the workplace.

Equal Opportunities: Housing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to promote equality in the provision of social housing. [140951]

Meg Munn: The existing allocation legislation is designed to ensure that priority for social housing is based fairly and squarely on housing need. Priority for social housing is not determined by a person's race, nationality or immigration status. Local authorities must ensure that their allocation policies and procedures do not discriminate, directly or indirectly, on grounds of race or ethnicity.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140039]

Paul Goggins: Most NIO recruitment is currently carried out free of charge by NI Recruitment Service, an agency of the Department of Finance and Personnel. Recruitment consultants are used only where Recruitment Service competitions fail to produce suitable candidates or where executive searches are required to identify suitably skilled and experienced applicants. The following are the total amounts paid by the Northern Ireland Office core Department to recruitment consultants during the calendar years 2000-07. Information prior to 2000 is unavailable.

	£
2000	0
2001	0
2002	44,800
2003	5,483
2004	34,736
2005	0
2006	69,644
2007 (to date)	0

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how many times his Office was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139219]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Wolverhampton, South-East (Mr McFadden) on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 591W.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139392]

The Prime Minister: For these purposes my Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 591W.

Social Mobility

Justine Greening: To ask the Prime Minister which Government Department is responsible for social mobility policy; and if he will make a statement. [140711]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Leader of the House on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1449-50.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139443]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has not incurred any expenditure which relates to consultancy services for advertising campaigns.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent on advertising by his Department in each of the last five years. [139532]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has spent the following on advertising:

	Amount (£)
2002-03	10,390
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	17,510

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135730]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is responsible for its own website—www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk—which was established in 2004. The annual costs of designing, building and hosting the website are set out in the following table. Management and updating of the site are the responsibility of the Office's Press Office and separate figures are not available. Visitor figures are only available for 2006-07.

Financial year	*Cost (£)*	*Unique visitors*
2004-05	24,718	n/a
2005-06	4,964	n/a
2006-07	840	37,877

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Departmental Structure

13. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what representations he has received from bodies representing British businesses on the structure and functions of his Department. [140936]

Mr. Darling: I have received many such representations.

Business Regulation

14. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to reduce the number of regulations imposed on business and industry. [140937]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's programme for reducing regulation is set out in our Better Regulation Simplification plan, which was published on 11 December last year. This sets out ambitious plans for reducing the administrative burden DTI regulations impose on business towards our target of 25 per cent. by 2010. We will publish an updated report on the progress we have made, and the further plans we have, later this year.

Measures we have already taken include:

Ensuring that new legislation comes into effect on just two common commencement dates, which is especially helpful for smaller businesses;

Helping business implement regulations with clearer information through the cross Government website www.businesslink.gov.uk;

Bringing in comprehensive guidance on maternity leave and pay;

Enabling other departments, business people, consumer representatives and the unions to scrutinise policy proposals through a ministerial challenge panel.

Manufacturing: West Midlands

15. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to encourage high-skilled manufacturing in the West Midlands. [140939]

Malcolm Wicks: Manufacturing remains a critical part of the West Midlands economy. The Government are working closely with Advantage West Midlands to develop the new regional economic strategy which will encourage manufacturers to move to high value added production through the application of science and innovation, world-class practice and skills development.

Intellectual Property Rights

16. **Mr. Todd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress has been made in response to the joint statement of intent to create and implement

an intellectual property rights programme between the UK and India since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [140940]

Malcolm Wicks: The joint statement of intent was signed in June 2006. Under the JETCO agreement between India and the UK, we are currently developing a bilateral action plan with the Indian IPR authorities in order to put in place a technical assistance programme for Indian Government officials dealing with IP.

Sub-postmasters

17. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to increase the contractual freedom afforded to sub-postmasters. [140941]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have no role in determining the terms applying to sub-postmasters through their contract with Post Office Ltd.

The sub-postmasters and mistresses who own and operate 97 per cent. of the UK's post office network are private business people. They are free to develop their associated retail business and to enter into contracts with anyone they choose as long as the products provided are not excluded under the terms of their contract with Post Office Ltd. because they would be in direct competition with key Post Office products.

Post Office Closures

18. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to announce decisions on which post offices will close. [140942]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given earlier to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan).

Vibration White Finger: Compensation

19. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what authority his Department has granted to Capita to interview under caution claimants for compensation for vibration white finger. [140943]

Malcolm Wicks: It is a sad fact of life that a very small percentage of claims appear to be fraudulent. It is entirely appropriate that Capita, on behalf of the Department, should investigate where fraud or any other criminal offence is suspected. They do so through agreed procedures which protect the legal positions of both the interviewee and the Department.

Where appropriate, interviews are conducted under caution in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and with the full authority of the Department.

Community Trade Union: Communitas Development for the Future

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much funding was given to *(a)* Community Trade Union and *(b)* Communitas Development for the Future in each of the last 10 years. [140840]

Jim Fitzpatrick: For 1997 the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

From 1998 onwards there have been no payments by DTI to either Community or Communitas Development for the Future.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139114]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In line with commitments on confidentiality given to staff, the Department does not maintain central records of the detail of an individual's disability or long-term health condition. Currently approximately 8 per cent. of all staff within the Department have recorded a disability or long term health condition.

All staff with disabilities or long term health conditions, including epilepsy and related conditions, are encouraged to discuss with their line managers any impact on their work and reasonable adjustments that may help within the work place. Reasonable adjustments to assist staff with epilepsy could include additional time off for medical appointments, awareness training for team members, adjustments to work objectives or targets, adjustments to lighting, seating or IT equipment, advice from our Occupational Health Service and flexible working.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139387]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has spent the following on legal fees:

	£
2004-2005	4,427,415
2005-2006	1,927,871
2006-2007	4,576,382

Due to a change in the accounting system, figures for 2002-03 and 2003-04 can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140042]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Central records indicate that the following payments in total have been made to recruitment consultants.

Core DTI

	£
2003-2004	1,269,335
2004-2005	1,779,732

Core DTI

	£
2005-2006	2,431,175
2006-2007	1,388,192

UK Trade and Investment (UKTI)

	£
2003-2004	4064
2004-2005	20,984
2005-2006	147,284
2006-2007	5,897

Employment Tribunals Service (ETS) (transferred to Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 April 2006)

	£
2003-2004	13,885
2004-2005	10,411
2005-2006	16,585

I have asked Chief Executives of the Executive Agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electricity

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he is taking to increase the intelligence capability of the electricity distribution network through broadband enabled smart meters. [140457]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Government have set out their position on metering and billing in the Energy White Paper, which includes an ambition to see a universal roll out of domestic smart meters within 10 years. We will consider how to take this forward in consultation with stakeholders, including issues related to technology and communications. Energy suppliers are separately undertaking a programme of work, overseen by Ofgem, to address the issue of inter-operability of smart meters. This work includes an examination of the communications systems that underpin smart meters.

Employment: Equality

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1212W, on employment equality, what assessment he has made of the effect of the implementation of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 on company benefits other than pensions available to retired employees; and if he will make a statement. [140654]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is still too early to assess the effect in practice of these regulations on company benefits other than pensions. Such benefits available to retired employees may be covered by the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 where the former employee can show that any age discrimination is closely linked to the former employment relationship.

Galileo Project

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the financial implications of the UK's involvement with the Galileo project. [139734]

Dr. Ladyman I have been asked to reply and will answer this question shortly.

Substantive answer from Dr. Ladyman to Nigel Evans:

The European Union (EU) and member states of the European Space Agency (ESA) jointly fund the design and development programme for Galileo. To date the UK's subscription to the ESA element of the programme has been €142 million.

The EU's contribution to the design and development programme is made from the EC budget and is estimated by the Commission to be €790 million. The UK's contribution to the EC budget is around 17 per cent. of the total, before the UK receives any abatement. The United Kingdom makes its contributions to the EC Budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it. There is not an identified United Kingdom contribution to the design and development programme via the EU budget.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) when his Department informed solar photovoltaics installers of the decision to reduce the maximum household grant under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme by 83 per cent; [140458]

(2) when his Department informed micro wind installers of the decision to reduce the maximum household grant under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme by 50 per cent. [140459]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answers 4 June 2007]:* Further to the announcement in the Budget 2007 that an additional £6 million would be made available for the household stream, we suspended the scheme to allow us to discuss with industry representatives how to re-structure the scheme to make best use of the monies available in order to meet the programmes objectives.

We announced on 9 May a number of changes to the programme, including the introduction of a £2,500 cap per household. By introducing this measure among others, we will be able to use the limited funds available to support an increased number of microgeneration installations across all technologies.

The scheme re-opened to applicants on 29 May.

Minimum Wage: Enforcement

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time enforcement officers monitor non-compliance with the minimum wage. [139480]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

There are currently 71 full-time NMW Compliance Officers and nine part-time Compliance Officers, located in 16 HMRC NMW Compliance Teams. Each team is managed by a Higher Officer Team Leader.

Post Offices: Cheltenham

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many post offices were open in the Cheltenham district in May of *(a)* 1987 and *(b)* 1997; and how many are now open. [140493]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which post offices in Cornwall closed in each year since 1979, broken down by Parliamentary constituency. [140773]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 5 June 2007]:* This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook the managing director has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Postal Services: EC Law

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* obligations and *(b)* restrictions are imposed by the EU Services Directive on (i) Post Office Limited and (ii) the Royal Mail. [140843]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The EU Services Directive does not impose requirements on Post Office Ltd. or Royal Mail. The services directive is intended to deliver a competitive market in services and eliminate certain barriers to the provision of services. Legislative and administrative requirements imposed on service providers will need to be assessed for compliance with the directive. In the cases of Post Office Ltd. and Royal Mail, the relevant requirements fall largely under the regulatory regime established pursuant to the Postal Services Act. If those requirements do not comply with the directive, they will need to be amended or abolished.

Solar Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the Government's estimate is of the lifetime carbon saving from *(a)* a 2.5kWp domestic solar photovoltaics system and *(b)* a 4m2 domestic solar hot water system. [138082]

Malcolm Wicks: As part of the EEC3 (Energy Efficiency Commitment) programme, the carbon savings for domestic solar PV and solar hot water systems have been calculated using the carbon factor from the DEFRA 'Guidelines for Greenhouse Gas Reporting':

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/gas/envrpgas-annexes.pdf

Taking this into account, for a lifetime of 25 years, a typical domestic PV installation would save 6.21 tC.

The energy savings of solar thermal panels depend upon the water heating system displaced. The following table lists the values assumed for a 4m2 domestic hot water installation in the EEC3 Illustrative Mix:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/eec3-2007/letter.htm

	Energy saved per year (kWh)	*Annual carbon saving (kgC/yr)*	*Lifetime carbon saving(tC)*	*Lifetime CO_2 saving tCO_2*	*Comments*
Gas CH	1,577	81.7	2.04	7.49	—
Electric storage heating	1,240	145.7	3.64	13.36	—
Oil central heating	1,500	102.0	2.55	9.35	—
Solid fuel central heating	2,050	167.5	4.19	15.35	—
Gas non-CH	1,230	145.0	3.63	13.29	Water is heated by electricity
Electric non-CH	1,230	145.0	3.63	13.29	Water is heated by electricity
Solid fuel non-CH	1,230	145.0	3.63	13.29	Water is heated by electricity
Weighted average over all heating types	1,548	88.9	2.22	8.15	—

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the security and safety implications of the sale in the departure sectors of airports of goods deemed unsuitable to be taken on planes. [139742]

Gillian Merron: Goods that are listed as prohibited items should not be sold in retail outlets located in the departure lounges of airports. Airport managers and Department for Transport inspectors are responsible for ensuring that shops comply with this requirement, and that supplies to shops located in the departure lounges are screened or have been kept secure, prior to being permitted into the airport.

Buses: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of whether bus companies operating in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland are on course to meet Government targets for low-liner bus levels in their fleet of *(a)* 50 per cent. by 2010 and *(b)* 100 per cent. by 2017. [139946]

Gillian Merron: No such assessments are made by the Department at constituency or local authority level. The latest survey shows that, as on 31 March 2005, 47 per cent. of local buses in the north-east region as a whole are low-floor, and this is likely to increase as older vehicles are replaced. The region as a whole is therefore well on course to meet the 2010 target.

By 2017 all full-sized buses used on scheduled services will need to comply with the Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations. These regulations do not require low-floor construction, but many operators have chosen low-floor construction as the best way to improve buses for passengers with reduced mobility.

Compulsory Purchase: Weald Smokery

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the compulsory purchase order for the Weald Smokery in East Sussex. [140917]

Dr. Ladyman: Draft orders for the A21 schemes have not yet been published, so no properties are currently subject to compulsory purchase. However, the owner of the Weald Smokery served a Statutory Blight Notice on the Secretary of State and this was accepted. The property has therefore been acquired under the blight provisions contained in section 154(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This property is now being managed by the Highways Agency's property agents. To enable the existing business to continue to trade throughout the marketing period for a new lease, a short term lease has been provided to the Weald Smokery's former business manager.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139446]

Gillian Merron: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department and its predecessor held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136857]

Gillian Merron: Since the Department for Transport was formed in 2002, Ministers have attended two events either solely or partly organised by Sovereign Strategy.

On 14 December 2005, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton, (Derek Twigg) spoke at the 'Local Government Transport conference' which Sovereign Strategy helped organise.

On 16 May 2006 a representative of Sovereign Strategy attended a meeting between the then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Halton, and the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive (Nexus).

Additionally Transport Ministers have attended other events not organised by Sovereign Strategy but at which individuals employed by them may have been present. No record is kept of such encounters.

Information regarding officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what total revenue was raised by the use by agencies responsible to his Department of 0870 numbers in each year since 1997. [139846]

Gillian Merron: The total revenue raised by Department for Transport agencies since the Department was formed in 2002 is as follows:

	Total revenue (£)
DVLA	
2002-03	656,164
2003-04	874,965
2004-05	1,945,131
2005-06	2,423,517
2006-07	2,834,284
DSA	
2002-03	[1]n/a
2003-04	[1]702,326
2004-05	[1]706,399
2005-06	[1]693,254
2006-07	[1]623,284
HA	[2]0
MCA	[2]0
VGA	[3]0
VOSA	
2002-03	[1,4]n/a
2003-04	[4]10,386
2004-05	[4]63,407
2005-06	[4]72,397
GCDA	[3]0

n/a = not available
[1] Figures only available since 2003-04
[2] 0870 service is non-revenue generating
[3] Has no 0870 numbers
[4] Figures only available from 2003-04. 2005-06 figure is subject to completion of audited accounts

Driving: Disabled

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what advice his Department and the Highways Agency provides to disabled drivers in the case of *(a)* a breakdown in a road tunnel and *(b)* other circumstances where they are unable to reach emergency telephones. [140732]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* The advice given to disabled people, whether they breakdown in a road tunnel or in other circumstances where they are unable to reach an emergency roadside telephone, is the same as that contained in the Highway Code (Rule 252). That is to stay in their vehicle, switch on hazard warning lights and display a 'Help' pennant

or, if they have a car or mobile telephone, contact the emergency services and be prepared to advise them of their location.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department and the Highways Agency are taking to ensure that the *(a)* Dartford Tunnel, *(b)* Mersey Tunnel, *(c)* Blackwall Tunnel, *(d)* Rotherhithe Tunnel and *(e)* Tyne Tunnel can be used safely by people with disabilities. [140733]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* Only the Dartford crossing is the responsibility of the Highways Agency and all drivers are informed, through signage at the entrance to the tunnels, to remain in their vehicles for their safety if there is an incident.

Both tunnels at the Dartford Crossing have 100 per cent. CCTV coverage, which is constantly monitored in the control room located in the adjacent compound. In addition the crossing has its own dedicated traffic officers and regular patrols are made through each tunnel. These measures allow Crossing staff to attend an incident within five minutes to assist all drivers and passengers.

In 2005, an Accessibility Audit Report was prepared for the crossing as a whole looking at the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Various improvements relating to the tunnels have been identified which will assist in improving safety conditions for all users. A programme of improvement works, taking into account the constraints of the tunnels, is being developed in conjunction with the EU Directive on Tunnel Safety.

In addition a live exercise is planned for later this year to test the logistics of evacuating disabled people from the tunnels. Any lessons learnt will be reviewed and if possible incorporated into improvement works.

With regard to the other crossings mentioned, these are the responsibility of *(b)* Merseytravel, *(c)* and *(d)* Transport for London and *(e)* Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority. As public authorities, all these bodies are subject to the Disability Equality Duty and must ensure that the needs of disabled people are taken into account throughout all their functions and services, including provision of highway infrastructure.

The operators of these tunnels also have additional duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 as service providers. In particular, we would expect them to have developed detailed plans covering all eventualities in their tunnels.

Eurostar: Ashford Kent

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to authorise changes to the Eurostar train services from Ashford International Train Station. [140916]

Mr. Tom Harris: Eurostar has to set its timetables to meet its obligation to operate a sound commercial business. The Government have no formal role in this.

Galileo Project

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects the UK to be able to make full use of the Galileo satellite system; [140416]

(2) what proportion of the budget for the Galileo project is expected to be met by the private sector; [140626]

(3) what assessment he has made of the sharing of the risks associated with the Galileo project between *(a)* national governments, *(b)* the European Union and *(c)* private sector investors. [140499]

Dr. Ladyman: Following the Commission's report of a breakdown in the public private partnership (PPP) contract negotiations the March Transport Council gave the bidding consortium a deadline of 10 May 2007 to resolve their differences and meet certain conditions to allow the resumption of effective negotiations. At the same time the Commission was requested to prepare for the June Transport Council an analysis of the consortium's response and alternative options for taking forward the project. We have been assessing the Commission's report.

At the June Transport Council, it is likely that Ministers will be asked to decide that the current negotiations have failed and that the Commission should explore more thoroughly the alternative options for proceeding with the project. Public sector governance will also be considered.

The timetable for the programme, its funding, risk sharing between national governments, the EU and private sector investors along with its organisation are therefore subject to these decisions. The Commission proposed date for deployment is 2012.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 750-1W, on Heathrow Airport, what estimate his Department has made of the additional number of passengers travelling to and from Heathrow Airport by *(a)* private car, *(b)* hire car and *(c)* taxi/minicab that would result from an increase from 480,000 movements per year to 720,000 movements per year; and if he will make a statement. [140727]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 107W. Estimates of future trips to the airport by various modes will be given as part of the forthcoming consultation.

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects mixed mode operations to start at Heathrow. [141082]

Gillian Merron: The Government intend to consult later this year on how best use can be made of the existing runways at Heathrow through mixed mode.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when his Department next intends to review its excessive noise policy on aircraft departing from Heathrow Airport; whether this review will include an assessment of noise regulation of aircraft arriving at Heathrow Airport; and if he will make a statement; [140697]

(2) what criteria are used to judge the appropriate noise limits for aircraft departing Heathrow Airport in relation to the *(a)* daytime limit, *(b)* shoulder period limit and *(c)* night limit; and if he will make a statement; [140725]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of noise limits in operation at Heathrow Airport; and if he will make a statement. [140726]

Gillian Merron *[holding answers 6 June 2007]:* Following consultation, the current departure noise limits were introduced in December 2000. The daytime limit (0700-2300) 94dBA (a reduction of 3dB) came into effect in February 2001. The night time limit (2330-0600) 87dBA came into effect in March 2001. The previous night-time limit of 89dBA (a reduction of 2dB) was retained for the shoulder periods (2300-2330 and 0600-0700). These limits are kept under review.

The Government's Aircraft Noise Monitoring Advisory Committee (ANMAC) considered in 1999 the feasibility of setting noise limits for arriving aircraft. It concluded that it would not be appropriate to do so, due to the very limited discretion available to pilots once established on the final approach. ANMAC recommended the development of a code of practice for arriving flights for air traffic controllers, airlines and airport managers. The code was originally produced in 2002 with a revised edition being issued in November 2006. The code focuses on the use of continuous descent approach as the practice most conducive to noise abatement.

Annual noise contours representing noise from both arriving and departing aircraft are produced by the Civil Aviation Authority's Environmental Research and Consultancy Division. These contours are based on data from fixed and mobile noise monitor sites installed by BAA under departure tracks at Heathrow. The data are used to monitor compliance with Government noise limits at Heathrow and is reported regularly through the airport's Noise and Track Keeping Group and the Consultative Committee.

These contours which have been produced for many years also give the local community an indication of how many people are affected by a level of noise. The 57dBa Leq is used as the level of daytime noise marking the approximate onset of significant community annoyance.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will introduce the Australian N/70 system for measuring noise disturbance around Heathrow airport. [140815]

Gillian Merron: There are no plans to introduce the Australian N70 noise index at Heathrow. Aircraft noise exposure around Heathrow is quantified using noise contours based on the 16-hour Leg noise index. This index is based on significant scientific research correlating the Leq index with noise disturbance responses. No such correlation currently exists relating N70 contours with disturbance.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what factors he took into account in increasing the vehicle registration fee from £38 to £50; and if he will make a statement. [139758]

Dr. Ladyman: The increase in first vehicle registration fee from £38 to £50 was implemented to ensure that the DVLA driver and vehicle registration costs continue to be covered by the fees levied. This is necessary for the DVLA to comply with its statutory duties as an executive agency and trading fund. The initial vehicle fee increase was mirrored by a smaller increase from £38 to £45 for the first provisional driving licence.

The fee increases result from three public consultations over a two-year period in which the different options for meeting the DVLA budget envelope were explored in detail and gradually focused on the two fees noted. The consultation reports and conclusions were shared with respondents to the consultation and are published on the DVLA website. The explanatory memorandum to the changes in regulations summarises these. In essence, the DVLA undertakes 62 different registration transaction streams to maintain the vehicle and driver registers, but is only able to levy fees on 10 of these. Hence 16 per cent. of the transactions carry the costs for all the register maintenance and, of these, the 3,000,000 first vehicle registrations and the 950,000 first provisional driving licences bear the brunt. Other transactions such as change of vehicle keeper or of address are not fee-bearing, to encourage compliance, and these transactions have increased in number far faster than chargeable transactions.

DVLA has made very significant productivity gains over the last four years and by 31 March 2008 will have reduced its costs for the 2004 by some £50 million. However, its volumes have increased by around 15 per cent. during the same period. This has resulted in a rise in total costs. Conclusions drawn from the consultations were that the preferred way of addressing this was to increase the fees.

Parking: Disabled

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate has been made of the number of people with temporary disabilities who do not meet the criteria for a disabled parking permit; [140741]

(2) what plans he has to allow people with temporary disabilities access to a disabled parking permit. [140742]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* The Department is conducting a full strategic review of the Blue Badge Scheme. The review will consider the issue of temporary badges, including the potential impact of their inclusion within the Scheme. The review and upcoming reforms will help to make the scheme fairer,

more consistent, tougher on fraud and easier to understand. We are scheduled to receive the findings in September 2007.

Public Transport

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve the contribution of the transport infrastructure to the economy. [139626]

Gillian Merron: The Eddington Transport Study's recommendation to focus investment aimed at improving productivity on the three strategic priorities of congested and growing city catchments, key inter-urban corridors and key international gateways. The Department for Transport's 2007 annual report details estimated capital spending of over £5.9 billion in 2006-07 to support reliable and efficient local, regional and inter-regional transport systems. Furthermore, the Transport Innovation Fund will provide more than £9 billion over seven years from 2008-09 to support schemes of benefit to national productivity, and innovative local transport packages aimed at tackling congestion. The Department's formal response to the Eddington recommendations will be published in the autumn alongside the comprehensive spending review.

Railways: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions on expanding the train network in *(a)* Portsmouth and *(b)* the rest of Hampshire; and if he will make a statement. [139729]

Mr. Tom Harris: I would be pleased to meet relevant MPs to discuss the Department's approach to development of the railway in Portsmouth and the rest of Hampshire.

No funding is specifically allocated to new railways or re-openings. We are, nevertheless, always prepared to look at proposals of this sort put forward as priorities by regions and local authorities, provided that they are supported by a proper business case.

The Southern Regional Planning Assessment for the railway was published in January this year and sets out the Department's thinking on this issue. The Secretary of State has made a commitment that 1,000 additional train carriages, to lengthen trains and alleviate crowding on the most congested routes across England and Wales, will result from Department for Transport's High Level Output Specification to Network Rail for 2009-14. This will be published in July.

Railways: Reading Berkshire

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what upgrades are being planned for the up and down relief lines between Reading and London Paddington. [140816]

Mr. Tom Harris: In relation to upgrades for the up and down relief lines between Reading and London Paddington, the Network Rail Business Plan 2007 says: "We plan to increase relief line speeds to 90 mph on 86 per cent. of the route."

The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a fuller response to her question:

John Armitt
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London NW1 2EE

Railways: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding is available to reopen strategic and inter-regional links of disused rail lines, including the Leek to Stoke-on-Trent line; and if he will make a statement. [140871]

Mr. Tom Harris: No funding is specifically allocated to rail re-openings. We are, nevertheless, always prepared to look at proposals of this sort put forward as priorities by regions and local authorities, provided that they are supported by a proper business case. I am not aware of any current plans to re-open the Stoke-on-Trent to Leek line but any proposal which did come forward would be considered on this basis.

Rolling Stock

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the 1,000 new train carriages announced in his speech on 14 March 2007 he estimates will be manufactured in the UK. [140453]

Mr. Tom Harris: Once the industry has assessed where new carriages can best be deployed to improve capacity and determined the types of trains required, I expect orders for new rolling stock to be placed on the basis of competitive tender.

UK manufacturers and component suppliers will be able to compete for those contracts on the same basis as other bidders.

Royal National Lifeboat Institution

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many calls for assistance the Royal National Lifeboat Institution received on *(a)* Sunday 27th and *(b)* Monday 28th May 2007, broken down by vessel. [140904]

Dr. Ladyman: All Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) launches are reported to and co-ordinated by Her Majesty's Coastguard (HMCG).

HMCG co-ordinated the following number of incidents in which RNLI lifeboats were involved:

27 May—42 incidents;

28 May—26 incidents;

Total—68 incidents.

The following table shows the breakdown by type of vessel for 27 and 28 May:

	Commercial	Fishing vessel	Yacht	Other pleasure[1]	Other[2]	None[3]	Total
27 May	3	4	15	10	3	7	42
28 May	0	1	10	6	1	8	26

[1] Including personal water craft.
[2] Other = where not possible to determine purpose of vessel.
[3] None = where no vessels were involved.

Tolls

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what account is being taken of the special needs of drivers with disabilities in the forthcoming road pricing scheme pilots; and what lessons have been learned from the experience in London of the congestion charge. [141054]

Dr. Ladyman: The Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance covers exemptions and discounts. The Department has not drawn any conclusions from the London Congestion Charge on the treatment of drivers with disabilities. Any authorities putting forward local pricing schemes will need to have considered such issues, taking account of local circumstances.

Tolls: Global Positioning System

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether satellite local authority road pricing schemes will be able to use the *(a)* American GPS, *(b)* Russian Glonas and *(c)* Chinese Beidou satellite global positioning systems. [141491]

Dr. Ladyman: There are presently no proposals from local authorities for satellite based charging systems. The use of signals from different systems will be dependent on the technology selected at the time that any such scheme were proposed.

TREASURY

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tendering process is used to decide which company supplies ministerial red boxes to his Department. [134952]

John Healey *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* As the value of orders placed for the supply of ministerial red boxes is below the minimum HM Treasury threshold for competition, the requirements are placed on a single tender basis with Barrow and Gale Ltd.

All Government Departments operate a similar minimum threshold for competitive tendering.

London Development Agency

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the borrowing limit of the London Development Agency was in 2006-07; and how much it will be in 2007-08. [141106]

John Healey: It is for the Mayor of London, as part of the wider GLA arrangements, to set the borrowing limits for the LDA on an annual basis, in accordance with the Local Government Act 2003.

Revenue and Customs: Conferences

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many conference bookings have been *(a)* booked and *(b)* cancelled by HM Revenue and Customs with Travelocity since June 2006; and what the cost was to the public purse of each. [133443]

John Healey: HM Revenue and Customs aim to minimise the costs of cancelled event and conference bookings by confirming the availability of attendees prior to booking.

However, since HMRC is an operational department which has been undergoing a rapid degree of reorganisation in recent years, it is an unfortunate fact: (i) that members of staff are often obliged at short notice to pull out of prior commitments to attend events or conferences because of their operational responsibilities, and (ii) that the restructuring or reorientation of staff responsibilities will also occasionally make planned events and conferences redundant.

Where this necessitates the cancellation of events or conferences, the department's contract with Travelocity requires Travelocity to negotiate down any cancellation fees to the minimum possible.

It is the view of HMRC's management that where conferences and events cease to be viable due to low attendance or become redundant due to the restructuring of unit and team responsibilities, it is the least costly option simply to cancel the event and incur any necessary cancellation fees, rather than pressing ahead with such an event, thereby incurring the higher direct costs of the event and the opportunity cost involved in wasting staff time.

In the period between 1 July 2006 to 31 March 2007, a total of 39 conferences and events were cancelled with the resulting imposition of cancellation fees, around 7 per cent. of the total number of events and conferences organised during that period.

Around a third of this total relates to cancellations in October 2006 alone, when extensive reorganisation within the department and operational pressures led to the cancellation of 14 separate events at late notice with resulting fees totalling £24,000.

Excluding the exceptional month of October, the average monthly number of cancelled events incurring cancellation fees over this period was three, and the average monthly cost was £3,400.

Taxation: Dentistry

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representatives of the dental profession on their tax and national insurance status since 1 April 2006. [139869]

Ed Balls: There have not been any discussions between Treasury Ministers and representatives of the dental profession about the employment status of dentists for the purposes of tax and national insurance contributions since 1 April 2006.

Voucher Schemes: Day Care

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of employers who are offering child care vouchers; and how many employees are covered by the scheme; [138685]

(2) what the estimated annual cost was to the Exchequer of child care vouchers in each of the last three years. [138686]

Ed Balls: Employers and employees are not required to report the provision of tax-free employer supported child care provided to employees since the tax and national insurance contributions exemptions were introduced in April 2005.

HMRC commissioned the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), an independent social research organisation, to monitor the initial impact of the reforms to the tax and NICs exemptions for employer-supported child care, from the employer's perspective. This was published on 6 December 2006 on HM Revenue and Customs' website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/research/research-report23.htm.

The research estimated that during 2005-06 around 9,600 employers were offering childcare vouchers. It also includes information on the number of employees using the tax and NICs exemptions at this time, indications of how this may change in the future, income levels of the beneficiaries and the average size of claims made.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when Ministers first requested calculations to be made in relation to the cost of introducing the £25,000 income disregard as referred to in the answer of 13 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1836W, on tax credits; and when they received those calculations. [138660]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The £25,000 disregard was introduced as part of a balanced package of measures with rights and responsibilities for claimants. Some measures in the package have a cost to the Exchequer while others have a yield. Ministers received information on the Exchequer effect of the package as part of their deliberations leading up to the 2005 pre-Budget report, when the package was announced.

Following publication of the 2004-05 overpayment statistics in May 2006, HMRC had two years of overpayment statistics to inform this costing. Unlike in 2003-04, awards in 2004-05 were based on the previous years' income making them much more representative of future years awards. In addition the first stage of the finalisation process for 2005-06 was completed in August 2006, adding to this body of knowledge. This allowed HMRC to publish a separate cost for the disregard in November 2006.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of *(a)* overpayment and *(b)* underpayment there were in the Child Support Agency for Bexley residents in each of the last five years. [132792]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 7 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply form the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many cases of *(a)* overpayment and *(b)* underpayment there were in the Child Support Agency in Bexley residents in each of the last five years [132792].

We contacted your office to clarify the information you required, and it was agreed that this information was the number of people who were paying less than they should have in terms of underpayment i.e. case compliance, and for overpayments, the cases where the Agency was later shown to have incorrectly assessed the case i.e. the accuracy of cases. The information we hold is given in the attached table.

Information has been provided on the umber of cases charged and how many of these are full, partial or nil payers. Those cases that are partial or nil payers can be regarded as underpayers. Cases with full compliance are paying at least the full amount of maintenance due. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide the quantity of overpayments made by the Agency at the Parliamentary Constituency level. The Agency uses a sample of cases to measure overpayments throughout the Agency, and as a result of the size of this sample this information is only accurate at the Agency level.

I am sorry but due to limitations with the available information it is only possible to provide information regarding underpayments at Parliamentary Constituency level for old and new scheme cases on the new computer system (CS2) and not for those on the old system. As the new scheme went live in March 2003 this information should be interpreted as a naturally growing caseload. It is not possible to provide this information going back the full five years.

Case compliance of non-resident parents on the new system in Bexleyheath and Crayford

	Charged	Nil payment		Partial compliance		Full compliance	
As of March:	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2003	0	0	n/a	0	n/a	0	n/a
2004	80	30	39	20	24	30	37
2005	200	60	32	60	30	80	38
2006	290	100	34	90	33	100	33
2007	380	150	40	110	28	120	32

Notes:
1. The table shows the number of new system cases that were charged money via the collection service over a three month period and the number of cases which a payment was/was not received over the same period.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10 and percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parent families eligible to receive child support benefit do not receive the benefit because the father does not contribute to the Child Support Agency. [141115]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 7 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many lone parent families eligible to receive Child Support benefit do not receive the benefit because the father does not contribute to the Child Support Agency.

In order to ensure that a complete answer is provided clarification was obtained from your office to ascertain the intent of the question. It was agreed that you required the volume of cases where child maintenance is not received from the non-resident parent. The information requested can be obtained from table 7.1 of the March 2007 Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary Statistics by deducting the number of cases received from the number of cases charged.

A copy of this is available in the House of Commons Library, or on the Internet via the following link: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_mar07.asp.

The Agency's management information is case based and relates to all parents with care, which means lone parent families cannot be isoiated.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

CSA Table 7.1: Case Compliance—amended to include total cases where maintenance not received[1]

Quarter ending March 2007	*Number/percentage*
Overall Agency	
Total cases charged	509,100
Total cases received	338,500
Case compliance (percentage)	66
Total cases not received	170,600

[1] This table shows the number of cases that were charged money via the Agency's collection service over a three month period and the number of cases from which a payment was received from over the same period.

Notes:
1. The table above includes those old-scheme cases with either a Full Maintenance Assessment or an Interim Maintenance Assessment; plus those new-scheme cases with either a Full Maintenance Calculation, or a Default Maintenance Decision. New-scheme cases being processed clerically are excluded from this analysis. New scheme cases classed as maintenance direct at the end of the month are excluded.
2. Cases are classed as compliant if they are currently open, and have been charged and paid money via the collection service (either regular maintenance and/or arrears) over the preceding quarter.

Children: Poverty

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of children raised by *(a)* married couples, *(b)* unmarried couples and *(c)* single parents are estimated to live below the poverty line. [124515]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We measure the poverty line as households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income. Income is measured before housing costs: this is the international norm.

Information requested for lone parents is available in the Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised), table 4.5 on page 46. This is available in the House of Commons Library.

The following table reports the proportion of children in poverty at a point in time by family type. We do not have data for children "raised" by different family types. These figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors and the information refers to the United Kingdom.

Percentage of children living in households below 60 per cent. median income (before housing costs) by family type: 2005-06

	Percentage
Married couples	17
Unmarried couples	23

Source:
Family Resources Survey 2005-06—OECD equivalisation scale

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138457]

Mrs. McGuire: A table detailing current contracts and committed expenditure as at 22 May 2007 has been placed in the Library. Excluded from this table are engagements for Legal consultancy. This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only by incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when the Department expects all those currently eligible to receive funds under the financial assistance scheme and who are 65 years old or over to receive payments; and if he will make a statement; [136616]

(2) how much the Financial Assistance Scheme has paid out to members of schemes that wound up before 6 April 2005 with insufficient funds to cover all pension entitlements; and if he will make a statement; [136617]

(3) how many people who are eligible to receive funds under the financial assistance scheme are 65 years old or over; and if he will make a statement. [136618]

James Purnell: The FAS is currently paying all eligible members of qualifying schemes aged 65 and over for whom acceptable member data has been received. Before payments can be made the FAS Operational Unit is dependent on receiving acceptable data from the trustees, and confirmation of personal details from the member. We are actively encouraging trustees in qualifying schemes to provide data on eligible members as quickly as possible. The FAS will make payments within a month of receiving acceptable member data; there is no backlog of payments in FAS.

The FAS has paid a total of £4,351,024 gross (£3,384,030 net) to 1,166 qualifying members as at 11 May 2007.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* nurses and *(b)* midwives claimed jobseeker's allowance in each of the last three years. [141080]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to refresh the new deal for young people. [138319]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The new deal for young people has been a success, helping more than 732,000 young people into work from its inception up to the end of November 2006 (the latest point for which figures are available). We are now considering the approach to welfare reform recommended in David Freud's report 'Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future of welfare to work' published on 5 March 2007. The report recommended that we build on the success of new deal by building greater flexibility into employment services. We will respond in the summer, setting out our proposed next steps.

Pension Credit: Applications

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension tracking application forms were submitted to the Pension Tracking Service in each month since the service has been offered; and how many pensions were successfully traced in each month. [138039]

James Purnell: The information is in the following tables.

Total number of trace requests received by the Pension Tracing Service since April 2005

	2005								
	April	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
Total trace requests	1,768	2,243	2,067	1,556	1,757	1,950	1,753	3,037	1,740
Successful pension scheme traces	1,993	2,741	2,359	1,820	2,080	2,326	2,141	3,573	2,142

	2006								
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
Total trace requests	2,212	2,258	3,256	2,894	2,307	3,373	4,101	3,469	3,560
Successful pension scheme traces	2,631	2,710	3,942	3,386	2,651	3,103	3,660	3,101	3,181

	2006			2007		
	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*
Total trace requests	3,727	3,718	2,096	4,210	4,982	4,868
Successful pension scheme traces	3,338	3,300	1,899	3,766	4,204	4,571

Notes:
1. The total requests is the number of customers who may have requested one or more traces.
2. Successful pension scheme traces may be higher than requests due to multiple pension traces requested in one application.

Source:
Information generated from the Pension Tracing IT System

Pension Credit: Edmonton

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Edmonton constituency are in receipt of pension credit. [140067]

James Purnell: As at February 2007 4,340 households in Edmonton constituency were receiving pension credit.

Notes:

1. The figure provided is an early estimate. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory and are therefore based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) Pension Credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007

Pension Credit: Telephone Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls the pension credit telephone number 0800 99 1234 received in each month since the service was offered. [138038]

James Purnell: The information is in the following tables.

Number of calls received by the pension credit application line (PCAL) in each month since April 2003

	Number of calls received by PCAL
2003-04	
April	20,811
May	32,752
June	30,235
July	118,223
August	181,861
September	427,896
October	482,782
November	318,278
December	193,895
January	495,558
February	433,790
March	430,072
Year end total	3,196,153
2004-05	
April	380,917
May	248,075
June	310,269
July	241,897
August	151,539
September	172,708
October	122,951
November	102,563
December	76,248
January	98,798
February	411,124
March	168,645
Year end total	2,485,734
2005-06	
April	95,606
May	64,110
June	60,379
July	94,246
August	99,357
September	102,879
October	131,887
November	207,303
December	88,422
January	139,213
February	78,560
March	153,422
Year end total	1,315,384
2006-07	
April	89,884
May	97,494
June	60,479
July	81,945
August	62,413
September	51,355
October	63,119
November	51,710
December	35,663
January	33,360
February	31,946
March	45,958
Year end total	705,326
2007-08	
April	20,965

Source:
Genesys Reporting System, PCAL.

Pensions: Forecasts

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what total cost has been of providing the Pension Service Forecasting Helpdesk since its inception. [138042]

James Purnell: Information is not available at this level of detail. The Future Pensions Division within the Pension Service use a range of communication channels to provide help and advice to customers. The direct operational cost of providing this service for the period April 2005 to March 2007 was £33.94 million. During this period the Future Pensions Centre received approximately 2 million calls, issued around 19 million pension forecasts and conducted 71,000 pension traces.

Remploy: Closures

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received in support of the Remploy consortium of trade unions' proposed future business plan for Remploy. [139481]

Mrs. McGuire: Representations have been received, in support of the Remploy consortium trade unions' proposed future business plan, from members of the House and from the trade unions themselves.

Scheme Assets Review Team

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many representations the unclaimed scheme assets review team has received. [138032]

James Purnell: The Financial Assistance Scheme Review of Scheme Assets team would like to invite suggestions on the best use of scheme assets from interested parties, and also suggestions on how other non-public expenditure funding that has not already been allocated or earmarked could be used to increase assistance levels. The review Team has already met some key stakeholders but, pending a formal contact from the Team, suggestions can be sent to:

adelphi.fas-review@dwp.gsi.gov.uk

The Review will provide an initial view in the summer before consulting formally in the autumn.

As at 18 May 2007, the team have received five representatives to this email address.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 11 June 2007

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139465]

Mr. Hain: The following table provides the cost of leasing buildings and office space for the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) and its agencies in each of the last five years.

Cost of leasing buildings for the NIO

£

	(a) NIO core Department	*(b) NIO agencies*
2002-03	2,772,289	510,961
2003-04	4,639,322	757,961
2004-05	4,415,755	873,961
2005-06	5,298,142	958,961
2006-07	7,774,456	1,025,961

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Cloban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139913]

Mr. Hain: We are unable to provide all of the information requested by the hon. Member.

Travel agency fees, historically, have not been separately identifiable on invoices; they are added to the total cost of arranging travel or accommodation so we are unable to easily identify the fees paid.

The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) core Department put a system in place in financial year 2005-06 in order to identify travel agency fees. The following table provides the travel agency fees paid in the last two financial years. The NIO's agencies do not have the same system in place so for them to identify the fees would be at disproportionate cost.

Travel agency fees

NIO core Department	£
2005-06	66,000
2006-07	59,000

Legal Advice

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by the Department on external legal advice in each of the past five years. [109098]

Mr. Hain: The Department and its agencies have spent the following amounts on external legal advice during the past five years:

	Amount (£)
2002-03	1,069,261.75
2003-04	469,273.99
2004-05	1,393,392.63
2005-06	1,051,442.37
2006-07	1,021,682.01

As with all public sector procuren.ent. contracts for external legal services should be awarded on the basis of value for money, in line with the Government's policy on public procurement.

Within the figures above, one branch provided an overall figure for external legal advice and court representation as they had no means of providing a breakdown to show external legal advice only.

Public Prosecution Service NI were unable to provide a response to this question as it would not be feasible to disaggregate what was spent on advice and what was spent on the conduct of prosecutions. For them to do so would be grossly misleading as advice and the conduct of prosecutions are generally intimately intertwined and not capable of disaggregation.

Public Inquiries

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent estimate is of the cost to public funds to date of *(a)* the Saville Inquiry, *(b)* the Finucane Inquiry, *(c)* the Hamill Inquiry, *(d)* the Nelson Inquiry and *(e)* the Wright Inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [141573]

Mr. Hain: Figures for the expenditure on each inquiry since its establishment, which have been rounded, are set out in the following table. The Patrick Finucane Inquiry has not been established.

	Total costs of inquiry expenditure to end April 2007 (£)
Robert Hamill Inquiry	10,411,000
Billy Wright Inquiry	7,217,000
Rosemary Nelson Inquiry	15,169,000
Bloody Sunday Inquiry[1]	180,775,000
Total	213,572,000

[1] Of this total cost (rounded) £142.6 million falls to the NIO, the remaining £38.2 million falls to the MOD

My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Torfaen (Mr. Murphy), said to the House on 1 April 2004, *Official Report*, column 757:

> "I know that concern has been expressed in this House and elsewhere about the length and cost of some public inquiries. In particular, there are concerns about the cost of the Bloody Sunday inquiry—£129.9 million to date, with a predicted final cost of £155 million. I understand that unhappiness, but setting up that inquiry was the right thing to do, and I commend the work of Lord Saville and his team. Having been established, the inquiry must run its course if it is to be fair to individuals and if the truth is to emerge. We will, of course, take all reasonable steps to control costs in the inquiries that I have announced today, including capping legal costs where appropriate. We will ensure that the inquiries have the maximum powers, as well as aiming for better, quicker

inquiries. Even so, these inquiries will inevitably mean the commitment of significant resources. The Government recognise people's desire to see public funds spent on delivering better public services and effective policing. I recognise public concern about further expenditure on inquiries into the past".

Since the establishment of the Robert Hamill, Billy Wright and Rosemary Nelson inquiries, the Government have worked with the inquiries to put in place a number of measures to ensure that, while they have the resources necessary to fulfil their task, costs are kept to a reasonable level. The specific steps that have been taken are as follows:

agreeing a management statement that includes a financial memorandum with the inquiries. The management statement sets out the broad framework under which any public funds are paid to the inquiries including the conditions under which public funds are paid and how the inquiry accounts for its expenditure. My officials hold regular formal meetings with the Robert Hamill, Billy Wright and Rosemary Nelson inquiries to discuss their financial forecasts under the terms of these documents;

letting the inquiries make use of the Northern Ireland Office procurement division and have access to other procurement expertise in order to ensure that value for money is secured;

setting maximum hourly fees levels for publicly funded counsel and solicitors;

introducing a general 40 hour weekly cap on fees;

ensuring representation by counsel is limited only to interested parties or key witnesses whose evidence is in dispute;

making sure the scope of the legal work that may be undertaken at the public expense is circumscribed by the respective inquiry costs protocol and that all bills in respect of publicly funded legal assistance are subject to monthly scrutiny by the inquiry solicitor who is required to authorise disbursements in excess of £100.

The chairmen of the Billy Wright Inquiry and the Robert Hamill Inquiry separately asked me to convert their statutory basis for their inquiries to the Inquiries Act 2005 under section 15 of that Act. One consequence of my decision to grant their request for conversion is that the framework for the award by the chairman of costs in relation to legal representation set out in section 40 of that Act applies. I know that both chairmen take seriously their responsibilities in this regard, and the provision in section 17(3) of the Act that:

In making any decision as to the procedure or conduct of an inquiry, the chairman must act with fairness and with regard also to the need to avoid any unnecessary cost (whether to public funds or to witnesses or others).

In respect of the Billy Wright Inquiry I exercised my power on 25 October 2006 to make a notice of determination under section 40(4) of the Act and notified the House by means of a written statement, *Official Report*, columns 89-91WS.

I plan to make a notice of determination in respect of the Robert Hamill Inquiry in due course.

Roads: Limavady

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many injury collisions occurred on the Ballyquin Road, Limavady between January 2006 and January 2007; and whether any further safety works are being considered for the road. [120233]

Paul Goggins: PSNI have advised that a total of seven injury collisions occurred between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006[1] on the Ballyquin Road between Greystone Road and Main Street Dungiven. The following figures detail the severity of the collision and the number of people injured. These figures do not include collisions at the junctions with Greystone Road and Main Street. Statistics for January 2007 have not been provided as all the information for that period has not yet been processed.

[1] 2006 figures are provisional and subject to change.

Source: Central Statistics Unit, Police Service of Northern Ireland, Lisnasharragh.

	Number of collisions
Fatal	0
Serious	5
Slight	2
Total	7

	Number of casualties
Killed	0
Serious	6
Slight	10
Total	16

Road safety works are now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was received by the Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139329]

David Cairns: The amount of money received by the Scotland Office from letting space in its properties was as follows:

	£
2002-03	128,806
2003-04	117,819
2004-05	195,389
2005-06	237,797
2006-07	394,683

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for his Department was in each of the last five years. [139463]

David Cairns: The cost to the Scotland Office of leasing buildings and office space was as follows:

	Cost (£)
2002-03	517,495
2003-04	492,512
2004-05	177,155
2005-06	182,704
2006-07	224,301

Where the Scotland Office rents office space within another Department's building, the Office pays an agreed share of the overall running costs of the building, which includes such items as rent, rates, utilities, cleaning and security; a separate record is not held of the rental element of these costs. These figures do not take into account any space occupied by other Departments.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140040]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999 and since that date has incurred no costs on recruitment consultants.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139915]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office is charged a fee per booking but does not separately record this figure.

WALES

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140794]

Mr. Hain: The Carbon Trust completed an audit of the Wales Office energy and water usage in May 2006, using total expenditure on utilities to calculate the volume of emissions for the year.

For travel by air and road our carbon emissions were calculated using Pure, the clean planet trust calculator available on their website.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141993]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has a Toyota Prius in London and another in Cardiff for ministerial use.

These cars were chosen as they have low carbon emissions.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141962]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have any official ministerial residences.

Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on flood defences. [140991]

Mr. Hain: Around 170,000 properties in Wales are at risk from flooding. Flood and coastal risk management is a devolved function. I understand that current policy in Wales is to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk to people, property and natural environment by encouraging the provision of defences and flood warnings, and discouraging inappropriate development in areas at risk. I also understand that Welsh Ministers are currently implementing new flood risk management arrangements to enable improved responses to the increased risk presented by climate change.

Work carried out by the Environment Agency and Welsh local authorities to manage these risks is supported financially by the Welsh Assembly Government, who have increased their funding for flood and coastal defence this year to over £30 million.

Prince Charles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) what discussions he has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government on celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Prince Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales; [141334]

(2) what public funds his Department plans to make available for celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of Prince Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales; [141333]

(3) what celebrations his Department is planning for the 50th anniversary of Prince Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales. [141332]

Mr. Hain: 2019 will mark the 50th anniversary. No decisions have been taken as yet.

Railways: Standards

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent *(a)* discussions he has had with and *(b)* representations he has made to (i) First Great Western trains and (ii) Network Rail on train service performance between South Wales and London Paddington. [140819]

Mr. Hain My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State and I take a close interest in the performance of train services between London and South Wales, and have met the service providers to discuss issues affecting passengers in Wales. Following recent suggestions that some of the services might be terminated at Port Talbot I spoke to the Managing Director of First Great Western, who assured me that this would happen only in the most extreme circumstances. I also welcomed Network Rail's announcement that it planned to hold a full investigation into the overrunning engineering works that disrupted these services.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to him and his deputy; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141955]

Mr. Straw: None.

EC Law

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward plans to improve scrutiny of EU legislation. [140990]

Mr. Straw: As I have indicated in response to earlier questions, most recently to the hon. Lady on 26 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1203W, discussions have been taking place on this issue following the report from the Modernisation Select Committee in 2005. These discussions are continuing.

TRANSPORT

Bridges: Tolls

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bridges in the UK charge tolls to traffic; and what tolls are charged in each case to *(a)* cars, *(b)* heavy goods vehicles and *(c)* buses. [141348]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is available on the Department for Transport's website:

http://www.dft.gv.uk/pgr/roads/roadpricingstu/guidancenote/.

The website is currently being updated and the revised information will be available on Thursday, 14 June. Copies of the new information will be placed in the House Libraries on that date.

British Transport Police

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1415W, to the hon. Member for Swansea, East (Mrs. James) on the British Transport Police, if he will consider the merits of compiling statistics on the number of *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers employed by British Transport Police. [141786]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is held by the British Transport Police and is available from the force on request.

Cycling: Highway Code

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has held with cycling organisations since the publication of the latest version of the Highway Code. [141116]

Dr. Ladyman: Ministers and officials of the Department for Transport regularly meet and discuss various issues informally with a number of cycling organisations. There have been many such discussions since the current version of the Highway Code was first published in 1999.

Since the proposed revisions to the Highway Code were laid before Parliament on 28 March, DfT officials met representatives of CTC to discuss their concerns about certain cycling rules within the Code on 9 May. There have also been discussions by telephone and e-mail between DfT officials and CTC representatives on this issue.

Driving: Mobile Phones

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to deter drivers from using mobile phones when driving. [141437]

Dr. Ladyman: The Road Safety Act 2006 increased the penalty for using a hand-held mobile phone while driving to three penalty points and discretionary disqualification on top of the existing fine of up to £1,000 (£2,500 in the case of the driver of a goods vehicle or a bus/coach). If a fixed penalty is accepted the penalty is three points and a £60 fine. The new penalty came into effect on 27 February 2007. If the police see poor driving and find a driver distracted by a call on a hands-free mobile phone, then they can prosecute the offence of not being in a position to have proper control of a vehicle. The same penalties apply. The police have stepped up their enforcement of these offences.

In addition, extensive publicity is being run as part of the Department's THINK! road safety campaign. The campaign to publicise the higher penalty was launched in January 2007, using a mix of television, press, radio and online advertising and which included a TV advertisement which features a new message aimed at those who call people who are driving.

Galileo Project

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian applications of the Galileo Satellite Navigation System. [140501]

Dr. Ladyman: Galileo has been defined and agreed as a civil system since the project's inception. While Galileo's open service, like that of GPS, can be accessed by all and therefore could be used by military forces, Galileo remains a civil programme under civil control. This has repeatedly been confirmed by the EU Transport Council; most recently in its October 2006 Council Conclusions.

Great Western Trains: Standards

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with First Great Western on improving performance. [140818]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers last met First Great Western and Network Rail to discuss performance on 24 May 2007. The meeting on 24 May was specifically held to discuss FGW performance in the light of performance of FGW and Network Rail against their respective targets in the joint performance improvement plan ("JPIP").

Lorries

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to *(a)* receive and *(b)* publish his response to the desk study report by Heriot Watt University and the Transport Research Laboratory on longer heavier vehicles. [141411]

Dr. Ladyman: I expect to receive the report by October and it should be published in due course. I have no plans to publish a response but will consider the issues carefully.

M60: Road Signs and Markings

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the vehicles of Highways Agency staff on the M60 were provided with matrix signals to instruct traffic; and when they will be authorised to use them. [141466]

Dr. Ladyman: Variable message panels were fitted as standard to Traffic Officer Service vehicles prior to patrols starting on the M60 in January 2006. They are already authorised to display some messages to instruct traffic.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when Highways Agency traffic officers will be able to use the scrolling arrows provided in their vehicles to direct traffic on the M60. [141482]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency carefully considered the use of scrolling arrows as one of the legends which can be displayed on the variable message panel fitted to the Traffic Officer vehicles. The agency has decided that it is inappropriate to use scrolling arrows at this time. This decision will be kept under review as the Traffic Officer Service develops.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what *(a)* section of the Highways Act and *(b)* associated regulations police officers on the M60 use the scrolling arrow traffic signs in their vehicles to direct traffic. [141483]

Dr. Ladyman: The use of light emitting devices is regulated under the Road Traffic Act 1988 by the Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations 1989. Regulation 13 of these regulations permits vehicles used for police purposes to be fitted with a lamp or illuminated sign that emits a flashing light. Scrolling arrow traffic signs are considered to emit a flashing light.

Ministers: Official Cars

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the policy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is on the vehicle excise duty bands of Ministerial cars; and into which bands cars presently allocated to Ministers fall. [141341]

Dr. Ladyman: The Prime Ministers guidance, Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House, sets out which cars may be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency for official ministerial use.

The cars available to Ministers and their vehicle excise duty bands are detailed in the following table.

Make/model	*VED band*
Rover 75 Connoisseur	F
Mondeo Zetec	F
Jaguar XJ TDVi Executive	F
Toyota Prius T3	B
Vectra Design CDTi	F
Honda Civic ES hybrid	B
Mondeo Zetec TDCi	F
Vauxhall Omega Elite	F

Motorcycles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many off-road leisure facilities are available for the use of mini moto users for recreational purposes. [139676]

Mr. Caborn: I have been asked to reply.

It is impossible to quantify the number of off-road leisure facilities available for use by mini-bikes in the UK. Anecdotal evidence indicates that a number of commercial kart tracks (there are around 100 such tracks in the UK) are offering their facilities for such use. However safety concerns mean the Auto-Cycle Union (ACU)—the national governing body for motorcycle sport—will not licence such tracks and therefore ascertaining how many offer such services is simply not possible.

Motorways: Road Traffic Control

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on progress on the roll-out of hard shoulder running. [142070]

Dr. Ladyman: The M42 Active Traffic Management pilot project, including hard shoulder running, became fully operational in September 2006. The Highways Agency is currently evaluating the performance of the pilot project and, while it is too early to draw definite conclusions, the initial results are encouraging. I expect to receive an evaluation of the pilot project from the Highways Agency later this year. The agency is continuing its thorough review of the network to identify potential locations that might benefit.

Motorways: Walls and Fences

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* estimate he has made of the cost and *(b)* assessment he has made of the effectiveness of (i) galvanised metal central reservation barriers and (ii) concrete barriers made of concrete in use on motorways; and if he will make a statement. [141349]

Dr. Ladyman: The Highways Agency commissioned TRL (formerly the Transport Research Laboratory) in 2004 to examine the cost effectiveness and performance of central reservation barriers installed on major roads in Great Britain.

Typical installation costs for a metre of Double Sided Tensioned Corrugated Beam barrier (galvanised metal) and Vertical Concrete Barrier were £33 and

£155 respectively. Over a 50 year period the whole life costs of concrete barriers were estimated to be about 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. lower than metal barriers.

The accident statistics examined in the study showed that the number of serious casualties per kilometre is comparable between metal and concrete barriers, but there was a lower rate of slight casualties and accidents where concrete barriers were installed. No fatal casualties have resulted from an impact with a concrete barrier.

Railways: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost is of an *(a)* peak and *(b)* off peak (i) daily, (ii) return, (iii) weekly, (iv) monthly and (v) yearly ticket for an adult travelling between Eastbourne and London stations. [141895]

Mr. Tom Harris: The standard class peak day return is priced £39.80, the off peak at £20.60. The Pricebuster off peak day return to London Victoria is £13. Season tickets cost £81 for seven days, the monthly fare is £311.10 and the rate for an annual ticket is £3,240.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to develop a national policy framework for railfreight interchanges. [140975]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government are currently consulting on the proposals in the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" for a new planning regime for nationally significant infrastructure, within which Government would set out clear strategic objectives in the form of National Policy Statements (NPS). We have yet to decide on the scope of NPS for Transport, including the extent to which they might deal with railfreight infrastructure, under the proposed new regime.

Railways: Gravesham

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to increase capacity on commuter trains between Gravesham and London measured by *(a)* new carriages and *(b)* passenger numbers. [141848]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government will detail the outputs they wish to purchase from the railway for the period 2009-2014 in the high level output specification to be published in July. No further information is available before then.

Railways: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers have been found carrying offensive weapons on trains between Gravesham and London in each of the last five years. [141619]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Road Traffic: Wellingborough

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will visit Wellingborough to discuss traffic movements with local residents. [141591]

Gillian Merron: There are currently no plans for Ministers to visit Wellingborough to discuss traffic movements with local residents.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cost increases he approved for road schemes in the Highways Agency targeted programme of improvements in each year since 1998. [138903]

Dr. Ladyman: Details of Highways Agency major road schemes that have had cost increases approved between 2000 and July 2006 are available in Appendix Two of the National Audit Office report—Department for Transport: Estimating and Monitoring the Costs of Building Roads in England—published on 15 March 2007. A copy of the report can be downloaded from the following website link:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607321.pdf

Since July 2006, we have also approved cost increases on the following major road schemes:

A2 Bean—Cobham widening Phase 2
A2/A282 Dartford improvement
M25 J1b-3
A14 Haughley New Street to Stowmarket improvement
A3 Hindhead improvement
A38 Dobwall bypass
A595 Parton to Lillyhall improvement
A46 Newark to Widmerpool
A1 Dishforth to Barton
A1 Bramham to Wetherby (including Wetherby bypass)
A66 Long Newton GSJ
A69 Haydon Bridge bypass
A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton
A57/A628 Mottram—Hollingworth—Tintwhistle
M1 J10-13
A5—M1 Link (Dunstable Northern bypass)
A27 Southerham to Beddingham improvement
M25 J28/A12 Brook Street interchange.

South Hampshire Rail Group

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to reply to the submission made by the South Hampshire Rail Group on the franchise operated by South West Trains; and if he will make a statement. [141187]

Mr. Tom Harris: The group sent a submission to the Department which was received on 22 May 2007. It is now being considered and I expect a reply to be sent shortly.

South West Trains: Surveys

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will commission a study of the views of passengers carried by South West Trains which seeks their views on *(a)* comfort, *(b)* punctuality, *(c)* ease of purchasing tickets and *(d)* value for money; and if he will make a statement. [142095]

Mr. Tom Harris: The National Passenger Survey reported by Passenger Focus provides a network-wide picture of customers' satisfaction with rail travel. Passengers opinions are collected twice a year from a representative sample of passenger journeys. It is for train operators rather than Government to decide whether there is a need for more detailed surveys of their own passengers.

Tolls

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate the Government have made of the minimum daily charge by local authority road pricing schemes required significantly to alter driver behaviour. [139837]

Dr. Ladyman: We have made no such estimate. It is up to interested local authorities to propose local schemes as local solutions to local problems.

The Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance sets out the Government's position on these points.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what impact he expects EC Directive 2004/52 on the interoperability of electronic toll collection systems to have on the *(a)* choice and *(b)* implementation of local authority road pricing systems; [141493]

(2) what provisions he plans to make for the transfer of electronic on-board units fitted to vehicles using local authority road pricing schemes, in the event that the user changes their vehicle; and who will be responsible for the costs incurred thereby; [141495]

(3) what provision will be made for the issuing of single invoices where drivers and operators register with multiple road pricing schemes; and what arrangements will be made for the sharing of data between authorities to enable this to happen. [141519]

Dr. Ladyman: On 8 February 2007 the Secretary of State announced in a written ministerial statement, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the publication of guidance for local authorities interested in developing business cases for funding from the Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) for local schemes to tackle congestion. The road pricing section of this guidance sets out the Government's position on this point.

Traffic Commissioners: Licensing

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers the traffic commissioners have to grant vehicle operator licences; and whether these powers have been delegated to other officials. [141152]

Dr. Ladyman: Traffic Commissioners have powers under the Public Passenger Vehicles Act 1981 and the Goods Vehicles (Licensing of Operators) Act 1995, to grant and take disciplinary action against operator licences for public service vehicles and large goods vehicles.

For many years, Traffic Commissioners have delegated responsibility for issuing licences, in cases where the application is straightforward and it is clear that the eligibility criteria are met, to administrative staff employed by the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

Trains: Bicycles

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the provision for cycles on trains operated by South West Trains. [140698]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has received several hundred letters about the integration of cycling and rail. Of those a small number refer specifically to issues on South West Trains.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what specifications to franchises he is able to make regarding provision for cycles on trains. [140699]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bidders for the South Western franchise were asked to consider cycle-rail integration matters in their bid submissions as are the three current franchises that are out to tender; East Midlands, West Midlands and New Cross Country are also being asked. The Intercity East Coast franchise replacement specification will also require bidders to consider bike-rail integration and facilities at stations.

Vehicle Number Plates: Theft

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will issue guidance to car vendors requesting that they advise people of the availability of anti-theft number plates when cars are sold. [142064]

Dr. Ladyman: When the tamper resistant plate initiative was launched after the first manufacturer passed the standard in 2006, DVLA provided publicity material for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) and the Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMIF) to distribute to all their members. A second manufacturer has now passed the test and further publicity is planned.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140787]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development is strongly committed to the new set of sustainable operation targets launched in June 2006, including the specific commitments on reducing carbon emissions. DFID calculates all carbon emissions from buildings and travel from guidance and conversion factors supplied to us by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139905]

Mr. Thomas: Specific data for agency commission for the central travel contract for the Department for International Development is only available from 2003-04 as follows:

	£000
2003-04	150
2004-05	150
2005-06	150
2006-07	150

Between 1997 and 2003 the management charges were calculated on the basis of a combination of volume and savings incentives, but central records do not exist of the total fees paid during this period, and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Guinea-Bissau: International Assistance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral aid projects are being undertaken with UK funding in Guinea-Bissau. [141749]

Hilary Benn: The UK does not have a bilateral development assistance programme with Guinea-Bissau, though we have recently supported the Government to develop a security sector reform framework, and an NGO to conduct a demining assessment.

The UK's imputed share of multilateral agency development assistance to Guinea-Bissau was £2.517 million in 2005 (based on the UK's total funding for each multilateral and that multilateral's distribution of official development assistance and official aid each year). Agencies normally pool donor funding, so no breakdown of UK spending against individual projects is available.

Overseas Aid

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK aid was given to *(a)* Guinea-Bissau, *(b)* Guinea, *(c)* Sierra Leone, *(d)* Liberia, *(e)* Mali, *(f)* Mauritania and *(g)* Senegal in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2004. [141750]

Hilary Benn: The figures are set out in the following tables:

UK Bilateral Aid

£000

Destination Name	2004	2005
Guinea	1,738	811
Guinea-Bissau	—	—
Liberia	8981	4150
Mali	200	716
Mauritania	281	—
Senegal	4,984	3,802
Sierra Leone	3,3254	31,159

Imputed UK Share of Multilateral Net ODA/OA by institution for 2004 and 2005

£000

Country	EC	UN	World Bank	Other Multilateral	Total
2004					
Guinea	2,602	1,030	850	169	4,650
Guinea-Bissau	978	313	606	152	2,048
Liberia	2,102	503	-	182	2,787
Mali	8,088	840	1,653	2,552	13,133
Mauritania	3,330	372	985	456	5,143
Senegal	4,079	624	3,930	3,949	12,583
Sierra Leone	4,477	1,257	927	2,459	9,120
2005					
Guinea	1,062	1,097	2,089	-117	4,131
Guinea-Bissau	1,135	384	944	54	2,517
Liberia	3,699	1,248	-	375	5,322
Mali	9,106	759	8,085	871	18,821
Mauritania	1,033	580	3,195	-53	4,755
Senegal	2,288	749	12,551	991	16,578
Sierra Leone	5,978	1,328	3,785	644	11,736

UK funding to multilateral institutions cannot be directly attributed to any country; the estimates above are imputed shares based on the UK's total funding for each institution, and the institution's distribution of official development assistance (ODA) and official aid each year.

ODA is defined as flows administered with the promotion of economic development and welfare of developing countries as their main objective, that are concessional in character and convey a grant element of at least 25 per cent. Aid to countries on Part 1 of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of aid recipients is eligible to be recorded as ODA. Official aid (OA) has the same concessional and qualitative features as ODA but covers aid to countries on Part 2 of the DAC list of recipients. (Note: From 2005 Part 2 of the DAC list of recipients ceased to exist and aid to countries on a new combined list of DAC list of recipients of official development assistance is eligible to be recorded as ODA).

The list of multilateral organisations used to produce this table is not exhaustive; only multilaterals who provide the DAC with detailed information about their distribution of funds, and to whom the UK provided funds, were analysed in the production of this table.

Negatives represent accounting adjustments, not a net flow to the UK; zero figures are indicated with a dash.

Overseas Aid: Energy

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any of the funding provided by his Department to the World Bank in each of the last three years was allocated to the energy sector. [140747]

Hilary Benn: The World Bank's fiscal year runs from 1 July to 30 June each year. For fiscal year 2004 (starting 1 July 2003) the Bank lent $1.05 billion for energy projects. This amount increased to $1.9 billion in fiscal year 2005 and $3.1 billion in fiscal year 2006. Figures are not yet available for Fiscal Year 2007.

The UK has provided £1.65 billion in core contributions to the World Bank's International Development Association since 1 April 2003. Annual payments from the UK and other bank shareholders are just one source of finance drawn upon by the bank to provide loans and credits to developing countries. Therefore, it is not possible to say precisely what proportion of the UK's contribution was spent on energy programmes, but it is highly likely that some of it was allocated to the energy sector.

At the Gleneagles summit in 2005, the UK secured G8 agreement that the World Bank should lead on establishing a new clean energy investment framework (CEIF) that would operate across the international financing system. The aim of this framework is to accelerate and catalyse public and private sector investments in cleaner energy in developing countries.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Palace of Westminster: Smoking

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether legislation covering smoking in public places will be applied to the Palace of Westminster and all its outbuildings within the Parliamentary estate. [141621]

Nick Harvey: As I said in my reply to the hon. Member for Aberdeen, North (Mr. Doran) on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 757W:

> "The Health Act 2006 introduces a ban on smoking in workplaces and enclosed or substantially enclosed public places from 1 July 2007. While the Act does not formally apply on the parliamentary estate, the Commission, on the advice of the Administration Committee, has decided that the House should comply with the principles of the legislation, as it is not desirable that those who work on or visit the parliamentary estate should be treated differently in this respect than in other workplaces and public places. The Commission recognises, however, that many who work on the estate are unavoidably present for long periods, particularly when the House is sitting. It is therefore desirable to make reasonable provision for those who wish to smoke to do so, provided that the health and safety of other users of the estate is not adversely affected.
>
> With these principles in mind, the Commission has decided that smoking should cease to be permitted from 1 July 2007 in all internal areas of the House of Commons estate, including in bars and private offices. From that date smoking will, however, be permitted in four designated external areas: the Terrace, Commons Court (North West corner), North Terrace (between Portcullis House and Norman Shaw South), and in a designated area on the west side of Canon Row courtyard. Cigarette receptacles will be provided in these areas. "No Smoking" signs will be displayed at entrances to the buildings. I understand that the House of Lords Administration and Works Committee will report its recommendations shortly on the smoking policy for the Lords part of the Parliamentary Estate."

I understand that the House of Lords agreed to the recommended policy on Wednesday 9 May.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Departments: Buildings

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* rental and *(b)* other accommodation costs were for premises occupied by the (i) Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission and (ii) Public Prosecutions Service in 2006-07. [141248]

The Solicitor-General: The costs for the Public Prosecution Service for the year in question were as follows:

	£
Rent	1,917,014
Rates	412,029
Shared Charges	275,282
Electricity	151,228

I am informed by the Ministry of Justice that the rental and other accommodation costs for premises occupied by the Northern Ireland Legal Services Commission since its establishment are set out in the following table.

				£
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Premises Rental	114	250	251	272
Other Accommodation Costs:	147	245	251	265

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ 2006-07
Cleaning	11	27	30	30
Other Building Costs	31	11	8	23
Service Charges	43	63	61	97
Electricity	15	27	29	32
Rates	47	117	123	83
Other				
Telephone Costs	8	26	19	23
Insurance	10	23	8	3
Equipment and furniture	11	7	6	11
Rental and maintenance of equipment	0	2	21	23
Total	290	553	556	596

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Solicitor-General what the *(a)* rental and *(b)* other accommodation costs were for premises occupied by the (i) Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions and (ii) Police Central Process Offices in the last five financial years. [141249]

The Solicitor-General: The rental and other accommodation costs for the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions for Northern Ireland and then the Public Prosecution Service over the last five years are as follows:

	£
2006-07	
Rent	1,917,014
Rates	412,029
Shared Charges	275,282
Electricity	151,228
2005-06	
Rent	1,463,368
Rates	391,098
Shared Charges	235,579
Electricity	126,702
2004-05	
Rent	1,084,031
Rates	379,165
Shared Charges	207,140
Electricity	101,604
2003-04	
Rent	891,946
Rates	355904
Shared Charges	324,371
Electricity	74,351
2002-03	
Rent	467,344
Rates	184,835
Shared Charges	314,830
Electricity	31,174

I am informed that as the Police Central Process Office (CPO) use accommodation within the existing Police Estate, the use of this incurs no direct rental or accommodation costs to the CPO and no figures are available.

Scott Inquiry

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1443W, if he will make a further statement on the progress made in the inquiry by Peter Scott QC into the criticisms of the Northern Ireland Office made by Mr. Justice Girvan. [141305]

The Solicitor-General: I refer also to the answer given on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 177W, on the progress of the review being conducted by Mr Scott.

Since then, Mr. Scott has had meetings with a total of eight witnesses, three in Belfast at the end of March and five in London at the beginning of May. He has made further enquiries of other witnesses in the light of those meetings, most of whom have now responded. Mr. Scott expects to be in a position to submit his report to the Attorney-General in due course.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Anniversaries: Prince Charles

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with the First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government on celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of Prince Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales. [141335]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no such discussions.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what celebrations her Department has planned for the 50th Anniversary of Prince Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales. [141336]

Mr. Lammy: No such celebrations have been planned at this stage.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public funds her Department plans to make available for celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of Prince Charles' investiture as Prince of Wales. [141337]

Mr. Lammy: No such funds have been earmarked at this stage.

Art Works

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the recommendations of the Goodison report for which her Department has responsibility have been implemented; and what plans she has to implement further such recommendations. [140767]

Mr. Lammy: The Goodison report made 45 recommendations and 29 have already been addressed by a range of different bodies, including my Department. We are continuing to explore ways in which elements of the other proposals might be implemented to best effect.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions her Department has had with the Treasury on implementing the recommendations of the Goodison review. [140769]

Mr. Lammy: My Department had a number of discussions with the Treasury following publication of the Goodison report and discussions are ongoing on a wide range of related issues concerning the cultural sector.

Arts Council

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which projects were cancelled by the Arts Council in each of the last five years. [140763]

Mr. Lammy: There are seven large projects which have been cancelled by the Arts Council in the past five years:

Project description	*Date cancelled*
A development fund project to build capacity within the British Chinese community.	February 2002
A feasibility study and development study for a touring agency to explore the creation of six centres in areas of the eastern region with sizeable Black, Asian and Chinese communities.	December 2004
A project to create a centre of excellence for African dance in London.	March 2005
A project to purchase a mobile cinema, with 100-seat capacity and equipped with 35mm and video projection and digital sound.	March 2005
A project to create a centre for Black theatre by leasing and fitting-out a 300-seat theatre.	June 2005
A flagship regional media production centre project, predominantly for Black, Asian and Chinese artistic work, from Slough borough council.	June 2005
A project to set up a new community music centre incorporating recording studios, workshop, office and storage spaces.	October 2006

Information on further cancelled projects could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Arts: Charitable Donations

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to make arts institutions aware of the tax incentives available to private donors. [140820]

Mr. Lammy: Arts and Business, funded by my Department through Arts Council England, has promoted the tax incentives available to private donors through training for arts institutions and through their 2006 'Individual Giving Manual' publication. My Department is also working with Arts and Business on a tax guide for arts institutions, which will include updated information following the changes announced in the last budget.

Big Lottery Fund

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much and what percentage of the Big Lottery Fund's grants have been made to charities registered with the Charity Commission in each of the last three years. [142030]

Mr. Caborn: The following figures reflect how much and what percentage of the Big Lottery Fund's grants have been made to charities registered with the Charity Commission in each of the last three years. These figures do not include Awards for All.

Year ending	*Registered (£)*	*All awards (£)*	*Percentage*
31 March 2005	173,244,887	687,534,837	25.2
31 March 2006	292,283,816	461,070,289	63.4
31 March 2007	168,369,682	307,428,658	54.8

The Big Lottery Fund has undertaken that 60-70 per cent. of its funding will go to the voluntary and community sector. They will report on progress towards this undertaking annually.

Channel 4 Television

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent assessment her Department has made of the merits of different forms of *(a)* ownership and *(b)* funding of Channel 4; [141377]

(2) what her policy is on the *(a)* ownership and *(b)* funding of Channel 4. [141378]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS has made no recent assessment of the merits of different forms of ownership of Channel 4. The Government believe Channel 4 plays a key role as a publicly owned broadcaster providing a distinctive contribution to public service broadcasting. The Government recognise Channel 4 is likely to face financial pressures in the future that may have implications for its ability to deliver fully its public service remit. We therefore welcome Ofcom's current review of Channel 4's financial prospects and will take a close interest in the outcome. In the meantime, we are considering the possible case for short term forms of assistance to Channel 4.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in her Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141960]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not allocate official residences to its Ministers.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139320]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has received income from the sale of Departmental land and buildings as follows:

	£
2002-03	—
2003-04	232,000
2004-05	126,000
2005-06	2,500,000
2006-07	470,000

Departments: Publications

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much her Department's 2007 annual report cost to produce. [140562]

Mr. Lammy: The DCMS annual report cost £20,628 to design, typeset and print.

Digital Broadcasting: Equipment

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the cost to individuals in Westmorland and Lonsdale arising from the need to purchase new equipment to enable them to receive the full range of television stations after switchover to digital in 2008. [141572]

Mr. Woodward: On 8 November 2005, Ofcom published research by the Generics Group which examined the cost and power consumption implications of digital switchover for UK households. The report estimates that for those households that incur a cost as a result of switchover, the actual cost will depend on the equipment requiring conversion and the level of voluntary conversion carried out before switchover. Typical non-voluntary costs for TV and recorders in households containing an average collection of reception equipment are therefore estimated to range from £26 to £153.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the timescale is for the publication of the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London on the new funding arrangements and share of future land sales relating to the 2012 Olympic Games. [141107]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* The revision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London is in progress. It will be published as soon as possible, following its agreement.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the process is by which the locations of pre-games training camps for the London 2012 Olympics will be selected; and if she will make a statement. [142034]

Mr. Caborn: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has set up a process to identify suitable facilities across the UK for inclusion in the pre-Games Training Camp Guide, which will be provided to all National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and National Paralympic Committees (NPCs) to aid them in identifying appropriate venues and sites for their training camps. The deadline for facilities to register themselves for inclusion in the Guide was 31 January 2007.

With over 700 applications received, there has been a tremendous level of interest from potential facilities around the UK. The process now is to assess the applications to identify which ones meet the stringent criteria for inclusion in the guide. Initial collation of information was carried out by the Nations and Regions Group and LOCOG are now carrying out an assessment and selection process. The London 2012 Organising Committee have created a steering group to oversee the process which includes experts on training camps from the British Olympic Association, British Paralympic Association and other UK sporting bodies.

Facilities will be notified of their inclusion in the pre-Games Training Camp Guide at the beginning of 2008. The guide will be published at the Beijing games in the summer of 2008.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she plans to transfer responsibility and funding of high performance programmes in non-Olympic sports from Sport England to UK Sport. [142031]

Mr. Caborn: While the Government keep under review the roles and responsibilities of the public agencies for sport, there are no immediate plans to transfer responsibility and funding of high performance programmes in non-Olympic sports from Sport England to UK Sport.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been awarded by Sport England for high performance programmes in non-Olympic sports in each of the last three years, broken down by sport. [142033]

Mr. Caborn: Prior to April 2005, national governing bodies were awarded funding by Sport England specifically to support their World Class Performance programmes. The following awards were made to non-Olympic sports for the period April 2004 to March 2005:

Sport	*Funding awarded (£)*
England and Wales Cricket Board	2,000,000
English Golf Union	450,000
English Ladies' Golf Association	513,000
English Karate Governing Body	531,505
England Netball	1,529,430
British Orienteering Federation	304,000
Rugby Football League	1,500,000
Rugby Football Union	1,000,000
Rugby Football Union for Women	1,397,671
England Squash	772,800
British Water Ski	176,589

Since April 2005, Sport England has awarded funding to non-Olympic sports to support the delivery of their four-year strategic plans and has not ring-fenced funding for high performance programmes within the overall allocation per sport per plan. National governing bodies apply the funding they receive to deliver against a range of key performance indicators (KPIs). Sport England has said that it is not, therefore, possible to identify specific funding amounts for high performance programmes.

The exceptions to this are the Football Association and the Lawn Tennis Association, neither of which has any elite-orientated KPIs and apply funding devolved to them through their whole sport plans solely to grassroots and development activities.

Sports: Public Participation

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment Sport England has made of the impact of high performance programmes in non-Olympic sports on mass participation rates. [142032]

Mr. Caborn: Sport England has not carried out any specific research to explore the impact of high performance programmes in sports outside the Olympic movement on mass participation rates.

Sports: Rural Areas

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the likely effects of the establishment of sporting villages on the surrounding areas. [140989]

Mr. Caborn: No formal assessment has been made of the likely effects of the establishment of community sports hubs (formerly known as sports villages) on the surrounding areas. Sport England is currently assessing the feasibility of the model. However I would expect these hubs to significantly improve community facilities and have a positive impact on regeneration in the areas where they are based.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) if she will make it her policy to offer the Panathlon Challenge financial support; [141159]

(2) what representations she has received from *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members, *(b)* schools, *(c)* teachers, *(d)* parents and *(e)* others on the funding position of the Panathlon Challenge in each of the last two years; [141160]

(3) what recent research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the Panathlon Challenge in increasing the involvement of school children in competitive sport; and if she will make a statement. [141169]

Mr. Caborn: No such research has been commissioned. The Government are committed to establishing a framework for competitive sport through the National School Sport Strategy, which includes a national network of Competition Managers who promote competitive sport; and the UK School Games, which is developing competitive sporting opportunities for young people between now and 2012.

My Department has received one public petition on funding for the Panathlon Challenge and the following other representations:

	2006	*2007*
MP's	1	7
Schools/teachers	10	0
Parents	0	0
Others	7	3

The Government have committed over £1.5 billion of funding to school sport in the five years to 2008, including over £800,000 from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) for the Panathlon Challenge. DfES have no plans to commit further funding to the Panathlon Challenge.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on her plans to expand competitive sport in schools. [141168]

Mr. Caborn: Increasing the quality and amount of competitive school sport is at the heart of the work of all School Sport Partnerships.

The 2005-06 School Sport Survey showed that:

97 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day,

71 per cent. of pupils were involved in intra-school competition, and

37 per cent. of pupils from years four to 11 were involved in inter-school competition, a rise of 12 per cent. on 2003-04.

To support and further develop our work on competitive school sport, we are establishing a network of competition managers across School Sport Partnerships.

The first wave of 20 competition managers were appointed from September 2005 and the recruitment of a second wave of 42 competition managers is almost complete. Between September 2006 and March 2007 there were over 150,000 attendances by young people at over 2,000 competitions organised by competition managers. A further wave of recruitment will begin later this year raising the total number of competition managers to at least 90 by the end of 2007.

In addition, we have established the UK school games to help develop the content and structure of competitive sporting opportunities for young people between now and 2012.

Theatre: Disabled

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding will be made available for theatre groups working with disabled performers in 2008-2011 in *(a)* London and *(b)* England. [140812]

Mr. Lammy: Arts Council England budget allocations for 2008-09 onwards have yet to be decided.

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding has been made

available for theatre groups working with disabled performers for 2005-2007 in *(a)* London and *(b)* England. [140814]

Mr. Lammy: Government funding for the arts is distributed, within broad guidelines, through Arts Council England. The following figures provide a breakdown of its funding to theatre organisations that include disability as an element or focus of their programming or activity.

Regular funded organisations

		£000
	London	*England*
2005-06	2,132	3,233
2006-07	2,172	3,297

Grants for the arts funding (April 2005 to September 2006)

	£000
London	1,117
England	3,791

It has not been possible to provide figures for funding to organisations where disability is an inclusive or integrated part of their work.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the adequacy of supplies of ammunition to the grenade machine gun in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [138533]

Mr. Ingram: Although usage of ammunition for the Automatic Lightweight Grenade Launcher has been higher than initially anticipated, this issue has been successfully addressed through our Urgent Operational Requirement process. Supply has been increased to meet the requirement and in-theatre stocks of ammunition are currently assessed as adequate.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what most recent estimate he has made of planned troop numbers in Afghanistan for each of the next four years. [141380]

Des Browne: The situation in Afghanistan is liable to change over the forthcoming four years and our force package will adapt to the evolving situation, including the ability of the Afghan National Army to take greater responsibility for its own affairs.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recorded casualties there were in categories *(a)* T1, *(b)* T2, *(c)* T3 and *(d)* T4 in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each month since January 2004. [141767]

Des Browne: T1-4 are triage categories, used by in-theatre medical staffs to prioritise the treatment of casualties following an incident, T1 being most urgent. These categories are dynamic, based on a variety of physiological factors (e.g. pulse and breathing rate) and do not necessarily correspond to the severity of the injury sustained. For example, T1 may subsequently be categorised as very seriously injured (VSI), seriously injured (SI) or unlisted (UL) once they reach a field hospital. We do not record and verify data on triage levels centrally.

The MOD is committed to openly publishing statistics on the number of service personnel injured on operations. Information on casualties and fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan is published on the MOD website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets

Aircraft: Electronic Engineering

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what independent safety assessment his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on Kapton wiring; what assessment his Department has made of the implications for the UK fleet of the role of the performance of Kapton wiring in the September 1998 crash of Swissair flight 111 over Nova Scotia; and if he will make a statement. [140912]

Mr. Ingram: At the time of the crash of Swissair Flight 111 we were already aware of the potential safety issues associated with Kapton wiring.

In 1987, the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency carried out an investigation of Kapton wiring. The investigation resulted in a number of specification requirements, which now form the basis of tests included in British Standards and in Defence Standards. These Defence Standards are the benchmark for all general airframe electrical wiring used on UK military aircraft.

Armed Conflict: Journalism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to establish a full and open inquiry into the deaths of journalists in conflict where the UK is involved; and if he will make a statement [140891]

Mr. Ingram: Our policy, produced in consultation with editors and press and broadcasting organisations, and the British Red Cross, is that the MOD will seek to assist appropriate inquiries into the death or injury of a journalist inside a conflict zone so far as we can. We would not normally conduct such inquiries ourselves.

Armed Forces

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish the job descriptions of those employed in the household of the *(a)* Chief of the General Staff, *(b)* Adjutant General, *(c)* General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and *(d)* Commander in Chief Land. [134202]

Derek Twigg: The job description of those employed in each household is shown in the following table.

Rank	Description
CGS	
House manager (colour sergeant)	Responsible for day to day running of household. Planning and organising functions. Liaising with Kensington Palace on matters concerning security and repair. Managing household accounts and claims at initial level. Organising hosting of high profile guests.
House orderly (corporal)	Responsible for day to day running of residence. Assisting in planning and organisation of functions. Ensuring good husbandry of CGS's uniform and formal forms of dress. Assisting the House Sergeant in the management and organisation of CGS's household. Assisting with the hosting of high profile guests.
Cleaner (civilian contractor)	General cleaning of the residence. Assistance with routine household duties including laundry and ironing.
GOC NI	
House sergeant (sergeant)	Responsible for the day to day running of residence. Managing the staff and house account. Supporting all official and social functions as directed by GOC. Responsible for ensuring good husbandry of GOC's uniform and formal forms of dress.
Cook (corporal)	Working when required in support of official functions. Consulting with GOC over menu recommendations and preparation. Cleaning of kitchen and cooking equipment to ensure high standards of hygiene are maintained. Assisting with service, where necessary at large functions. Working in officers' mess when not required by GOC.
Gardener	Maintenance of garden, grounds, outbuildings and garden equipment. Planting and developing garden and vegetable patch. Weeding and clearance of fallen leaves and debris.
Cleaner (civilian)	General cleaning of house and immediate exterior. Assistance with routine household duties including bed making, laundry and ironing. Occasional back of house assistance at functions.
CinC Land	
House sergeant (corporal)	Responsible for day to day running of household. Managing civilian staff. Organising and implementing functions. Greeting VIPs in CinC's absence. Security of residence including liaison with civil police. Liaison with DHE and outside agencies on maintenance of the official residence.
House orderly (private soldier)	Responsible for day to day running of residence and all associated functions in the absence of the house sergeant. Ensuring good husbandry of all the CinC's uniform and formal forms of dress.
Chef (part-time—24 hours per week) (civilian contractor)	Preparing and producing lunch, main meals, snack meals, buffet meals. Cleaning of kitchen and cooking equipment to ensure high standards of hygiene are maintained. Assisting with ordering of goods, monthly stock take, invoices and checking deliveries.
Gardener (civilian contractor)	Trimming of grass and associated edges. Bushes and shrubs to be trimmed and kept free of weeds. All outside areas to be kept tidy and cleared of fallen leaves and branches. Fenced walls to be kept clear of brambles, overhanging branches and undergrowth. If applicable, vegetable areas to be tended.
Cleaner (civilian contractor)	General cleaning within the house and immediate exterior. Washing up, bed making, washing and ironing and any other normal household duties as required.
Assistant cleaner (part-time—15 hours) (civilian contractor)	General cleaning within the house and immediate exterior. Washing up, bed making, washing and ironing and any other normal household duties as required.
Adjutant General	
House sergeant (sergeant)	Responsible for day to day running of residence. Organising and implementing social and work related functions. Greeting VIPS in AG's absence. Security of residence including liaison with civil police. Liaising with DHE, MHS and outside agencies regarding maintenance of the official residence. Ensuring good husbandry of all AG's uniform and formal forms of dress.
Gardener (32 hours per week) (civilian contractor)	Trimming of grass and associated edges. Bushes and shrubs to be trimmed and kept free of weeds. All outside areas (three acre area) to be kept tidy and cleared of fallen leaves and branches. Fenced walls to be kept clear of brambles, overhanging branches and undergrowth. Vegetable areas to be tended.
Domestic assistant (civilian contractor)	General cleaning within the house and immediate exterior. Washing up, bed making, washing and ironing and any other normal household duties as required.

Armed Forces: Bereavement Counselling

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proposals he has to improve support services available to bereaved service families; and if he will make a statement. [139624]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Gentleman to the written ministerial statement I made on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 26-29WS.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where each regional defence headquarters is located; and how many defence dental personnel there

are in each of the regional headquarters in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Germany and *(c)* Cyprus, broken down by role. [138791]

Derek Twigg: Under the direction of the Principal Dental Officers (PDO), Defence Dental Services (DDS) Regional Headquarters are responsible for the efficient and effective delivery of primary dental care to the armed forces in the UK and overseas.

The locations of the nine UK Regional Defence HQs, plus two overseas, and the numbers of DDS personnel at each, broken down by role, are shown as follows. In Germany and Cyprus primary dental care is extended to authorised dependants and other entitled personnel.

Number of dental workers at location by type

Location	*Principal dental officer*	*Principal dental warrant officer*	*Principal dental corporal*	*Civilian administration assistant*
Scotland (Edinburgh)	1	1	1	0
Northern England (Catterick)	1	1	1	1
East Midlands and Anglia (Cranwell)	1	1	1	0
West Midlands and Wales (Innsworth)	1	1	1	0
London and South East (London)	1	1	1	0
Home Counties (Aldershot)	1	1	1	0
Wessex (Tidworth)	1	1	1	1
Portsmouth	1	1	1	1
South West (Devonport)	1	1	1	0
Germany (Wegberg)[1]	1	1	1	1
Cyprus (Episkopi)[2]	1	1	1	0

[1] In addition there is one army major responsible for clinical operations and one civilian clerk translator.
[2] In addition there is one part time Civilian Orthodontist.

Armed Forces: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to reassess the 50 decibels threshold at which hearing loss due to service can be compensated. [139859]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The compensation threshold for "hearing loss due to service" applies only to bilateral noise-induced sensorineural hearing loss. It does not apply to other forms of hearing loss or injury, such as that caused by blast. The 50 dB threshold was introduced into the war pensions scheme in 1993 as part of a package of changes which focused benefits on the more severely disabled and is also common to the related Civilian Industrial Injuries Disablement Scheme. The same threshold is used for compensating for this condition in the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme, which also focuses on the more severely injured. This approach is based on contemporary scientific evidence and understanding. This has been confirmed in recent years by several reviews carried out by independent audiological experts. There are no plans to review the threshold, although we remain open to consider new evidence that may arise.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what level of protection the Bucher Duro Search Explosive Ordnance Disposal vehicles have against *(a)* mines, *(b)* rocket-propelled grenades, *(c)* improvised explosive devices and *(d)* small arms fire. [141043]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Army Board

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of running the offices of the *(a)* Adjutant General, *(b)* Army Board and *(c)* Chief of the General Staff in 2006; and what change there has been in the cost of each since 2002. [127539]

Derek Twigg: The full cost of running the outer offices of the Army Board members are not recorded separately and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

However, the majority of the costs arise from staff pay and the establishment of each office remained largely unaltered between 2002 and 2006. The 2006 establishment together with the 2006 salary range for each position is shown as follows. These figures do not include civilian overtime or staff car drivers.

2006

Member	*£000*
Secretary of State	
1 x SCS	55-116
1 x B1	47-66
1 x Lt Col	60-66
1 x C Faststreamer	23-40
1 x D	18-27
3 x E1	14-26
Minister of State for the Armed Forces	
1 x B2	40-53
1 x Lt Col equivalent	60-66
1 x C Faststreamer	23-40
1 x D	18-27
Minister of State Defence Equipment Support	
1 x B2	40-53
1 x C1	30-40
1 x C Faststreamer	23-40
1 x D	18-27
Under Secretary of State for Defence	
1 x B2	40-53
1 x Lt Col equivalent	60-66

Member	2006 £000
1 x D	18-27
1 x E1	14-26
Chief of the General Staff	
1 x Lt Col	60-66
3 x Maj	43-51
1 x Capt	34-40
1 x WO2	30-39
Second Permanent Under-Secretary of State	
1 x B2	40-53
1 x C Faststreamer	23-40
2 x C2	23-32
1 x D	18-27
Commander in Chief Land	
1 x Lt Col	60-66
1 x Capt	34-40
1 x SSgt	30-39
Adjutant General	
1 x Lt Col	60-66
1 x Capt	34-40
1 x SSgt	30-39
Assistant Chief of the General Staff	
1 x Lt Col	60-66
1 x Capt	34-40
1 x Sgt	26-32
Quartermaster General	
2 x Maj	43-51
1 x E1	14-26
Master General of the Ordnance	
1 x Lt Col	60-66
2 x Maj	43-51
1 x E1	14-26
General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland	
1 x Lt Col	60-66
1 x Capt	34-40
1 x WO2	30-39

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many internal flights were taken by the *(a)* Adjutant General, *(b)* Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* non-ministerial members of the Army Board and *(d)* Assistant Chief of the General Staff in 2006; how many of those flights were with (i) military and (ii) commercial carriers; and what the cost was. [127568]

Derek Twigg: A breakdown of UK commercial and military flights undertaken in 2006 is shown in the following table. The military flights shown form part of wider funded flying activity, which is required to keep pilots trained and aircraft and airfields current and serviceable. The cost for RAF flights is a notional cost only calculated on the basis of a combination of aircraft capitation rates and flying hours. Information on Army flights has not been maintained in a way that would enable a representative notional cost calculation to be made.

Board member	RAF rotary and fixed wing taskings	Notional cost (£)	Army rotary wing taskings	Commercial flights	Cost of commercial flights (£)
CGS	26	79,100.80	35	0	0
2nd PUS	2	7,481.12	0	1	222
CinC Land	5	4,452.17	38	7	545.34
AG	10	43,145.66	37	5	852.10
ACGS	5	25,103.68	1	1	316.40
DG Land Equip	0	0	0	1	98.50
MGO	0	0	0	3	448
GOCNI	1	4,245.86	0	46	11,561.99

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what guidance his Department issues on the use of internal flights for travel by non-ministerial members of the Army Board; and what alternative modes of transport are considered; [139870]

(2) whether his Department issues guidance on the use of helicopters for travel by non-ministerial members of the Army Board; and if he will make a statement. [139871]

Derek Twigg: Since February this year the tasking of all military flights, both fixed wing and helicopters has been controlled by a single organisation within the Ministry of Defence acting under central policy direction. This policy requires that a high level of scrutiny is applied to such flights and that a detailed case should accompany each application.

Factors such as time, route, destination, protocol and security are considered, as well as the status of the customer, the availability of other, more cost-effective, methods of transport and the efficient use of our aircraft. Operational taskings always take priority over routine travel.

Army Board: Official Cars

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the criteria used for selecting cars used by non-ministerial members of the Army Board for use in the UK. [135910]

Derek Twigg: The principle guidance which sets out the criteria used for selecting cars used by non-ministerial members of the Army Board for use in the UK is contained in JSP 800, the Defence Movements and Transportation Regulations Volume 5—Road Transport. Chapter 2—First Edition Jan 2007. A copy of this guidance is available in the Library of the House. In addition, any requirements for specialised vehicles, such as armoured staff cars, are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Army: Greater London

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on entertainment by the General Officer Commanding London District in the last 12 months, broken down by event. [137438]

Derek Twigg: The total expenditure on Official Entertainment by the General Officer Commanding (GOC) London District in the financial year 2006-07 was £2,922.26. The expenditure broken down by function, is listed in the table as follows.

Date	*Cost (£)*	*Function*	*Event/Reason*
2006			
10 May	107.64	Dinner Party	Hosting of Military, Civilian and Palace Dignitaries
16 May	62.81	Formal Lunch	Household Division Trustees Meeting
17 May	31.42	Formal lunch	Irish Guards Regimental Trustees Meeting
17June	165.02	Formal lunch	Hosting of VIPs and Dignitaries Post Queen's Birthday Parade
5 July	205.00	Formal Dinner	Hosting of VIP Metropolitan Police Officer
7 July	279.50	Formal Lunch	Hosting of CGS
5 September	191.95	Formal Lunch	Meeting with Eyre Estates Trustees regarding Kings Troop RHA
26 September	104.21	Formal Dinner Party	Unit cohesion—Commanders
3 October	110.97	Formal Dinner Party	Hosting of Commanders and Military Attaché
12 October	187.20	Formal Dinner Party	Enhancing community relations Army and District Stakeholders
1 November	178.18	Formal Dinner Party	Unit cohesion—Regimental Adjutants
28 November	99.32	Dinner Party	Hosting of GOC UKSC(G)
4 December	229.19	Formal Dinner Party	Hosting of Household Division, past present and future
2007			
17 January	251.62	Formal Dinner Party	Hosting of Crown Equerry and Guests
13 February	123.40	Formal Dinner	Hosting of D News and guests
22 February	252.00	Formal Dinner	Unit cohesion—Foot Guards staff at ITC Catterick
1 March	95.55	Dinner Party	Hosting of ACDS (R and C) and London District Commanders
14 March	83.36	Formal Dinner	Hosting of Colonel Irish Guards
21 March	163.92	Formal Dinner Party	Hosting of Brigade Major and MP's

All expenditure on official entertainment is subject to strict departmental rules and compliance with the principles of propriety set out in Government Accounting.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 843W, on Army: Greater London, if he will give a breakdown of the *(a)* staff and *(b)* maintenance costs as referred to in the answer. [138934]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The current salary range for Ministry of Defence staff working in the household of the General Officer Commanding London District is shown in the following table.

Salary scales have been used for military staff and are indicative only. The original figure of £112,508.69 quoted for staff costs in FY 2005-06 included the costs of a driver. Drivers are appointment related rather than household related and should not have been included in household costs. They have therefore not been included in this answer. Actual salaries are being withheld on the grounds that they represent personal data under the meaning of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Salary details for those civilian staff that are employed by contractors are being withheld for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Role	*Rank*	*Salary range*
House Sergeant	Sergeant	£27,000 to £34,000
Catering/Chef	Civilian	
Cleaning Assistant	Civilians	

The figure of £4,701.76 previously provided under the generic heading "maintenance" contained £1,000 for planned maintenance. Invoices for planned maintenance totalled £1,036.02 therefore the total spend on maintenance was actually £4737.78. This covered a range of costs, broken down as follows:

Description of maintenance	*£*
Eradication of mice—initial visit	112.50
Eradication of mice—follow up visit	84.38

Description of maintenance	£
Chimney repairs	1,060.00
Roof repairs	15.65
Shower repair	65.48
Renewal of waste pipes sinks and basins	115.66
Clean carpets to public areas	62.92
Renewal of shower hoses and sprays	59.94
Shower repair	17.68
Remove and later re-fix bath panels	15.26
Renewal of worktops, seal wall joint and make good wall tiling	202.11
Renewal of chromium plated metal support leg to worktop	20.79
Remake bath panel frame	32.74
Check system/rectify faults	316.00
Bath repair	44.57
Battery back ups x 4	219.00
Renew rubber plug and chain to basin	3.30
Make connection for waste from washing machine	106.54
Supply and fix washing machine valves	80.53
Redecorate utility room	200.00
Electrics tripping out main breaker	40.25
Basement electrics tripping out test all	120.75
Clear blockage in drain	16.88
Repair to wardrobe	32.44
Re-fix loose door fitting	3.34
Replace broken window	49.01
Repair power supply to alarm system (currently running on back up battery)	40.25
Re-plaster wall in kitchen	258.28
Re-tile wall in kitchen	253.20
Renew MK fuse board to basement, moulded units	306.02
Renew MK fuse board to basement	218.52
Tefal Steam Generator Iron	175.00
Kitchen Equipment	164.58
Stock Crockery/Crystal	224.21

Army: Manpower

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 142W, on the Army: manpower, what the cost was of training the cook in the household of the General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland. [136115]

Derek Twigg: The Chef has been trained as a Corporal Chef Royal Logistics Corps at a cost of £16,500.

Army: North East Economic Forum

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of the Chief of the General Staff's travel to and from the North East Economic Forum. [139861]

Derek Twigg: The cost of the Chief of the General Staff's travel to and from the North East Economic Forum was £1,976.65. This figure is broken down as follows:

Transport	From	To	Cost (£)
Helicopter	Minley	RAF Northolt	598.37
Plane	RAF Northolt	Teesside Airport	648.60
Plane	Teesside Airport	RAF Northolt	729.68
Total			1,976.65

The costs of staff cars cannot be broken down from the central budget and are therefore not included.

The costs of transport to and from other engagements during the day of the North East Economic Forum have not been included.

Astute Class Submarines

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration his Department is giving to further orders for Astute class submarines; and when he expects such considerations to be completed. [140999]

Mr. Ingram: Three Astute class submarines are on order with BAES (Submarine Solutions). I also refer my hon. Friend to my written ministerial statement of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 55-56WS, which confirmed the build of a fourth boat.

Further boat orders are being considered, subject to affordability. We are working with industry as part of the Defence Industrial Strategy to achieve an affordable and sustainable submarine programme.

Bermuda Regiment

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the evidential basis was for Colonel Baxter's statement in his Fitness for Role Inspection Report of November 2005 into the Bermuda Regiment that it was readily apparent to the Royal Party that the Regiment were seven minutes late at the ceremony convening the Bermuda Legislature in 2005; and if he will make a statement. [111608]

Mr. Ingram: The Inspection Team had a specific remit to comment on the Bermuda Regiment's ability to perform the ceremonial duties demanded of it. The timings of and performance on both the rehearsal and the actual parade were therefore accurately noted. The principal members of the Royal Party were HRH the Duke of York and HE the Governor of Bermuda. The landau had to progress slowly and then pause between Government House and the Cabinet Office while the gun salute, delayed while the regiment took up post, was completed.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1260W, on the annual personal

weapons test, what figures for shooting standards in part-time military organisations in the UK Colonel Baxter used to reach his conclusion in paragraph 9 of the Fitness for Role Inspection Report of November 2005 relating to the Bermuda Regiment that the shooting standards in the regiment were consistent with other part-time military organisations in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [111613]

Mr. Ingram: The Inspection Team put 46 soldiers (11 per cent.) through their annual personal weapons test over the two days of the inspection, without prior notice and without the individual soldiers having a chance to practise. The team had no exact UK figures as comparators but used its collective military judgment and experience as the basis of their comment: "Although low, this pass rate is consistent with other part time organizations in the UK". The team had some experience of serving with the TA and with the Home Service Part-Time element of the Royal Irish Regiment (and Ulster Defence Regiment before) as well as considerable experience with regular soldiers. It felt that a 70 per cent. "first time" pass rate was probably comparable to (but not quite as good as) that likely to be achieved by part-time British soldiers faced with an equivalent unrehearsed, no-notice test. It also noted that the pass rate would be improved by regular practice.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how long the Enhanced Flying Package for Mark 2 Chinooks is expected to remain in service. [141766]

Mr. Ingram: I have taken this question to be relating to the "night enhancement package" (NEP) which was fitted as an urgent operational requirement (UOR) to parts of our Chinook fleet as an aid to pilots in low light levels. Equipments acquired under UOR arrangements are only fitted for the period of the particular military operation for which they were needed, unless a subsequent decision is taken that the requirement is enduring. We are currently reviewing the long term requirement for the NEP.

CMT Dynamics

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* value, *(b)* purpose and *(c)* date was of each payment made by his Department to CMT Dynamics since 1997. [141312]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence Financial Management Shared Service Centre has no record of any payments being made to CMT Dynamics.

Departments: BAE Systems

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many current members of the board of BAE Systems have previously worked for his Department; and in what capacity. [141316]

Mr. Ingram: According to our records, none of the current Board of Directors of BAE Systems have worked previously for the Department.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140780]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence collects and collates information on: energy used in its buildings; quantities of aviation, marine and ground fuels supplied to the armed forces and for their logistical support; and road and air mileage travelled by military and civilian personnel and ministers on business. This information is converted to carbon dioxide equivalent emissions using the Government's conversion factors and reported each year in the Department's Sustainable Development Report. Building emissions data are validated by the Building Research Establishment and provided annually to the Sustainable Development Commission for its assessment of the Department's performance against the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate energy efficiency and carbon dioxide emissions reduction targets.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139209]

Derek Twigg: The definition of 'found to have been in breach' can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the Courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140120]

Des Browne: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Pendle

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure is planned to be carried out in Pendle by his Department in the years up to 2010; and if he will make a statement. [120614]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence does not plan its expenditure on a regional basis.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what properties his Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139360]

Derek Twigg: Details of properties owned by the Ministry of Defence in the relevant period that are valued at over £1 million can be found in the national assets register, copies of which are available in the Library of the House or at

www.official-documents.gov.uk.

Information on properties owned that are below £1 million in value is not held centrally and will take time to collate. Details of properties rented by this Department are not held centrally and it will need to be determined whether the information can be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139382]

Derek Twigg: The 2005-06 Departmental Resource Accounts show the net book value of land and buildings at 31 March 2006 as follows:

	Value (£)
Dwellings	2,912,696,000
Other land and buildings	15,543,467,000

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139473]

Derek Twigg: The details requested are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139910]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will examine the merits of extending eligibility for the HM armed forces veterans badge to personnel involved in conflicts since 1984; and if he will make a statement. [141503]

Derek Twigg: Over 460,000 veterans badges have been issued since it was launched in 2004 and it is my intention that all armed forces veterans should receive their badge at the earliest opportunity. However, for practical reasons relating to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency's capacity to handle demand, this has had to be done in stages, commencing with those who served first. Further extensions of eligibility to apply for the badge will follow as soon as practicable.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the principal militias identified as involved in insurgency attacks on UK service personnel in Iraq, together with their known leaders. [139148]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* A small number of individuals are involved in attacks against UK forces deployed on operations in southern Iraq. While some claim membership of a range of militia groups, we assess that the majority of these individuals are affiliated to the militant and extremist elements of Muqtada al Sadr's Jaysh al-Mahdi.

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he intends to make publicly available captured *(a)* munitions and *(b)* documentation indicating Iranian involvement in insurgency attacks on UK service personnel in Iraq. [139150]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I am withholding this information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Joint Exercises: Kuwait

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any British military personnel took part in United States Lt. General David McKiernan's evaluation exercise Lucky Warrior, conducted in Kuwait in November 2002; whether any outcome of this exercise was passed to British military commanders; and if he will make a statement. [139084]

Des Browne: Records indicate that consideration was given to limited British military involvement in exercise Lucky Warrior, conducted in Kuwait in November 2002, but do not show whether this actually happened. There are no records of any subsequent communication about it to British military commanders. However, 201 Signal Squadron took part in the next Lucky Warrior exercise, in early 2003.

Lynx Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK forces Lynx helicopters are in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Germany, *(c)* North America, *(d)* Southern and Central America, *(e)* Iraq, *(f)* Afghanistan, *(g)* Africa and *(h)* on board Royal Naval vessels. [137381]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding information about military capability, including numbers of specific aircraft deployed on operations, as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to question 127539, tabled by the hon. Member for North Durham on 12 March. [138516]

Des Browne: I replied to my hon. Friend today.

Military Aircraft: Russia

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions RAF aircraft have intercepted Russian military flights in or near British airspace in the last 12 months. [141246]

Des Browne: Twice.

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Kapton wiring is used in the Yellow Gate system in place in Nimrod aircraft; when this system was fitted in Nimrods; what wiring is used on other Nimrod electrical systems; and if he will make a statement. [140911]

Mr. Ingram: Kapton wiring is not used in the Yellow Gate system on the Nimrod aircraft but KTCL, a hybrid Kapton wiring, was introduced on the Nimrod MR2 as a part of the Yellow Gate modification programme during the period 1980 to 1985. The wiring used in the electrical systems of the Nimrod MR2 and R1 consists of: Nyvin, Minyvin, Efglas, KTCL, Febsil, ACT260, Raychem 44A and Raychem 55A.

Nuclear Submarines: Scotland

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has investigated potential scenarios for the basing of nuclear submarines, including Trident, in locations other than Scotland. [140998]

Mr. Ingram: The Royal Navy's nuclear powered submarine fleets, SSN and SSBN, are currently base ported at HM Naval Base Devonport and HM Naval Base Clyde. As announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 18 September 2006, we are, as part of the Defence Industrial Strategy, conducting a Naval Base Review to ensure that we have the right Naval Base infrastructure to meet the needs of the future fleet. No decisions have yet been taken. However, there are currently no plans to change Naval Base Clyde as the home base of the nuclear deterrent or Devonport as the supporting dockyard.

Nuclear Weapons

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the next generation of the nuclear deterrent since Parliament approved it in principle. [139152]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Since Parliament voted on 14 March to support the Government's decisions, as set out in the White Paper: The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cm 6994), to take the steps necessary to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent beyond the life of the current system, work has started mobilising MOD and industry to undertake the detailed concept phase for the new class of submarines and on taking forward the UK's participation in the programme to extend the life of the Trident D5 missile.

Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what urgent statements of user requirement were made by commanders in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last five years. [138789]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 154-56W, to the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock). I am withholding details of individual Urgent Statements of User Requirements as the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many days of leave in total have been lost by armed forces personnel due to delays in flights from Afghanistan to the UK in each month since the launch of Operation Herrick; [139768]

(2) how many days of leave in total have been lost by armed forces personnel due to delays in flights from Iraq to the UK in each month since the launch of Operation Telic. [139771]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Post-Operational Leave (POL) is additional to an individual's annual leave allowance. A period of POL is only considered to have started after an individual has completed the operational tour and returned to the UK, and therefore it would not be diminished due to any flight delays.

Rest and Recuperation (R and R) is also in addition to an individual's annual leave allowance and is taken in the course of an operational tour. It is a fixed period which includes travel time, and therefore the time spent at home could be diminished where delays occur in travelling. When appropriate, R and R can be extended at the discretion of the commanding officer if time has been lost due to travel delays; this decision will be made on the basis of the current operational tempo and the impact that such an extension might have. Records are not held of the impact delays have had on individuals' R and R, and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

RFA Fort Victoria

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to place RFA Fort Victoria into reserve; and what plans he has to replace her medical facilities in the active fleet. [140997]

Mr. Ingram: RFA Fort Victoria is not in reserve. She remains within the Fleet operational cycle and is not planned to be taken out of service until 2019. RFA Fort Victoria has a medical technician and a sickbay on board. She does not provide medical support for the Fleet.

Russia: Nuclear Weapons

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on recent ICBM tests undertaken by Russia; what assessment he has made of the implications of such tests for UK defence policy; and if he will make a statement. [140710]

Des Browne *[holding answer 7 June 2007]*: I have had no such discussions. The tests have no significant implications for UK defence policy, as Russia already possesses multiple warhead ICBMs. The tests do not represent an introduction of a new capability, but a gradual replacement and enhancement of an existing one.

Sierra Leone: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 7 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1096W, on casualty reporting, what progress has been made on reconciling casualty data for operations in *(a)* Sierra Leone and *(b)* the Balkans since May 1997. [139622]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: Historical data on fatalities and casualties for major ongoing operations in Afghanistan and Iraq have now been reconciled and validated. This information is published and updated regularly and can be found at http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets, along with details of fatalities for operations in the Balkans.

Work to date on the compilation and reconciliation of historical casualty data from the Balkans and from other theatres (including Sierra Leone), has indicated that further data collection and analysis is required in order to provide a sufficiently validated product and the focus is on compiling data over the period since January 2001. When this work is complete it will be placed in the public domain.

Warships: Procurement

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to order the seventh and eighth Type 45 destroyers. [141000]

Mr. Ingram: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 537W.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Audio Equipment: Health Hazards

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will bring forward proposals for a statutory warning to be published on the external packaging of personal audio equipment to inform consumers about risks to their hearing. [139154]

Margaret Hodge: It is already widely understood that playing personal audio equipment too loud can damage your hearing. This is usually mentioned as a safety warning in the product instructions. It is not clear what would be achieved by repeating the message on the external packaging.

These products are increasingly being supplied with software controls for limiting volume which parents can set for their children under a security code. Personal audio equipment intended solely for children is already limited to safe volume levels in line with harmonised European standard EN 71-1.

Breast Feeding

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many prosecutions of employers there were for failing to provide breaks for female employees who are breastfeeding after the birth of a child in each of the past 10 years. [139607]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

There is no legal requirement to provide breaks for female employees who are breastfeeding. Therefore, there have been no prosecutions.

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps he has taken to carry out the duty placed upon him by section 21 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 since the passage of that Act. [138721]

Malcolm Wicks: As stated in the recently-published Energy White Paper, the Government are committed to promoting the use of renewable heat.

Many policies are already in place to help reduce carbon dioxide emissions from heat including the climate change levy, tax incentives for combined heat and power, the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, and the energy efficiency commitment. Support has also been made available through the Low Carbon Buildings Programme and the Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme.

DTI and DEFRA have commissioned a study by Ernst and Young into renewable heat and its potential to make significant carbon savings in the longer term. The study, which is in its final stages, will be published shortly.

The Government have also produced a Biomass Strategy and published it alongside the Energy White Paper. The Biomass Strategy identifies biomass heating as the most cost efficient use for energy and provides a framework for the development of biomass.

It is essential to consider the heat sector holistically and the Government are carrying out further work over the coming months into policy options that could further reduce the carbon impact of heat and its use in order to determine a strategy for heat.

Microgeneration

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to reduce the cost of microgeneration equipment for domestic households. [140599]

Malcolm Wicks: The main mechanism for reducing the cost of microgeneration equipment for households is through the Low Carbon Buildings Phase I capital grant programme. The 2007 Budget announced a further £6 million to be added to the householder stream of this programme, bringing the total available to approximately £18.7 million.

We have also introduced legislation to make it easier for microgenerators to gain access to the monetary benefits of Renewable Obligation Certificates. And we are continuing to work with larger energy suppliers to ensure transparency of prices offered for exported electricity from microgenerators and to make technical changes that would help suppliers to cut administration costs and make it more cost-effective to offer export tariffs.

The Communities and Local Government Department have recently published a consultation setting out plans to make it easier for householders to install microgeneration equipment without having to go through the planning process and incurring the associated costs.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was raised from the sale of his Department's property in each of the last five years. [139308]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has only sold one property within the last five years and the amount received was £110,000 in financial year 2006-07.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139327]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has received the following income from letting its properties in the last five years;

	Income (£ million)
2002-03	2.41
2003-04	2.32
2004-05	6.48
2005-06	6.57
2006-07	9.99

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what properties his Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139347]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has owned/leased the following buildings in the last five years:

Building	*Tenure*	*Remarks*
Core Store, Edinburgh	Freehold	
Wrest Park, Bedfordshire	Freehold	Sold 2006
National Physics Laboratory, Teddington	Freehold	
151 Buckingham Palace Road, London	Leasehold	
Kingsgate House, London	Leasehold	
1 Victoria Street, London	Leasehold	
10 Victoria Street, London	Leasehold	Let to Home Office 2006
Westfield House, London	Leasehold	
Elizabeth House, London	Leasehold	Vacated 2004
Oxford House, London	Leasehold	Vacated 2006
Newtown House, Nottingham	Leasehold	Acquired 2005
Amberley House, Gloucester	Leasehold	Acquired 2005
Abbey Orchard Street, London	Leasehold	Vacated 2005
2a Ryland Street, Warrington	Leasehold	Let to Pension Service
Atholl House, Aberdeen	Leasehold	
Tay House, Glasgow	Leasehold	
Queensway House, Billingham	Leasehold	
St. Marys House, Sheffield	Leasehold	

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139366]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's most recent valuation of its property portfolio is £125.33 million.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139476]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The cost of leasing buildings is as follows:

	Value (£ million)
(a) The Department (HQ Estate)	
2002-03	[1]
2003-04	28.6
2004-05	29.6
2005-06	31.6
2006-07	30.2
(b) Agencies	
2002-03	0.96
2003-04	0.96
2004-05	1.54
2005-06	1.54
2006-07	1.43

[1]Unable to provide figures for 2002-03 due to the disproportionate cost of obtaining this information.

The Insolvency Service have already responded directly.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people took sick leave for stress in his Department in the last 12 months; and

what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135465]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 107 people in the DTI took stress-related sick leave in the last 12 months. This represents 2.7 per cent. of the Department.

Departments: Smith Institute

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what payments were made to the Smith Institute as part of the Government's Review of Maternity Pay and Leave and Parental Leave. [141267]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As far as our records show no payments were made to the Smith Institute as part of the Government's review of maternity pay and leave and parental leave.

European Space Agency

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the membership is of the European Space Agency; how many UK citizens are represented in the agency; and at what levels. [141066]

Malcolm Wicks: The European Space Agency (ESA) has 17 foil member states: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Canada, Hungary and the Czech Republic also participate in some projects under co-operation agreements.

ESA employees are drawn from across the member states, ideally in proportion to the contribution of each state.

At 6 June 2007 there were 201 UK nationals employed by ESA:

'HC' band (programme director): 1

'A' band staff (senior managers, technical and administrative): 155

'B' band staff (administrators, technicians, secretarial): 33

'L' band staff (translators): 3

'F' band staff (young graduate trainees): 9.

The 'ideal' figure for UK employees in the period 2007-10 and based upon the UK's contribution to the agency should be 256.

Food: Measurement

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish proposals for consolidating and simplifying the weights and measures provisions relating to food; and if he will make a statement. [140702]

Malcolm Wicks: We expect to publish proposals to consolidate and simplify the weights and measures provisions relating to food later this year. This will incorporate the implementation of a new European directive to deregulate most specified quantities for foods which is still subject to formal agreement in Brussels.

Media City Development Project: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding has been given to the Media City Development Project by *(a)* the Northwest Development Agency and *(b)* other Government agencies. [140086]

Margaret Hodge: NWDA will invest up to £30 million in specific public infrastructure and public realm elements of the "mediacity:uk" project and has recently entered into a funding agreement with Salford city council to this effect.

Metrication

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether traders may weigh, measure and price in imperial units only. [139732]

Malcolm Wicks: No. However, the use of imperial units alongside metric units is permitted by current legislation until 31 December 2009 provided they are not larger or more prominent than the metric units.

Mining: Methane

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much money from the public purse has been paid to companies who extract methane from former colliery sites. [140801]

Malcolm Wicks: I am not aware of any money from the public purse having been paid to such companies.

Nuclear Power Stations

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the nuclear industry on plans for new nuclear power stations. [139724]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI Ministers and officials had discussions with a range of interested parties in preparing for the current consultation on nuclear power, including with companies represented in the nuclear industry and in other energy sectors. The purpose of the discussions was to elicit views on the range of issues that would be relevant to considering whether energy companies should be allowed to invest in new nuclear power stations, in order to ensure that these issues, and issues raised by other interested parties, could inform the development of the consultation document.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Office for Civil Nuclear Security on the adequacy of resources to vet drivers recruited by contractors carrying out the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's decommissioning programme. [140388]

Malcolm Wicks: In order to comply with the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003, transport companies which hold 'Approved Carrier' status to transport nuclear material must ensure that their

drivers are security vetted to a level appropriate to the material they are transporting. Security vetting standards in the civil nuclear industry comply with national standards. The Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS) has adequate resources in their vetting office to meet current demand.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraph 12-17 of the consultation paper on the future of nuclear power, when he expects *(a)* the final batch of spent nuclear fuel to be reprocessed at Sellafield and *(b)* the decommissioning of Sellafield's reprocessing plants to start. [140389]

Malcolm Wicks: The NDA Strategy, which was published in March 2006, noted that all current reprocessing contracts for THORP were expected to be completed by about 2010. However, given that the THORP plant has been closed since an incident in April 2005, it is not possible at this stage to say when the final batch of spent fuel will be reprocessed and the decommissioning of the THORP plant will commence. Decommissioning of the Magnox reprocessing plant is expected to begin in around 2016.

Nuclear Power: Public Participation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps to ensure publication on receipt of all submissions made to the second round of consultation on nuclear power on his Department's website. [139959]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government will publish all submissions we receive in response to the current consultation on the future of nuclear power, with the exception of those cases where respondents have requested confidentiality. Submissions will be published online after the consultation has closed.

Nuclear Power: Research

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* research councils on research and development for nuclear power in each year since 1996. [141045]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI has interest in research into power from both nuclear fusion and nuclear fission.

Responsibility for funding of nuclear fusion research was transferred from the DTI's Nuclear Industries Directorate to the Office of Science and Technology in April 2002, and then to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) in April 2003. The amount of funding from 1995-96 until 2006-07 is given as follows.

	£ million
1995-96	15.7
1996-97	12.1
1997-98	16.6
1998-99	12.6
1999-2000	14.3
2000-01	17.0
2001-02	14.4
2002-03	14.8
2003-04	15.9
2004-05	22.7
2005-06	20.6
2006-07	25.7

Government expenditure (excluding spending by the Research Councils) on nuclear fission research is as follows:

	£ million
1995-96	6.0
1996-97	9.3
1997-98	1.9
1998-99	1.6
1999-2000	2.5
2000-01	0.0
2001-02	2.0
2002-03	2.1
2003-04	2.1
2004-05	2.2
2005-06	2.3
2006-07	2.4

Expenditure by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council on nuclear fission research is as follows:

	£ million
1995-96	n/a
1996-97	n/a
1997-98	0.04
1998-99	0.08
1999-2000	0.06
2000-01	0.13
2001-02	0.33
2002-03	0.31
2003-04	0.21
2004-05	0.11
2005-06	0.95
2006-07	3.93

Nuclear Power: Security

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what account was taken of submissions to the Energy Review 2006 on nuclear security matters in preparation of paragraphs 6.26 to 6.42 of Chapter 6 of the consultation document on the future of nuclear power. [140567]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government considered information gathered from a wide range of sources, including from the security regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security, in preparing, 'The Future of Nuclear Power, The Role of Nuclear Power in a Low Carbon Economy, Consultation Document, May 2007'.

Oxford-Cambridge Arc

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department has

paid Bedfordshire county council in respect of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. [139986]

Margaret Hodge: No money has been paid directly to Bedfordshire county council in respect of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

Along with SEEDA and EMDA, BED A has awarded £70,000 per year over a three year period to Milton Keynes Economic and Learning Partnership to support the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. The funding is used to administer the Oxford to Cambridge Arc Company Ltd.

This company has been established to promote innovation and enterprise in the area between Oxford and Cambridge. The area includes the Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Area. It aims to support the growth of both Oxford and Cambridge as well as the use of those global brands to support economic development in the Arc, including at Milton Keynes and Bedford.

The funding was given to support the appointment of a director to lead the company and undertake some project work.

Post Offices: Rushden

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the closure of the post office in Rushden town centre against the Government's access criteria. [141473]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Decisions on individual post office branches are operational matters for which the management of Post Office Ltd (POL) have direct responsibility. I understand that the branch will close on 11 June 2007 following the decision by POL's current partners Budgen Stores Ltd to withdraw from providing post office services at the site. I also understand that POL are committed to maintaining a branch in this location and they have two prospective applicants, with suitable premises, currently progressing through their application process. During the period of temporary closure POL's customers are free to visit the branch most convenient to them and I understand that there are several branches in the surrounding area.

Power Stations: Planning Permission

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how long was spent considering the planning applications for each advanced gas-cooled reactor power station; and how long each took from the commencement of building work to reach design output. [140219]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* This information is not to hand in the Department given the length of time since advanced gas cooled reactor power stations were approved and constructed.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for the disposal of nuclear waste. [140355]

Malcolm Wicks: In October 2006, the Government responded to the recommendations of the Committee on *Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), and* accepted that geological disposal coupled with safe and secure interim storage is the way forward for the long-term management of the UK's higher activity radioactive wastes. Government also confirmed they are supportive of exploring an approach based on voluntarism and partnership with local communities. A consultation on the framework for implementing geological disposal is due to be launched during summer 2007.

If, as a result of the current consultation on "The Future of Nuclear Power", Government conclude that nuclear has a role to play in the UK, the Government consider that geological disposal and robust interim storage would also be the best solution for dealing with waste from any new nuclear power stations.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraph 8.2 of the consultation paper on the future of nuclear power, for what reasons he decided to propose co-disposal of legacy and new radioactive waste arising in the same repository facilities; and what account he took of the advice of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management on this matter as presented to Government in July 2006. [140563]

Malcolm Wicks: If, as a result of the current consultation on 'The Future of Nuclear Power', Government conclude that nuclear has a role to play in the UK, Government consider it to be technically possible and desirable to dispose of both new and legacy waste in the same geological disposal facilities, based on evidence from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and overseas waste management programmes.

Advice from the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) has been taken into account and is discussed in chapter 8 of 'The Future of Nuclear Power'. In particular, the committee drew attention to the important ethical issues around whether to create new nuclear waste. The Government intend that these ethical issues should be considered through the consultation 'The Future of Nuclear Power' launched on 23 May 2007.

As part of the Government's Managing Radioactive Safely (MRWS) programme, a consultation outlining the implementation framework for geological disposal is due to be launched during summer 2007.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proposals he has to make nuclear plant operators meet the cost of *(a)* insurance, *(b)* support provided without cost recovery by the environmental and safety regulators and *(c)* research and development done on radioactive waste and nuclear decommissioning by Government departments, the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. [140566]

Malcolm Wicks: As far as existing nuclear operators are concerned, the Nuclear Installations Act (which implements the UK's obligations under the Paris Convention on Third Party Liability in the Field of

Nuclear Energy and the supplementary Brussels Convention) channels liability for incidents to operators, requiring them to maintain insurance or other security to meet potential claims. But these Conventions have recently been revised, and Government are now considering how best to bring the amendments into UK law. The proposals for doing this, on which we anticipate consulting in due course, will have implications for both existing operators and any new owners or operators of nuclear plant.

The environmental and safety regulators already recover the majority of costs in respect of nuclear regulation from operators. There are no proposals to change these existing cost recovery schemes. The HSE is proposing to introduce regulations to recover costs relating to design assessment. The Environment Agency will recover its costs for design assessment, if required, through an agreement with the requesting party under Section 37 of the Environment Act 1995.

The current consultation on "The Future of Nuclear Power" sets out that if Government conclude that nuclear has a role to play in the future UK energy mix, owners/operators of any new nuclear power stations would propose, develop, construct and operate any new plant and cover the full costs of decommissioning and their full share of waste management costs. There are no proposals to change the way in existing operators may fund research and development undertaken by Government departments, the NDA or CoRWM.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what responsibilities the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has with regard to the setting of packing standards for radioactive waste; and if he will make a statement. [141121]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) is responsible for delivering safe, sustainable and publicly acceptable solutions to the challenge of nuclear clean-up and waste management.

Radioactive waste needs to be treated (or 'conditioned') and packaged to make it safer for handling, storage and eventual disposal. The nuclear site licence holders (waste packagers) carry out the physical packaging of the waste and are responsible for the safety of their operations. They are required to demonstrate to the independent regulators that the risks to the public and the environment from these activities are reduced to as low as reasonably practicable.

In support of their safety cases for packaging of radioactive waste, the waste packagers seek advice from the new Radioactive Waste Management Directorate (RWMD) of the NDA. This is done under a system known as the 'Letter of Compliance' process whereby the suitability of waste packages for eventual disposal is assessed.

It is the independent regulators who take decisions on the acceptability of waste conditioning and packaging safety cases submitted to them. Responsibility for securing the safety of the public and the environment rests with the independent regulators—the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and the environment agencies (the Environment Agency, EA, in England and Wales and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, SEPA, in Scotland).

Wind Power: Coastal Areas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has for expenditure on offshore wind farms. [140356]

Malcolm Wicks: Government support renewables generation through the renewables obligation. We published a consultation on banding the renewables obligation on 23 May 2007. Banding will mean technologies such as offshore wind farms, which are at an earlier stage of development and face higher costs, will be given additional support allowing them to compete with well established technologies such as co-firing biomass in coal-fired power stations.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what objections have been made to *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other planning authorities to the siting of off-shore wind farms off the north east of England coast. [140600]

Malcolm Wicks: The two offshore wind farms off the north east coast for which consents have been sought are the Blyth development, which was built in 2000 and comprises two turbines, and the proposed Teesside project that would comprise a maximum of 30 turbines and which is the subject of an undetermined consent application.

Blyth was consented under the Food and Environment Protection Act and the Coast Protection Act and the Department for Trade and Industry was not, therefore, involved in the decision-making process. Consent applications for the proposed Teesside development are being considered under the Electricity Act, the Food and Environment Protection Act and the Coast Protection Act. Objections to that proposal have been received by my Department, on behalf of the DTI and Defra, from a number of organisations and individuals. The objections will be considered by the Secretary of State in taking his decision on whether to grant consent for the project.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of offshore windfarms. [140601]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government published the White Paper on Energy: "Meeting the Energy Challenge": on 23 May 2007. The White Paper contains proposals to make it easier to connect to the electricity grid, band the Renewables Obligation (RO), and improve the planning consent process, all of which will help the development of offshore wind farm projects.

Banding the RO will mean technologies such as offshore wind, which are at an earlier stage of development and face higher costs, will be given additional support allowing them to compete with well established technologies such as co-firing biomass in coal-fired power stations.

It is also important to provide a long-term market for offshore renewables. The DTI and the Crown Estate have already run two competitions for the development

rights for offshore wind farms, granting the rights for 29 offshore wind farms. The White Paper announced the Government's intention to provide regular opportunities for companies to bid for further development rights. The DTI is working with the Crown Estate to explore options for further large-scale offshore wind farms and intends to publish proposals by the end of the year.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the suitability of the North sea off the north east coast for the siting of offshore windfarms. [140602]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has begun to explore options with the Crown Estate, for the siting of further large-scale offshore renewables development. Any consideration of further programmes of commercial-scale offshore wind farms will be based on a strategic environmental assessment (SEA). It may also be necessary to undertake Appropriate Assessments, depending on the locations identified for a further programme. These assessment processes would include consultation with the renewables sector and other parties with interests in or responsibilities for the marine environment.

In the absence of any regional assessments of the suitability of siting offshore wind farms off the north east coast, DTI officials and their partners in DEFRA have been considering the suitability of two demonstration wind farm projects—Blyth (installed) and Teesside (consent application under consideration)—in that area on a case by case basis and taking account of relevant issues.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Fraud

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the statement of the Parliamentary Secretary in Westminster Hall on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 324WH, what date has been set for a meeting of stakeholders to discuss bogus charity collection companies. [141499]

Edward Miliband: Since the debate, the issues have been discussed with Clothes Aid and other stakeholders. These include the Crown Prosecution Service, the Trading Standards Institute, the Advertising Standards Authority, the Office of Fair Trading, the Charity Commission, the Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services and the Association of Chief Police Officers, who have agreed to write to all chief constables to raise awareness of the issues relating to bogus charity collections and theft of charity donations.

Following these discussions with officials from the Office of the Third Sector, on June 18, we will be bringing together the key stakeholders and representatives of the sector to agree the next steps.

Charities: Gift Aid

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the recent levels of gift aid relief for charities. [141476]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Guildford (Anne Milton) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 794W.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139363]

Hilary Armstrong: For information about freehold properties owned by the Department, I refer you to the National Asset Register published by HM Treasury. The Department currently occupies leased properties in London at 9 Whitehall, 1 Horseguards Road, 35 Great Smith Street, 67 Tufton Street, 10 Great George Street and Dover House. Outside London, the Cabinet Office occupies leased properties at Grosvenor House, Basingstoke, Birchwood Park, Warrington, and the National Computing Centre, Manchester. Since 2006 the Cabinet Office has also been responsible for two floors at 77 Paradise Circus, Queensway, Birmingham, which provide accommodation for two executive non-departmental public bodies. In the last five years, the Cabinet Office has previously occupied leased property in London at Stockley House, 11 Belgrave Road, 7 St. James's Square and 2 Little Smith Street.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will place in the Library copies of her Department's employee surveys for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2005. [142027]

Hilary Armstrong: Staff surveys are valuable tools used by Departments to help them improve performance. The results of the 2005 Cabinet Office survey are available on the civil service website with comparison with 2004 results at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/news/staff_survey/index.asp

Intelligence Services: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the real terms percentage change in funding for the intelligence and security services was in each year since 1997. [133295]

The Prime Minister: I have been asked to reply.

The security and intelligence agencies are funded from the Single Intelligence Account (SIA). SIA Accounts are published annually; copies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Party Leaders: Elections

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) if she will place in the Library all guidance given to special advisers regarding the deputy leadership of the Labour Party elections within the last six months; [140839]

(2) whether guidance has been issued to special advisers on activity relating to the Labour Party leadership and deputy leadership campaigns. [142470]

Hilary Armstrong: Guidance to Departments was issued by the Cabinet Secretary and placed in the Library for the reference of Members in December 2006 and May 2007. The Code of Conduct for Special Advisers is also relevant and is also available in the Library.

Project George

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2198W, on Project George (1) whether she expects the works to incur expenditure beyond that required for routine maintenance and repair; [141724]

(2) how many full-time equivalent staff and consultants are working on Project George. [141725]

Hilary Armstrong: I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave him on 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2198-99W.

Voluntary Work

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, what progress her Department has made with establishing a British volunteering corps further to the Chancellor's announcement on 31 January 2005. [140006]

Edward Miliband: The independent youth-led charity v was launched on 8 May 2006 with the mission of delivering a step change in the quality, quantity and diversity of youth volunteering opportunities to engage and encourage 1 million more young people to volunteer within five years.

To date, v has created nearly 120,000 volunteering opportunities for young people through grant funded and match funded projects.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

City Academies

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what target he has set for the number of city academies to be established in England by May 2010. [140969]

Jim Knight: The Government are firmly committed to establishing 400 Academies over time. The formal target for 2010, as announced in the Government's five-year strategy for education of July 2004, is for 200 academies to be open or in the pipeline by 2010.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many academy schools *(a)* are taking students, *(b)* will open to students before the end of 2007, *(c)* have opened and *(d)* he has discussed with sponsors. [140972]

Jim Knight: There are 47 academies now open. We anticipate that a further 36 will open before the end of 2007. As part of progress towards the target of 400 academies, the Department is in discussion with sponsors, schools and local authorities about 47 open academies; 25 academy projects in their implementation phase; and 68 projects where the Secretary of State has agreed a formal expression of interest with a sponsor for an academy project.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills who decides whether an academy school has a sixth form; and how many academies have no sixth form. [140974]

Jim Knight: The general policy is for academies to be post-16 providers in their own right to address low participation rates by adding to the diversity and quality of local provision. Where an academy proposal does not include post-16 provision, the Government would need to be assured that arrangements for post-16 students leaving the academy are comparable to those which could be provided by the academy itself. If, during the course of the consultation process that all academy projects are subject to, convincing arguments were put forward as to why the community would benefit more from an 11 to 16 than an 11 to 18 academy, this would of course be taken into account on a case by case basis.

Of the 47 open academies, three have no post-16 provision.

City Academies: General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils at state city academies obtained five or more A*-C passes at GCSE in 2006. [141022]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* 49.4 per cent. of pupils in academies achieved five or more A*-C passes at GCSE or equivalent in 2005/06. This percentage is based on number of pupils on roll at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2005/06 academic year and includes attempts and achievements by these pupils in previous academic years. The establishments included are those 24 academies with GCSE results open in 2005/06.

City Academies: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils in each academy school have special educational needs; and what proportion of pupils take free school meals. [141034]

Jim Knight: The number and proportion of pupils with special educational needs (with and without a statement), and the number and proportion of pupils known to be entitled to free school meals in each of the 46 academies open in January 2007 is included in the following chart (sourced from School Census provisional data for January 2007).

Name	Number of pupils with a statement of SEN[1]	Percentage of pupils with a statement of SEN[2]	Number of pupils with SEN without a statement[1]	Percentage of pupils with SEN without a statement[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4]
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi	8	1.2	232	35.0	312	47.1
St. Pauls Academy	48	6.9	213	30.4	179	25.6
The Marlowe Academy	19	2.8	330	48.7	197	29.1
Grace Academy	31	2.7	291	25.6	319	28.0
John Madejski Academy	22	4.3	201	39.6	151	29.1
Macmillan Academy	6	0.4	93	6.3	377	25.5
Dixons City Academy	13	1.2	80	7.3	79	7.2
Paddington Academy	23	2.3	182	18.4	501	50.8
The Petchey Academy	8	4.4	83	46.1	86	47.8
North Liverpool Academy	13	1.1	415	36.2	448	39.1
Westminster Academy	15	2.0	147	19.6	306	40.9
Harris Academy Bermondsey	9	1.0	283	32.2	533	60.6
The Barnsley Academy	11	2.5	123	27.9	165	37.3
Burlington Danes Academy	11	1.4	168	20.8	167	20.6
Sheffield Park Academy	13	1.2	526	49.7	385	36.3
Sheffield Springs Academy	10	1.0	343	35.1	345	35.0
Harris Academy Merton	20	3.1	132	20.3	195	30.0
David Young Community Academy	27	3.0	165	18.4	378	42.1
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	0	0.0	181	23.4	314	40.5
Walthamstow Academy	15	2.2	212	31.2	216	31.8
The Gateway Academy	38	4.6	236	28.8	297	36.3
Greig City Academy	9	1.1	165	20.9	308	39.1
Walsall Academy	21	2.5	60	7.1	96	11.4
Unity City Academy	29	2.8	371	35.8	466	45.0
The Business Academy Bexley	48	4.4	470	42.9	394	35.9
St. Marks Church of England Academy	24	3.3	241	33.6	195	27.1
The City Academy Bristol	44	3.5	359	28.9	573	44.9
City of London Academy (Southwark)	37	4.6	171	21.4	273	34.2
The King's Academy	88	8.1	217	20.1	273	25.3
Manchester Academy	15	1.8	231	28.3	408	50.0
The Academy at Peckham	44	3.7	472	40.1	626	53.1
Capital City Academy	29	2.8	235	22.3	373	35.4
Djanogly City Academy Nottingham	3	0.2	512	32.1	597	37.5
West London Academy	17	2.0	466	54.8	394	46.3
Mossbourne Community Academy	30	4.9	123	20.0	249	40.6
Stockley Academy	12	1.6	212	28.7	298	40.3
London Academy	51	3.9	425	32.2	545	41.3
Northampton Academy	41	3.1	282	21.6	208	15.7
Lambeth Academy	21	3.9	192	36.1	229	43.0
Sandwell Academy	6	1.8	32	9.4	57	16.8
The Harefield Academy	11	2.0	171	30.4	90	16.0
Trinity Academy	24	2.0	145	12.1	184	15.4
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	24	3.3	206	28.1	325	44.3
Salford City Academy	3	0.5	166	29.1	105	18.0

Name	Number of pupils with a statement of SEN[1]	Percentage of pupils with a statement of SEN[2]	Number of pupils with SEN without a statement[1]	Percentage of pupils with SEN without a statement[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[3]	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[4]
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	29	2.1	252	18.4	293	21.3
Landau Forte College	[5]	[5]	81	7.8	99	9.6

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Number of pupils with SEN with and without a statement expressed as a percentage of the total number on roll.
[3] Includes dually registered and boarding pupils.
[4] Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals expressed as a percentage of number on roll including dually registered and boarding pupils.
[5] Less than three pupils, or a rate based on less than 3 pupils.

City Academies: Sponsorship

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many academies are sponsored by *(a)* religious groups, *(b)* educational groups, *(c)* companies and *(d)* individuals. [140971]

Jim Knight: There are 47 academies now open. We do not classify sponsors according to whether they are religious groups, educational groups, companies and individuals as these categories will frequently overlap. Some academies have more than one sponsor, usually from more than one of the categories included in the question.

The list of open academies and their sponsors are included in the following table.

Open academy name	Sponsor(s)
The Business Academy, Bexley	Garrard Education Trust
Greig City Academy, Haringey	Greig Trust with the London Diocesan Board for Schools
Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	Amey plc
City Academy, Bristol	John Laycock/University of the West of England
Capital City, Brent	Sir Frank Lowe
City of London Academy, Southwark	Corporation of London
Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	Sir Harry Djanogly
King's Academy, Middlesbrough	Emmanuel Schools Foundation
Manchester Academy	United Learning Trust (ULT)
The Academy at Peckham, Southwark	Harris Charitable Trust/Whitgift Foundation
The Walsall City Academy	The Mercers' Company/Thomas Telford Online
The West London Academy, Ealing	Alec Reed
Lambeth Academy	ULT
The London Academy, Barnet	Peter Shalson
Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney	Sir Clive Bourne
Northampton Academy	ULT
Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	Barry Townsley and others
Dixons City Academy, Bradford	Dixons CTC Trust
Harefield Academy, Hillingdon	David Meller and others
Marlowe Academy, Kent	Roger de Haan/Kent County Council
The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	Diocese of Liverpool/RC Archdiocese of Liverpool
St. Paul's Academy, Greenwich	Archdiocese of Southwark
Trinity Academy, Doncaster	Emmanuel Schools Foundation
North Liverpool Academy	Liverpool University/Granada Learning
Harris Academy Merton	Harris Charitable Trust
Grace Academy, Solihull	Bob Edmiston
Walthamstow Academy, Waltham Forest	ULT
Paddington Academy	ULT
David Young Community Academy, Leeds	Diocese of Ripon and Leeds
Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich	Harris Charitable Trust
The Harris Bermondsey Academy	Harris Charitable Trust
Sheffield Springs	ULT
Sheffield Park	ULT
Landau Forte College, Derby	Landau Forte Academy Trust
Westminster Academy	Exilarch's Foundation
The Petchey Academy, Hackney	Jack Petchey Foundation
The Burlington Danes Academy, Hammersmith and Fulham	ARK
Barnsley Academy	ULT
The John Madejski Academy, Reading	John Madejski
Sandwell Academy	Mercers Company, Thomas Telford Online, HSBC, West Bromwich Albion Football Club, Tarmac Group
Haberdashers' Knights Academy	Haberdashers' Livery Company
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy	Haberdashers' Livery
Salford City Academy	ULT
Gateway Academy, Thurrock	Ormiston Trust
Macmillan Academy, Middlesbrough	Macmillan CTC
St. Mark's Academy, Merton	Diocese of Southwark Trust/CfBT Educational Trust/Toc H
Madeley Academy, Telford and Wrekin	Thomas Telford On-line

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what promotional rights are available to a private sector company sponsoring a city academy. [140977]

Jim Knight: Funding Agreements for academies do not place any restrictions on promotional activities by

sponsors. However, the use of data held by academies on individual pupils is restricted by the Data Protection Act.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* educational experience and *(b)* advisory staff he requires sponsors of academies to have; and how he assesses their ability to make an educational contribution to the schools they sponsor. [141046]

Jim Knight: Sponsors come from a wide range of backgrounds, including universities, educational foundations, businesses, individuals and faith communities. There is no set requirement of prior educational experience, nor a requirement for specific advisory staff. The suitability of sponsors and their ability to make a significant contribution to the academies programme is assessed during the process of brokering a project before an expression of interest is agreed by the Secretary of State.

The Department carries out rigorous checks to establish the suitability of individuals and organisations wishing to become sponsors of academies. These include checking their financial viability to supply the funds pledged as well as their general suitability.

Potential sponsors should be able to demonstrate:

Transparency of business arrangements (both in the EU and overseas) and ability to account for funds (including donations from other parties);

Evidence of a successful business background including evidence of consistent and sustained trading (where appropriate);

A long-term commitment to the UK education sector and the aims of the academies programme;

Potential to run a successful school and to contribute towards raising standards;

Ability to enhance the reputation of the academies programme;

Ability to promote community cohesion;

Financial status commensurate with academy sponsorship and/or evidence of ability to raise the necessary funds.

Classroom Assistants: Mathematics

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what schemes are in place to support school pupils' mathematics education by using university students to mentor them; and how many pupils are participating in such schemes. [141266]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills currently funds, through the Training and Development Agency for Schools, the Student Associates Scheme. The scheme's twin aims are to encourage undergraduates into teacher training and to use the undergraduates as role models for school pupils with a view to increasing participation into higher education. Undergraduates spend up to 15 days in a school working with individual pupils, groups and whole classes. The majority of placements are in secondary priority shortage subjects. In the academic year 2006/07, we expect that, of a total of 7,955 potential allocated places, approximately 1,390 will be mathematics placements. Provisional allocations for the academic year 2007/08 suggest that the mathematics figure will arise to around 1,415.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what meetings took place between Ministers in his Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131029]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State and Ministers had the following meetings with outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March 2007:

Alan Johnson

Date	*Group*
2007	
9 January	Financial Services Skills Council; e-skills UK and Skillfast UK
17 January	UNISON
25 January	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
6 February	Young Person's Concert Foundation
20 February	Compass International Business Machines; British Telecomm; CISCO UK; Lockheed Martin Aerospace; Astra Zeneca; Confederation of British Industry; Thales UK; Association for Science Education; Sector Skills Council and Association of School and College Leavers UK
21 February	Institution of Mechanical Engineers; United Learning Trust
22 February	UK Consortium of Zoos and Aquariums
5 March	Teaching for Hope and Hull City FC
8 March	Institute of Directors
20 March	Association of Teachers and Lecturers
23 March	Transport and General Workers' Union
26 March	Confederation of British Industry
27 March	The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers

Beverley Hughes

Date	*Group*
2007	
16 January	Young London Matters Challenge Group
23 January	The Campaign Company
29 January	HSBC Education Trust
1 February	Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group
21 February	Association of Directors of Children's Services
15 March	Together for Children; Council for Disabled Children; National Children's Bureau; SchoolfriendEtc; Fathers Direct; Thomas Coram Children's Centre; Ekaya Housing Association
20 March	Children's Workforce Development Council
22 March	Confederation of British Industry; Healthcare Commission; National Youth Agency; Parentline Plus; Teenage Pregnancy Strategy's Independent Advisory Group; NCH Children's Charities; National Council for Voluntary Youth Services; The Children's Society; Royal College of Nursing; Coram Family; Association of Chief Police Officers; National Children's Bureau; National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations; Association of School and College Leaders; Children's Rights Alliance for England; Association of Directors of Children's Services; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and United Nations Children's Fund

Date	Group
27 March	Association of Directors of Children's Services; National Children's Bureau and National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
24 January	Campaign for Learning
31 January	National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers; Association of School and College Leaders; Association of Teachers and Lecturers National Association of Advisors for Computers in Education
1 February	Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group Institution of Civil Engineers
8 February	Education and Employers Foundation
1 March	Royal Geographical Society
1 March	Motor Cycle Industry Association
1 March	Cisco Internet Business Solutions
7 March	The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers; Association of School and College Leaders and Association of Teachers and Lecturers
21 March	HSBC
28 March	Sutton Trust

Bill Rammell

Date	Group
2007	
9 January	Federation of Student Islamic Societies
10 January	Age Concern England
22 January	Trade Union Congress
23 January	Universities UK
25 January	Trade Union Congress
21 February	University and College Admissions Service; Universities UK (UUK) and GuildHE
28 February	The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education; Core Skills Development Partnership; Union Learn
6 March	The Children's Society
8 March	SOS!SEN (Special Educational Needs); Dyslexia Now
29 March	1994 Group

Parmjit Dhanda

Date	Group
2007	
9 January	Parenting UK; Parentline Plus
15 January	National Children's Home
22 January	Coram family; National Children's Bureau; 4 children; Futurebuilders
24 January	Alistair Bennett Football Foundation
5 February	British Pig Executive
28 February	The Marine Society and Sea Cadets
8 March	YMCA England
22 March	Confederation of British Industry; Healthcare Commission; National Youth Agency; Parentline Plus; Teenage Pregnancy Strategy's Independent Advisory Group; NCH Children's Charities; National Council for Voluntary Youth Services; The Children's Society; Coram Family; Association of Chief Police Officers; National Children's Bureau; National Council of Voluntary Child Care Organisations; Association of School and College Leaders; Children's Rights Alliance for England; Association of Directors of Children's Services; National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children and Child Health and United Nations Children's Fund

Andrew Adonis

Date	Group
2007	
4 January	Diocese of London—Anglican Church
8 January	The Young Foundation
9 January	British Edutrust
10 January	Boarding Schools' Association
11 January	BearingPoint
16 January	Microsoft
17 January	Disabled Children Stakeholder Group
18 January	Haberdasher Askes Foundation CFBT—Education Trust Oxford Diocese
22 January	The Drapers Company
23 January	Teach First Association of Educational Psychologists; Children's Workforce Development Council
24 January	Council for Disabled Children and Contact a Family, Every Disabled Child Matters
2 February	Microsoft
6 February	Federation of Music Services
7 February	Granada Learning and Man Investments
14 February	Carillion
19 February	Disability Equality in Education and Alliance for Inclusive Education
27 February	VT Group plc
7 March	Independent Schools Council
22 March	Association of School and College Leaders
22 March	Business in the Community
27 March	Tyne and Wear Autistic Society
29 March	Experian

Phil Hope

Date	Group
2007	
30 January	Trade Union Congress
7 February	Diploma Development Partnership—Summit Skills; BBC; Sector Skills Council (SEMTA); Skills for Health and e-skills
13 February	Automotive Skills; Cogent, e-skills UK; Improve; Lifelong Learning UK; Skills for Care; Skills for Health and Skills for Justice
14 February	Improve Ltd., Lantra; Financial Services Skills Council; People 1st, Habia
21 February	Centre for Excellence in Leadership; Association of Directors of Childrens' services; Skillsset; e-skills; Federation of Awarding Bodies; Joint Council of Qualifications
28 March	Association of Learner Providers

Faith Schools

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many new faith schools have been established in the last 10 years; and what proportion of these schools receive state funding. [141087]

Jim Knight: Some 490 faith schools have been established since 1 January 1997. These comprise: 253 local authority maintained schools, 16 academies and 221 independent schools. A significant proportion of the maintained schools and academies were established in place of one or more closing faith schools. The local authority maintained schools and academies are funded from the public purse and, therefore, 55 per cent. of these new or replacement faith schools receive state funding.

Faith Schools: Catholicism

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children meeting the demonstration of faith criteria for acceptance to a Catholic secondary school were unable to obtain a place at a Catholic secondary school in *(a)* the London borough of Richmond-upon-Thames, *(b)* the London borough of Kingston-upon-Thames and *(c)* London as a whole in the last three years for which figures are available. [139943]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Muslim faith schools there are; what estimate he has made of the likely number in 2010; and if he will make a statement. [141071]

Jim Knight: There are 123 Muslim faith schools open as at 5 June 2007. These comprise: 116 independent schools and seven voluntary aided schools, with a further three voluntary aided schools planned to open on 1 September 2007.

The provision of state school places is determined by each local authority, with the provision of independent school places being a matter for each business provider. As such, it is not possible to give an estimate of the number of Muslim schools in 2010.

Foster Care: Death

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many fatalities of young people in *(a)* foster and *(b)* residential care have taken place in England since 2000. [139796]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the number of fatalities of young people in *(a)* foster and *(b)* residential care that have taken place in England since 2000 is not collected centrally by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Foundation Degrees

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of colleges which are likely to gain powers to award foundation degrees in each region by *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2012 and *(c)* 2014. [140717]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 June]:* The Department has not produced any estimate of the number of further education institutions that are likely to be granted foundation degree-awarding powers under proposals in the Further Education and Training Bill. However, it is likely that only a small number, mostly from the mixed economy group of colleges which currently provide 14 per cent. of all foundation degree provision, will be able to satisfy the criteria necessary to be awarded foundation degree-awarding powers.

Guidance issued to applicants will specify that an institution will be expected to have at least four years' experience, immediately prior to the year of application, of delivering higher education programmes at a level equivalent to the foundation degree. An applicant institution will also undergo a rigorous process of assessment by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. The required standards will be high, and it is to be expected that only top-performing further education institutions with a strong track record of delivering foundation degree courses will be recommended to the Privy Council for the powers to award foundation degrees.

GCE A-Level

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average A-level results were obtained by pupils at *(a)* state city academies and *(b)* other schools at A-level in 2006. [141023]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* The information required is in the following table.

2006 average Level 3 QCA point score for pupils attending academies and other schools

	Average QCA point score by candidates[1] achieving all Level 3 qualifications[2,3]
Academies	620.2
Schools excluding academies	768.3
All schools	767.8

[1] For pupils ages 16 to 18 at the start of the 2005/06 academic year i.e. 31 August 2005.
[2] GCE or VCE A level or other Level 3 qualification equivalent in size to an A-level.
[3] Cumulative results obtained in academic years 2004/05 and 2005/06.

GCSEs

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 692W, on GCSEs, (1) what proportion of 15-year-olds attending *(a)* independent mainstream schools and *(b)* maintained mainstream schools achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in each year since 1997 (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of pupils entered for a full GCSE in both English and mathematics in each year since 1997; [130267]

(2) when he expects to answer question 130267, on GCSEs, tabled by the hon. member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 22 March 2007; [134335]

(3) when he will answer question 130267, on the educational attainment of 15-year-olds, tabled by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton on 22 March 2007. [139095]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table.

	Percentage of 15-year-old[1] pupils at mainstream schools to get five or more A-C at GCSE including English and Mathematics*		*Percentage of 15-year-old[1] pupils at mainstream schools to get five or more A*-C at GCSE including English and Mathematics as a percentage of those to attempt a full GCSE in English and Mathematics*	
	Maintained[2]	*Independent*	*Maintained[2]*	*Independent*
1997	34.3	81.6	36.2	87.2
1998	35.6	81.5	37.9	87.9
1999	37.4	82.5	39.5	88.4
2000	38.7	83.2	40.7	88.9
2001	37.8	77.6	41.4	89.0
2002	39.2	78.7	42.6	89.7
2003	39.1	77.9	42.1	89.4
2004	39.9	76.7	43.3	89.8
2005	42.0	73.9	45.3	89.8
2006	43.4	69.3	46.7	89.6

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2] Includes academies, community schools, voluntary aided schools, foundation schools and city technology colleges.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Science

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he has taken to evaluate *(a)* the 21st century science GCSEs and *(b)* other new syllabi. [141486]

Bill Rammell: As part of their remit to develop the 21st century GCSE, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority commissioned an evaluation of the pilot programme; the findings were published in 2005. An independent evaluation was also carried out by the University of Leeds, and published in February 2007.

These evaluations are helping to inform QCA's wide ranging evaluation of the changes made to the Key Stage 4 curriculum from September 2006, which is currently under way.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of *(a)* maintained, *(b)* specialist science, *(c)* grammar and *(d)* independent schools offer separate science GCSEs in physics, chemistry and biology. [141487]

Jim Knight: The Government collect information on schools that entered pupils for the three separate science GCSE examinations, rather than schools which offered these subjects. This information for pupils taking their exams in 2006 is summarised in the table.

If a school offers the three subjects, but pupils elect not to take them, the school will not be classified as offering the separate sciences.

School type[1]	*Total number of schools*	*Schools offering separate science GCSEs, 2006*	*Percentage of schools offering separate science GCSEs*
Independent[2]	615	408	66
Grammar	164	118	72
Science colleges	234	135	58
Other maintained mainstream schools	2,727	706	26
Total	3,740	1,367	37

[1] Schools are only included once in the first category that applies
[2] Only independent schools with more than 20 pupils at the end of KS4 and one or more pupils gaining 5+ A*-G (used as a proxy for offering GCSEs).

Head Lice

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the incidence of head lice amongst school children in England in each of the last five years; [141763]

(2) what guidance her Department provides to primary care trusts on head lice control; and how frequently such guidance is updated. [141751]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the incidence of head lice infestation is not collected centrally. Our policy, which is shared by the Department for Education and Skills, is to encourage a whole school approach. This entails encouraging parents to check their children and other family members for head lice as need arises and arranging treatment where necessary, with advice and support from the local primary health care team.

The Department has produced a leaflet containing guidance on the prevention and treatment of head lice.

The leaflet, which has recently been reprinted, is widely available from locations that include schools and general practitioners surgeries and copies are available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/assetRoot/04/11/63/47/04116347.pdf

Head Teachers

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school head teachers resigned from their posts within 12 months of an Ofsted inspection in each of the last five years; [140737]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school head teachers in England and Wales left their posts prior to retirement age in each of the last five years. [140738]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* The information is not available in the format requested.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with educational representatives on the reasons for recent trends in applications for headships of primary and secondary schools. [140736]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* The Department does not collect data about the number of applications for headships. However, according to research undertaken by Howson[1], while there has been a decline in the number of applications for headships in primary schools between 2004-05 and 2005-06, there has been an increase in the number of applications in secondary schools. In addition, the Department's official statistics show that since 1997, head teacher vacancies have remained low and fairly stable. Provisional figures for 2007 show a fall in the head teacher vacancy rate from 0.8 per cent. in January 2006 to 0.6 per cent. in January 2007. However, we know that some types of schools such as church schools, schools in London and some small schools in rural areas find it harder to recruit senior staff than others and also that more heads are reaching retirement age.

Our focus is therefore on ensuring that we have sufficient numbers of high quality school leaders now and coming through the system for the future. The Secretary of State asked the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) for advice on succession planning and on the back of this announce an additional £10 million to support their work in this area. In preparing the advice, the NCSL have consulted widely with schools, school leaders, local authorities, dioceses, professional associations, and governor bodies. This included nine regional succession planning conferences, attended by over 500 school leaders and an ongoing Succession Planning Advisory Group with senior education representatives which meets regularly. The Department also commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct an independent study into school leadership, which reported in January.

[1] The State of the Labour Market for Senior Staff in Schools in England and Wales 11th and 12th Annual Reports by Professor Howson of Education Data Surveys.

Higher Education: Islam

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will estimate the number of *(a)* faculties, *(b)* chairs and *(c)* other facilities in relation to Islamic studies in universities which are funded from abroad. [141338]

Bill Rammell: This information is not collected centrally, but I have recently announced that we will work with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the university sector to develop a comprehensive long term project to address the gaps in Islamic studies teaching and research. £1 million has been committed from HEFCE to start this work. By designating Islamic studies as a strategically important subject, we can help ensure that the study of Islamic studies within higher education is up to date and focuses on relevant issues, whatever the source of funding for particular faculties, chairs or other facilities.

Languages: Mandarin

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to his answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1390W, on Mandarin if he will take steps to encourage schools to offer Mandarin as a subject at all levels; and what steps he is taking to increase the pool of teachers qualified to teach Mandarin; [141444]

(2) what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the teaching of Mandarin and its potential impact on the preparedness of the UK workforce for dealing with China; [141553]

(3) what steps his Department is taking to promote Mandarin to young people as an academic subject. [141555]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Member to my written reply of 14 May. We have now received the Qualification and Curriculum Authority's advice on the revised Key Stage 3 languages curriculum. We are considering that advice and will be responding shortly. Schools are already free to teach any language they choose at Key Stage 2.

We are working with partners, including the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (Hanban), on a range of initiatives to promote the teaching of Mandarin at all levels, including high profile events such as the HSBC China Conference, and arranging for secondary school pupils from the UK to attend summer schools in China. The Training and Development Agency for schools is working with initial teacher training providers to develop their ability to offer more places for major world languages such as Mandarin within their PGCE programmes.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions with Ministerial colleagues about the teaching of Mandarin and its impact for the UK workforce.

Learning and Skills Councils: Reorganisation

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the changes to staff numbers and structures which will result from the reorganisation of the learning and skills councils proposed in the Further Education and Training Bill. [139274]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: The Further Education and Training Bill makes provision to streamline the non-executive structure of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) by removing the requirement to have local learning and skills councils (of which there are 47) and replacing them with new regional committees (to be known as regional councils, of which we intend there to be nine). It also removes the requirement to have an adult and young people's learning committee and reduces the minimum size of the LSC's national council. Overall the number of non-executives will reduce from around 750 to around 150.

The LSC has also been undergoing a restructuring exercise which will result in some 1,100 fewer staff posts across the whole of the organisation. This exercise is expected to be completed later this summer, and is important preparation for the LSC's role in implementing the reforms set out in the Further Education White Paper "Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances", and for taking forward the skills challenges identified in the Leitch Report.

Local Education Authorities: Worcestershire

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on what basis he has allocated funding to Worcestershire local education authority; and if he will make a statement. [141241]

Jim Knight: The core funding for schools is delivered through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in 2006-07 following two public consultations in 2005. DSG is calculated using the spend plus methodology set out as follows.

Each local authority's total DSG for 2006-07 and 2007-08 was calculated by multiplying their full-time equivalent pupil numbers (aged three to 15) from the January 2006 and 2007 pupil counts by their DSG per pupil Guaranteed Unit of Funding. The DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding is unchanged from that set in December 2005 and in:

2006-07 was based on spend per pupil in 2005-06, with: a basic increase of 5 per cent. per pupil (5.1 per cent. for London authorities); and headroom allocated to reflect five ministerial priorities.

2007-08 was based on the 2006-07 DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding, with: a basic increase of 5 per cent. per pupil (5.1 per cent. for London authorities); and headroom allocated to reflect three ministerial priorities. See Jacqui Smith's statement to the House setting out the details (21 July 2005, *Official Report*, column 126-37WS).

We have just consulted on the DSG arrangements for 2008 to 2011. We are currently examining the consultation responses and we will announce details of the school funding system for 2008 to 2011 in the summer.

New Arrivals Excellence Programme: Somerset

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding from the New Arrivals Excellence programme has been made available to each local authority area in Somerset since the initiation of the programme. [141230]

Jim Knight: The New Arrivals Excellence Programme was announced in October 2006, with resources to be launched in July 2007. The programme does not devolve funding to local authorities but is a central resource, which local authorities, schools, specialist and mainstream teachers can look to for advice, guidance and 'signposting' towards the best training opportunities.

The programme will have a clear focus on helping local authorities and schools who have received a large number of new arrivals and where local authorities have little experience of working with those with little or no English. Outreach workers will be available as part of the programme, to provide additional focused support within those local authorities.

Materials available to local authorities will include a DVD of effective practice, a website and on-line forum and a training module. The programme will link securely with the work of the National Strategies, whose primary and secondary programmes are now expanding to include work on new arrivals.

Overseas Students

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to publish a revised action plan for the implementation of the International Education Strategy. [139029]

Bill Rammell: Implementation of the International Education Strategy is on-going. An update to the action plan will be made available on the DfES Global Gateway and TeacherNet by the end of June.

Pre-school Education: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 856-8W, on pre-school education: finance, what assessment he has made of whether local authorities are funding nursery providers equitably, fairly and transparently. [140658]

Beverley Hughes: The code of practice on the delivery of nursery education for three and four-year-olds requires local authorities to ensure settings are funded equitably, transparently and fairly, reflecting local need and circumstances. My letter in December 2006 to all local authority chief executives reiterated this point and asked them to reassure themselves that their funding levels support a diverse local child care market and take into account the impact on provider sustainability.

The Schools, Early Years and 14-16 Funding consultation which closed on 1 June set out a number of proposals for changes to the way the early years funding system operates. As part of our consideration of these options and to assess their impact, the Department is developing a more comprehensive evidence base of current practice around the country. We have asked all local authorities to complete a questionnaire, setting out how they allocate and distribute free entitlement funding to maintained schools and to private, voluntary and independent (PVI) providers. We are also working with authorities to produce estimates of the level of funding allocated to early years in each local authority and its distribution between the PVI and maintained sectors in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

We intend to collate and publish both the questionnaire responses and the levels of funding in each local authority so that authorities can benchmark their approaches to funding the free entitlement.

Pupil Exclusions: Education

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what discussions he had with Ministers in the *(a)* Department for Communities and Local Government and *(b)* Home Office on his Department's decision to require schools to provide full-time education for any pupil excluded for six days or longer; and if he will make a statement; [140751]

(2) what account was taken of the Government's *(a)* policy on localism and *(b)* Respect agenda before his Department's decision to require schools to provide full-time education for any pupil excluded for six days or longer; and if he will make a statement; [140758]

(3) what the basis was for his decision to require schools to provide full-time education for pupils excluded for six days or longer from September 2007; [140759]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the likely impact on *(a)* numbers of exclusions and *(b)* school discipline of his decision to require schools to provide full-time education for pupils excluded for six days or longer; and if he will make a statement. [140761]

Jim Knight: The requirement for schools to provide full-time education for pupils excluded for more than six days was set out in the Schools White Paper "Higher Standards, Better Schools for All—More Choice for Parents and Pupils" on 25 October 2005 and enacted in the Education and Inspections Bill in February 2006. This was cleared with Cabinet colleagues including the Deputy Prime Minister, then responsible for local government, and the Home Secretary. Requiring schools and local authorities to provide education for pupils who have been excluded ensures that no child misses out on their education when excluded from school and that they are not left to wander the streets during schools hours, in line with the Respect agenda. This particular requirement is part of a range of powers and duties in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 and is intended to benefit pupils who are excluded rather than impact directly on school behaviour. We will be monitoring the volume and pattern of exclusions from September 2007 but do not expect to see significant changes as a result of the introduction of this requirement, as decisions about whether or not to exclude a pupil should only be taken in response to serious instances of misbehaviour as outlined in the school's behaviour policy. Real progress has been made since 1997 in tackling poor behaviour in schools. Ofsted indicate that pupil behaviour is good in most schools and permanent exclusions are 25 per cent. lower than in 1997.

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding was allocated to tackling bullying in schools in each financial year since 1997-98. [141379]

Jim Knight: The figures for the anti-bullying strand of the Improving Behaviour and Attendance Programme are given in the table:

	£
2002/03	184,000
2003/04	1,054,000
2004/05	1,613,000
2005/06	1,145,000
2006/07	1,400,000
2007/08	1,700,000

Figures for earlier years are not available because the anti-bullying strand of behaviour work was not disaggregated.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which organisations his Department is working with to tackle bullying in schools; and in what year his Department commenced joint working with each such organisation. [141381]

Jim Knight: The Department works with a number of organisations to tackle bullying in schools. We have been working with and funding the following organisations:

Childline in Partnership with Schools (CHIPS) (since 2002);

Parentline Plus (since 2002);

Anti-Bullying Alliance (since 2004);

Diana Princess of Wales Awards Scheme (since 2004);

BeatBullying (since 2006);

Stonewall/EACH (since 2006); and

Childnet International (since 2006).

In addition, we have also been working closely with the National Strategies in developing the SEAL strategy for social and emotional learning since 2003, and they are currently working with my Department and Ofsted to identify schools with weak and ineffective anti-bullying policies and to provide targeted support to those schools. And we are working with a number of internet service and mobile phone providers to see what we can all do to address cyber bullying among school pupils.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on education per pupil in Brent in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2006. [140968]

Jim Knight: Total funding per school pupil aged 3-19 in 1997-98 was £3,840. In 2005-06, the latest information collected by the Department was £5,350.

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.

2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment / Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.

3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.

4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3-year-old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.

5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

Pupils: Special Educational Needs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children were given an individual education plan in each of the last 10 years. [141221]

Jim Knight: Individual education plans (IEPs), although recommended by the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice, are not statutory. Information on how many children have IEPs is not collected centrally.

Regional Development Agencies: Standards

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with regional development agencies on setting regional targets and priorities for skills. [141247]

Bill Rammell: RDA chairs meet Government Ministers, including DfES Ministers, regularly to discuss a range of RDA business including their role in skills.

RDA business priorities, including skills, are set out in the RDA Tasking Framework introduced in April 2005. Each RDA has agreed output targets for skills which include:

(a) the number of people assisted in their skills development as a result of RDA programmes;

(b) the number of adults gaining basic skills as part of the Skills for Life Strategy that count towards the Skills PSA Target;

(c) the number of adults in the workforce who lack a full level 2 or equivalent qualification who are supported in achieving at least a full level 2 qualification or equivalent.

As key members of Regional Skills Partnerships, RDAs have a central role in determining regional priorities on skills and report every six months on progress to DfES Ministers.

School Sanitary Provision

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 8 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 994W, on school sanitary provision, how many times he has directed *(a)* schools and *(b)* local education authorities to meet the regulations concerning the provision of school toilets and drinking water for pupils. [137376]

Jim Knight: The Department does not have record of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education and Skills having directed schools or local education authorities to meet the regulations concerning the provision of school toilets and drinking water for pupils.

Schools: Closures

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State, for Education and Skills what weight a local authority should give to a consistent rating of "excellent" when considering a small rural school for closure under a surplus places reduction strategy. [140876]

Jim Knight: Before publishing proposals to close a school a local authority must consult all interested parties on its proposals, including the school's staff, governors and parents, and other schools and local authorities likely to be affected. The authority must provide sufficient information and allow adequate time for those being consulted to form a view and make their views known, and it must take those views into account in deciding whether to go ahead and publish its proposals.

When deciding proposals to close a school the local authority must take account of statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The guidance does not specify the weightings that decision-makers should apply to the various factors they take into account, but it makes clear that they must be satisfied that closing the school would contribute to raising the standard of provision locally and lead to improved attainment for children. The statutory guidance also includes a presumption against closing rural primary schools. Although this does not mean that no rural primary school will ever close, the case for closure needs to be strong.

Schools: Crime

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools recorded incidences of (i) theft, (ii) criminal damage and (iii) assault in each of the last 10 years; how many of these incidents were committed by (A) staff and (B) pupils; and how many of those incidents resulted in the removal of the perpetrator from the school in question. [140779]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

For the academic years 2003/04 and 2004/05 information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'theft', 'damage' and 'physical assault against an adult or pupil'.

The tables provide a breakdown of the number of pupils who have been excluded for a fixed period or permanently from maintained primary and secondary schools for theft, damage and physical assault against an adult or pupil.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of fixed period exclusions for theft, damage and physical assault against an adult or pupil[2], 2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Maintained primary				Maintained secondary			
	2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Theft	400	1.0	400	0.9	6,550	2.3	7,020	2.1

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of fixed period exclusions for theft, damage and physical assault against an adult or pupil[2], 2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Maintained primary				Maintained secondary			
	2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Damage	830	2.0	990	2.3	9,200	3.2	10,220	3.1
Physical assault against an adult	5,190	12.6	5,960	13.6	8,110	2.8	9,490	2.9
Physical assault against a pupil	10,890	26.4	11,950	27.3	55,640	19.2	65,700	20.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of fixed period exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of fixed period exclusions.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: Number and percentage of permanent exclusions for theft, damage and physical assault against an adult or pupil[2], 2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Maintained primary				Maintained secondary			
	2003/04		2004/05		2003/04		2004/05	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Theft	[4]	[4]	[4]	[4]	210	2.5	220	2.8
Damage	30	2.1	10	9.3	270	3.3	200	2.5
Physical assault against an adult	290	22.9	290	26.3	820	9.9	900	11.1
Physical assault against a pupil	290	22.7	250	22.6	1,380	16.6	1,500	18.6

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey data and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the School Census checking exercise.
[3] Number of permanent exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions.
[4] Less than 5 or a rate based on less than 5.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census and Termly Exclusions Survey.

Schools: Fire Extinguishers

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding he plans to make available for sprinkler systems in schools in *(a)* Richmond upon Thames, *(b)* the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and *(c)* London. [140813]

Jim Knight: We do not propose to provide additional funding for the provision of sprinkler systems in new schools. An analysis of recently completed secondary schools showed that with good design and effective project management it is possible to cover the costs of sprinklers within existing funding.

It is our expectation that all new schools will have fire sprinklers installed, but this is subject to a risk assessment.

Schools: Sanitation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps his Department is taking to inform *(a)* local education authorities, *(b)* governors and *(c)* schools of their responsibility for ensuring the standard and cleanliness of school toilet facilities; [141077]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that *(a)* local education authorities, *(b)* governors and *(c)* schools are made aware of the recently published guidance on school toilets issued as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme; [141078]

(3) what plans he has to monitor improvements in the provision of school toilets as a result of the recently published guidance on school toilets. [141079]

Jim Knight: The day-to-day responsibility for ensuring the standard of cleanliness of school toilet facilities lies with the school governors with, in general, the local authorities having an overarching responsibility. This is laid out within the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, SI No.2 1999.

The guidance referred to in PQ 141078 is 'Standard Specifications, Layouts and Dimensions SSLD 3: Toilets in Schools'. This guidance has been developed to inform the building schools for the future (BSF) programme. It sets out standards of performance for toilet facilities and shows how they might be delivered through design examples. The aim of the SSLD series of specifications is to disseminate best practice and avoid "reinventing the wheel" every time a school building is designed so that consistently high quality environments can be delivered, offering best whole-life value for money. The new guidelines also seek to address the issue of bullying in toilet blocks, helping ensure that cramped, dirty and vandalised toilets become a thing of the past. Toilets in BSF schools will no longer provide bullies with places that lend themselves all too readily to antisocial behaviours.

School building clients, their professional advisers, contractors and their supply chains will use the guidance at the early stages of a project's development whether for new build, extension or refurbishment.

The guidance was published on both the Department[1] and Partnerships for Schools' websites and local authorities will be informed through newsletters that the guidance exists. The guidance is being reflected in the BSF standard documentation. The published guidance applies to new toilet facilities only.

The Department has no plans to monitor improvements in provision of school toilets.

[1] www.teachernet.gov.uk/schoolbuildings

Secondary Education

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions his Department has issued *(a)* directives, *(b)* requirements and *(c)* advice to (i) primary schools and (ii) secondary schools in the last 12 months. [138853]

Jim Knight: The Department only sends information automatically to schools in England in exceptional cases having stopped regular paper mailings in December 2004.

Discussions with head teachers and detailed research showed that schools wanted to be able to choose the printed publications they needed, when they needed them, and to be able to order multiple copies.

Instead, the Department has successfully introduced an online ordering service where schools are able to either download or order paper based copies of publications including guidance. A regular fortnightly e-mail is sent to schools to inform them of new publications. In addition, Spectrum provides schools, head teachers and chairs of governors with a summary of all the latest resources, publications, guidance and regulations. It is available online and can also be requested in paper copy.

Students: Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when the departmental inquiry on student loan fraud took place; what its nature was; who conducted it; what its scope and duration was; and when he expects to report its findings to the House. [140576]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* We constantly review procedures to ensure we can prevent and detect fraud, while making it straightforward for genuine students to obtain the funds they need to pursue their studies.

Over the last year, DfES officials—in conjunction with the student loans company and local authorities—have investigated a number of cases of suspected fraud, including some involving the use of stolen birth certificates to create false identities, which resulted in successful prosecutions. Alongside this the NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service has estimated the fraud rate for student support at around 0.6 per cent. of applications in 2005/06. We will work to reduce it further, but it is appreciably lower than other similar systems which involve payments.

Targeted Capital Fund

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether the Targeted Capital Fund will be accepting applications in the 2008-09 financial year. [141500]

Jim Knight: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State is considering his priorities for capital investment for 2008-09 to 2010-11, including the Targeted Capital Fund. As part of that, the focus and operation of the Targeted Capital Fund are under review. This is to ensure that investment best meets national education objectives, such as school kitchens to support healthy eating.

We will announce our capital programmes later this year, together with the arrangements for the Targeted Capital Fund.

Teachers: Sustainable Development

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will make it his policy to ensure that training courses for new teachers and headteachers include learning about sustainable development; [141192]

(2) if he will make changes to schools' curriculums to include more content about sustainable development; [141193]

(3) what support his Department provides for the eco-schools programme; and if he will adopt a target to make every school an eco-school; [141194]

(4) if he will introduce beacon school status for those schools which put sustainable development into practice; [141195]

(5) if he will make it his policy to require Ofsted *(a)* to inspect and *(b)* to report on schools' commitment to sustainable development in (i) teaching and (ii) property management. [141208]

Jim Knight: Building on school workforce remodelling and the reform of teachers' pay, we are working with social partners to deliver a new teacher professionalism in which all teachers are engaged in ongoing professional development that takes account of individual development needs, career aspirations and school's improvement priorities, along with national, regional and local priorities. Sustainable development can easily be incorporated into courses as part of a qualified teacher's professional development.

The National College for School Leadership already covers learning on sustainable development on the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH) as part of 'Developing a Strategic Educational Vision for the School'. The NPQH will be a mandatory qualification for new head teachers from April 2009.

Sustainable development is already a statutory part of the National Curriculum in citizenship, design and technology, geography and science. The current review of the secondary curriculum will mean that there is a sharper focus on sustainable development in these subjects. QCA will be developing supporting material to demonstrate how sustainable development can be taught across the curriculum.

Beacon school status was phased out in 2005 as part of a streamlining of existing programmes. The Government wants all schools to put sustainable development into practice and is encouraging them to do so through the current sustainable schools year of action. We value award schemes like Eco-schools and also local schemes such as Sandwell's Sustainable Schools Charter. DEFRA has provided £65,000 this year to the Eco-schools programme. The Department has no plans to adopt an Eco-schools target but all schools are encouraged to be sustainable schools by 2020.

We believe that school inspection should recognise where the efforts made to create sustainable schools are having a significant impact on a school's overall effectiveness.

As stated in 'Sustainable Schools for Pupils, Communities and the Environment – an action plan for the DfES', published in March 2007, we will be discussing with Ofsted how best to ensure that sustainable development is recognised during school inspections. The Department has developed a tool linked to the Ofsted self-evaluation form to enable schools to record and report their efforts on sustainable development. Sustainable Development is an important part of value for money in property management and as such should already be factored into inspectors' judgments.

Vocational Education: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to replace the access course in Gloucestershire in order to provide trainees with sufficient skills to progress from education to employment. [139286]

Bill Rammell: The LSC will be continuing to fund engagement provision throughout Gloucestershire in 2007/08 aimed at the same vulnerable learners that have been provided for through the access course. The local partnership team will shortly begin contracting discussions to take the work forward.

Written Questions: Administrative Delays

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 115508 on GCSEs tabled on 10 January 2007, *(b)* 116080 on GCSEs tabled on 11 January 2007, *(c)* 115509 on GCSEs tabled on 10 January 2007, *(d)* 117405 on GCSEs tabled on 17 January 2007, *(e)* 110498 on history and geography tabled on 17 January 2007, *(f)* 110756 on data security in schools tabled on 18 January 2007, *(g)* 110754 on the e-Learning credits tabled on 18 January 2007, *(h)* 110753 on e-Learning credits tabled on 18 January 2007, *(i)* 112155 on the 14 to 19 implementation plans tabled on 24 January 2007, *(j)* 117653 on GCSE results tabled on 25 January 2007, *(k)* 117650 on GCSEs tabled on 25 January 2007, *(l)* 117655 on GCSEs tabled on 25 January 2007 and *(m)* 117654 on GCSEs tabled on 25 January 2007, by the hon. Member for Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. [122125]

Jim Knight: The following table lists the current status of each PQ.

UIN Number	*Status*
115508	Answered on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 441-43W.
116080	Answered on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 443-44W.
115509	Answered on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 441-43W.
117405	Answered on 17 May, *Official Report*, columns 854-56W.
110498	Answered on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 440-41W.
110756	Answered on 21 February, *Official Report*, columns 766-67W.
110754	Answered on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 438-39W.
110753	Answered on 19 February, *Official Report*, columns 438-39W.
112155	Answered on 26 February, *Official Report*, column 1017W.
117653	Answered on 17 April, *Official Report*, column 545W.
117650	Answered on 21 May, *Official Report*, columns 1068-72W.
117655	Answered on 6 June, *Official Report*, column 496W.
117654	Answered on 6 June, *Official Report*, column 496W.

Young People: Sexual Offences

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on therapeutic services for children and young people who display sexually harmful behaviour in 2006-07. [140586]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

This specific information is not available. However, improving Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) is a priority for the Government. The commitment to improve CAMHS is backed up by significant additional funding, with over £400 million in the four years to March 2007 made available to local authorities and the NHS. Over £100 million has also been made available for 2007-08. An element of these funds will have been used on services for young people who have sexually abused and who need CAMHS.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Government have to promote and implement the new national strategy on young people who sexually harm others. [140609]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

The development of a cross Government National Policy Framework for the development of services for young people who sexually abuse is being led by the Department of Health and the Ministry of Justice. The framework will aim to use existing resources in a more coherent and consistent approach. A major focus is to build on and bring together what is known about the best practice and most effective treatment interventions so that practitioners at the local level can share these and define responsibilities more clearly. The intention is to publish this document by the end of the year.

Youth Opportunity Fund

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 672-75W, on the Youth Opportunity Fund, which local authorities made unsuccessful applications for funding from the *(a)* Youth Opportunity Fund and *(b)* Youth Capital Fund in each of the last two years; and for what reasons their applications were unsuccessful. [140656]

Mr. Dhanda: No local authorities have been refused funding. Every local authority in England receives a grant funding allocation, based on the size of the local 13-19 population and indices of deprivation. It is up to the local authority to operate the funds within the conditions of the grant.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 672-5W, on the Youth Opportunity Fund, what the reasons are for the regional disparities in local authority allocation for the *(a)* Youth Capital Fund and *(b)* Youth Opportunity Fund. [140657]

Mr. Dhanda: Funds are allocated to all local authorities on the basis of the local 13-19 population and indices of deprivation. These produce different grant allocations for each LA area.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cemeteries: Inspections

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many gravestones were deemed dangerous by inspectors in 2006. [140522]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not consider the risk posed by toppling gravestones to be a priority as compared to other workplace risks. Therefore, HSE would only inspect a graveyard following a serious incident. There were no reported incidents that warranted an inspection by HSE in 2006.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many graveyards were inspected by the Health and Safety Executive in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [140507]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not consider the risk posed by toppling gravestones to be a priority as compared to other workplace risks. Therefore, HSE would only inspect a graveyard following a serious incident. There were no reported incidents that warranted an inspection by HSE in 2006.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the minimum height is of a gravestone or memorial requiring inspection under Health and Safety Executive guidelines. [140524]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not consider the risk posed by toppling gravestones to be a priority as compared to other workplace risks. Therefore, HSE has not produced any guidelines on this issue. Additionally, whether the gravestone is secure and the condition of the surrounding ground are the factors more likely to effect the stability of gravestones and memorials.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incidents of falling gravestones and memorials were reported to the Health and Safety Executive in each of the last 20 years. [140535]

Mrs. McGuire: Reliable data for the period requested are not available. However, the available data show that, 21 serious accidents, caused by falling gravestones and memorials, were reported to the Health and Safety Executive over the last seven years.

Child Support Agency: Administration

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the processing of clerical Child Support Agency cases. [138730]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 11 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will make a statement on the processing of clerical Child Support Agency cases. [138730]

In September 2006 the Agency transferred all of its clerical cases to the CSA Bolton site managed by Vertex. Cases are processed clerically when, due to technical issues, they cannot be progressed on our computer system. CSA Bolton is currently processing over 28,000 Agency cases, and has delivered more than £14m in maintenance payments since its launch in September 2006.

Moving the clerical caseload to one site released a large number of Agency people to work on other important work outlined in the Operational Improvement Plan, including reducing the number of uncleared applications and strengthening enforcement. Over 400 Agency people have already been redeployed as a result of the contracting out of clerical casework.

This is the first time any of the Department's agencies have contracted out core work on this scale and as with any significant change, some areas have not progressed as smoothly as we wanted. We have identified those areas where lessons can be learned for the future and are working hard to improve client service.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children were living in households below *(a)* 60 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent., *(c)* 40 per cent., *(d)* 30 per cent. and *(e)* 20 per cent. of median income (i) before and (ii) after housing costs in at least three out of the last four years in each year since 1991. [135401]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 2 May 2007]:* The available information for children in households below 60 per cent. of median income is shown on pages 44-45 of the publication "Low-Income Dynamics 1991-2004 (Great Britain)" released by DWP in July 2006. This is available in the House of Commons Library.

Information for children in households below lower thresholds of median income is not available because the sample sizes for these estimates are too small.

Employment: Lone Parents

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what level of lone parent employment he estimates will be required in order to meet the Government's child poverty target by 2010-11. [132037]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 April 2007]:* The Government's child poverty target can only be achieved through a combination of increased parental employment, financial support and high quality public services for children and their parents. No estimate has been made of the specific level of each component which would be necessary. The Government are committed to a target of 70 per cent. lone parent employment.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received *(a)* housing benefit but not council tax benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit but not housing benefit and *(c)* housing benefit and council tax benefit in each region in each year since 1997. [140591]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people receiving *(a)* housing benefit but not council tax benefit, *(b)* council tax benefit but not housing benefit and *(c)* housing benefit and council tax benefit face benefit withdrawal rates of more than 40 per cent. against marginal income. [140592]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Numbers of people facing marginal deduction rates in excess of 40 per cent.

	Number
Housing benefit but not council tax benefit	200,000
Council tax benefit but not housing benefit	100,000
Housing benefit and council tax benefit	200,000

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.
Source:
Family Resources Survey

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average duration of a housing benefit claim was in each year since 1997. [140593]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available. Data on durations of housing benefit claims are not collected.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the claimant *(a)* on-flow rates and *(b)* off-flow rates for housing benefit (i) have been since 1997 and (ii) are estimated to be in the period up to 2019-2020. [140595]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed *(a)* incapacity and *(b)* another inactive benefit on grounds of rheumatoid arthritis in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the north east and (iv) England in each year since 1997. [140825]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Incapacity Benefit: Disqualification

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit sanctions were imposed on incapacity benefit claimants in each quarter since 1997. [123578]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 26 February 2007]:* Other than sanctions in relation to Pathways districts, the information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

For the available information on sanctions in relation to Pathways districts, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given to him on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 349W.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents have made repeat claims for income support in each month since January 1992. [138725]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Industrial Health and Safety: Directors

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the legal responsibility of company directors for health and safety. [139747]

Mrs. McGuire: At the Government's request, in 2005 the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) undertook an evaluation of the effectiveness of the current arrangements on director leadership for health and safety. Following its evaluation, the HSC chair advised Ministers on how best to strengthen these arrangements. In particular, revised guidance for inspectors has been produced that clearly sets out when it is possible to prosecute a director; and new guidance on director leadership is being developed, under the oversight of a stakeholder steering group led by the Institute of Directors.

Industrial Health and Safety: Noise

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many venues on the Public Entertainment Licence Register were served improvement notices under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to reduce the noise exposure of customers in each of the last five years. [139165]

Mrs. McGuire: The HSE does not record the number of improvement notices issued against venues on the Public Entertainment Licence Register and therefore the information requested is not available.

Industrial Health and Safety: Playgrounds

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fatalities there have been resulting from play activities in public playgrounds in the UK in each year since 1997. [136537]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive is aware of four fatal accidents arising from play activities in playgrounds since 1997. Of these, two involved playground equipment (swings, in 1997 and 1999), one occurred in a school playground during a sports lesson (in 2001), and the last occurred in a skateboard park (in 2003).

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recorded injuries, excluding fatalities, there have been resulting from play activities in public playgrounds in the UK in each year since 1997; and what the nature of these injuries was. [136538]

Mrs. McGuire: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of claims for jobseeker's allowance made by *(a)* telephone, *(b)* post and *(c)* an online claim form have taken (i) up to four weeks and (ii) four or more weeks from receipt of claim to payment of benefit in the last 12 months; [140393]

(2) what proportion of claims for incapacity benefit made by *(a)* telephone, *(b)* post and *(c)* an online claim form have taken (i) up to four weeks and (ii) four or more weeks from receipt of claim to payment of benefit in the last 12 months. [140396]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 11 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking about the proportion of claims to Jobseeker's Allowance and Incapacity Benefit made by telephone, by post and on-line that are cleared in under four weeks and over four weeks. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is contained in the following tables.

Jobseeker's allowance—cumulative 12 months May 2006 to April 2007

Time band	*Percentage processed*
One to 21 working days	84.2
22 plus working days	15.8

Incapacity benefit—cumulative 12 months May 2006 to April 2007

Time band	*Percentage processed*
One to 40 working days	92.3
41 working days plus	7.7

We cannot identify the time taken to process claims by method of claim.

Pension Credit: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what percentage of pensioners *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the north-east are entitled to claim (i) the savings pension credit and (ii) the guarantee pension credit; and what percentage of those entitled to claim each credit do so; [139738]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of unclaimed *(a)* guarantee pension credit and *(b)* savings pension credit (i) in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, (ii) on Teesside and (iii) in the north-east; [139937]

(3) many pensioners *(a)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the north-east are entitled to claim (i) the guarantee pension credit and (ii) the savings pension credit. [139737]

James Purnell: Estimates of eligibility and therefore take-up and amounts of unclaimed benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is not therefore possible to say how many people are eligible to pension credit, what the take-up rate is or what amount of pension credit is unclaimed in the geographical areas specified in the questions.

Latest estimates of the amount of pension credit left unclaimed and the number of pensioners who were eligible for pension credit in Great Britain were published in 'Pension Credit Estimates of Take-Up in 2005/2006'. A copy of the report is available in the Library.

The following table shows the number of households in the north-east, Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency and Tees Valley district local authorities receiving pension credit.

Pension credit household recipients

Region	*Total*	*Guarantee credit only*	*Guarantee credit and savings credit*	*Savings credit only*
North-east	*157,270*	*37,680*	*81,370*	*38,220*
Tees Valley district local authorities				
Hartlepool	6,220	1,490	3,140	1,590
Middlesbrough	8,290	2,330	4,170	1,790
Redcar and Cleveland	8,100	2,100	3,970	2,030

Pension credit household recipients

Region	*Total*	*Guarantee credit only*	*Guarantee credit and savings credit*	*Savings credit only*
Stockton-on-Tees	9,260	2,340	4,520	2,400
Darlington	5,510	1,460	2,670	1,370
Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency	5,140	1,230	2,630	1,270

Notes:
1. The figure provided is an early estimate. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory and are therefore based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.
4. Households are those people who claim Pension Credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:
DWP 100 per cent data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS) Pension Credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007.

Social Security Commissioners

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the target time is for responses to queries referred to the Social Security Commissioners; and what the most recent figure is for the time taken to respond to such queries. [140910]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

We aim to deal with correspondence within 10 working days. Obviously this may depend upon the complexity of the query. The weekly statistics for week commencing 28 May 2007 show that 97 per cent. of correspondence was dealt within 10 days.

I have been informed that the question is regarding a complaint. The MOJ definition of a complaint is any expression of dissatisfaction with service or facilities that needs a response. Our target for answering complaints is 10 days.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the circumstances in which registered installers must provide local authority building control departments with a certificate to state that the work undertaken complies with building regulations. [141874]

Angela E. Smith: Regulation 16A(3) of the building regulations 2000 (as amended) provides that persons carrying out work under self certification schemes shall, within 30 days of completion of the work, give the local authority a certificate of compliance with building regulations or notice to that effect.

Departments: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139475]

Angela E. Smith: The rent paid for the space occupied by Communities and Local Government, and its predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, on leased property for the last five years was approximately:

£ million

	Communities and Local Government	*Planning Inspectorate Agency*
2002-03	21.56	1.58
2003-04	22.83	1.57
2004-05	22.77	1.56
2005-06	19.79	1.56
2006-07	19.38	1.56

The figures include payments direct to the landlord where Communities and Local Government is the leaseholder, and contributions towards rent to other Government Departments where Communities and Local Government is the minor occupier. The rent paid to landlords excludes the amounts which are either recovered from other Government Departments where they occupy CLG managed buildings or property that is sub-let. The Planning Inspectorate figure excludes the amount recovered from other Government Departments.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government Offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was received by her Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139340]

Angela E. Smith: The amounts received by Communities and Local Government, its agencies and its predecessor Department, in rent from lettings, including receipts from Crown Bodies, for each of the last five years was approximately:

£ million

	Communities and Local Government	*Fire Service College*
2002-03	5.05	1.14
2003-04	6.58	1.25

£ million

	Communities and Local Government	Fire Service College
2004-05	6.90	1.22
2005-06	6.90	1.33
2006-07	6.8	1.42

Note:
The figures include VAT where applicable.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government Offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139362]

Angela E. Smith: During the last five years Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Department has retained the following freehold properties: Old Burlington House, New Burlington House and Hangar 97 Little Rissington.

The Fire Service College, an Executive Agency, occupies a freehold site owned by Communities and Local Government in Moreton in Marsh. The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, an Executive Agency, occupies a freehold site owned by the Department in Westminster.

The Department leased the following properties:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Ashdown House Victoria	v	v	v	v	v
Eland House	v	v	v	v	v
14th floor Portland House	—	—	—	—	v
16, 17, 18th floors Portland House	v	v	v	v	—
Sheffield House Stevenage	v	v	v	v	v
Hempstead House	v	v	v	v	v
2 Victoria St Glossop	v	v	v	v	v
Building 3 BRE Garston	v	v	v	v	v
Unit B Interlink Park Bardon	—	—	—	—	v
Marchington	v	v	v	v	v
Marchington secondary site	—	v	v	—	—
West Point Manchester	v	v	v	v	v
Calthorpe House Birmingham	v	—	—	—	—

The Planning Inspectorate, an Executive Agency has leased Temple Quay House in Bristol during these years.

Properties are also occupied under minor occupancy agreements with other Government Departments. These include Exchange Tower, Allington Towers, Ashdown House Hastings, Temple Quay House Bristol, Stockley House, and Titchfield Hampshire.

The current occupation of Portland House, Allington Towers and Stockley House are temporary while the Open Space Project, designed to improve the density of Eland House, is completed. This is planned for the end of this year.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government Offices which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Disabled People: Access

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to ensure that local authority planning departments work with local fire safety departments on the provision of disabled access rooms in multi-storey buildings. [142107]

Angela E. Smith: In England and Wales, where building work is being carried out the building regulations provide for access for disabled people under Part M (Access to and use of buildings) and means of escape in case of fire under Part B (Fire safety). There are statutory provisions, and associated guidance, for consultation between building control bodies and fire and rescue authorities. Guidance has also been produced to generally advise on providing suitable means of escape for disabled persons in the event of a fire. This guidance has been endorsed by the Disability Rights Commission. Different provisions apply in Scotland.

Home Information Packs

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to ensure that the work of home inspectors complies with article 8 of the Human Rights Act. [125350]

Ruth Kelly: The work of home inspectors will be contracted by home sellers on a voluntary basis and as such does not impinge on article 8 of the Human Rights Act.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government from which budget her Department's advertising campaign to promote home information packs which commenced on 25 March was funded. [134663]

Ruth Kelly: The campaign to promote home information packs was funded from the home information pack programme's service budget.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many home inspectors qualified to produce the energy performance certificates required in home information packs will be in place in time for the introduction of the packs on 1 June. [137090]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 22 May 2007.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consult mortgage lenders on the possible requirements

of both house sellers and house purchasers to obtain home information packs. [139763]

Ruth Kelly: Mortgage lenders have been consulted regularly throughout the development of home information packs. The Housing Act 2004 makes it clear that the responsibility to obtain a home information pack is on the seller.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the consequences for home inspectors of her decision to phase in home information packs. [140432]

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) on what date the revised home information pack regulations are expected to be laid before the House; [140865]

(2) what the timetable is for home information packs to become compulsory for the marketing of domestic dwellings other than four bedroom homes; [140857]

(3) whether the Government intend to consult on the proposal that home information packs will be required for a four bedroom home from 1 August before that date. [140856]

Yvette Cooper: Regulations relating to home information packs and the energy performance of buildings are being laid before Parliament today. These regulations will implement home information packs, including energy performance certificates, on a phased basis in England and Wales from 1 August 2007.

The Home Information Pack (no. 2) Regulations 2007 include a number of transitional provisions that the Secretary of State outlined to Parliament on 22 May 2007. These are intended to ensure that the implementation of HIPs will be achieved in a way that ensures the availability of sufficient assessors and inspectors.

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 make the changes necessary to bring the implementation of energy performance certificates into line with home information packs from 1 August 2007.

As well as the explanatory memoranda and impact assessments that accompany the regulations, we are placing in the House Library further information about how the operational delivery of the phased roll-out will take place, building on the current progress in the certification of inspectors and accreditation of assessors.

Further consultation on the age of the Energy Performance Certificate will commence in due course.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether a home information pack will be required if a home is repossessed and subsequently sold or auctioned. [140863]

Yvette Cooper: As announced last month, EPCs and HEPs will be phased in starting with four bedroom homes and larger properties—rolling out to other sized properties once sufficient energy inspectors are in place, nationally and regionally to meet demand, taking into account market conditions and evidence from implementation. This will include the marketed sales of properties that may have been repossessed, assuming they are not covered by any other exceptions.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps are being taken to prevent home and energy inspectors receiving financial inducements from householders or estate agents. [140873]

Yvette Cooper: HIs and DBAs are required to join approved accreditation schemes before working. All accreditation schemes have codes of conduct and systems in place to avoid conflicts of interest. There is a clear duty for accreditation schemes to ensure that checks including criminal records have been carried out as well as checks such as references. These checks are stronger than those carried out on other groups who have access to people's homes such as gas inspectors. We consulted the police who were content with this approach.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* timetable is and *(b)* terms of reference are for the consultation on energy performance certificates; and if she will make a statement. [141723]

Yvette Cooper: The Department will carry out a public consultation this summer on what, in the longer term, the maximum age of an Energy Performance Certificate within a Home Information Pack should be when residential property is first marketed for sale. This consultation will be in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance and include an impact assessment to estimate the costs and benefits for a range of validity periods from three months up to 10 years.

Housing: Energy

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W, on housing: energy, how many *(a)* domestic energy assessors and (b) home inspectors have failed their qualification examinations. [136949]

Ruth Kelly *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* The overall pass rate for the three awarding bodies which offer the diploma in domestic energy assessment is 71 per cent.

The overall pass rate for the two awarding bodies which offer the diploma in home inspection is 63 per cent.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W, on housing: energy, how many practising *(a)* domestic energy assessors and *(b)* home inspectors there are in each region in (i) England and (ii) Wales. [137011]

Yvette Cooper: The most recent data from home inspector certification schemes and domestic energy assessor accreditation schemes show the following information on certifications and accreditations by

region. There are a small number who come from companies with national coverage or who have not provided a valid postcode—these have been categorised as 'not known'.

Government office region	Accreditations or certifications
East Midlands	83
East of England	136
London	70
North East	31
North West	104
South East	214
South West	119
Wales	50
West Midlands	101
Yorkshire and the Humber	79
Not known	63
Total	1,050

Schemes have received a further 1,380 applications for accreditation. A total of 4,735 have now passed their exams.

Housing: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the requirement for building control permission for the installation of an additional bathroom in a domestic dwelling which does not otherwise require planning permission. [141819]

Angela E. Smith: Part G of the building regulations (hygiene) requires any dwelling to have at least one bathroom with a fixed bath or shower; and the guidance in Approved Document G describes how sanitary conveniences, washing facilities etc. should be constructed and installed, whether located in the required bathroom or elsewhere. Building regulations apply to controlled building works irrespective of whether planning permission is required.

Housing: Waiting Lists

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families are on waiting lists for housing; and how many of those are *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* immigrants. [139261]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities in England report the numbers of households (not families) on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns. However, information on how many *(a)* UK citizens and *(b)* immigrants are on waiting lists for housing is not held centrally.

The number of households on local authority housing waiting lists, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is given as follows and a copy has been place in the Library of the House:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/pub/853/Table600_id1163853.xls

Planning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she received from non-governmental organisations representing planning and environmental concerns on the planning system prior to the publication of the planning white paper, Cm 7120; and what responses she made in each case. [139958]

Yvette Cooper: A number of non-governmental organisations representing planning and environmental interests wrote or e-mailed with their views on the Barker report on Land Use Planning and the Eddington Review of Transport Infrastructure. There was also a wide range of meetings, discussions, and events at which representatives of those organisations presented their views.

The feedback we received from the range of events and representations from these organisations helped inform the development of the proposals which have now been put forward in the white paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (Cm 7120). There is an on-going process of stakeholder engagement in developing proposals for further reform of the planning system. We have invited views on a number of key proposals and other issues in the white paper and issued four consultation papers alongside the white paper on a number of detailed proposals. Formal consultation on these proposals will run until 17 August 2007.

Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the guidance to local authorities on *(a)* bidding for and *(b)* spending the funding from the Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund. [141731]

Ruth Kelly: I have placed a copy of the guidance on the funding process ('Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund: Guidance Note for Government Offices and Local Authorities in England', Feb 2007) in the Library of the House.

Public Service: Somerset

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of key workers living in *(a)* Somerset and *(b)* Taunton constituency. [141227]

Yvette Cooper: The Key Worker Living programme does not currently operate in the south-west region. Therefore, we have made no estimate of the number of key workers living in Somerset and Taunton.

Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the relationship between the number of buy-to-let properties and trends in rent levels in the private rental sector in *(a)* Luton, *(b)* Bedfordshire and *(c)* England. [139979]

Yvette Cooper: Figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that the number of outstanding Buy-to-Let mortgages in England has increased from around 120,000 in 2000 to around 850,000 in 2006. Despite this increase, the private rented sector as a whole only increased over this period from about 10 per cent. to 12 per cent. of the total housing stock[1].

Table 1 demonstrates that between 2000 and 2006 the number of BTL mortgages rose considerably more rapidly than the private sector rents index[1].

[1] *Source:* CLG Survey of English Housing.

Table 1[1]

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Private sector rent index (Base 2000)	100	109	116	123	124	123	130
Outstanding BTL mortgages index (Base 2000)	100	154	229	347	437	583	706

[1] These figures are best viewed graphically.

In recent years, due to the increase in supply of private rented properties, driven by the growth in Buy-to-Let, private sector rents have not been rising as fast as house prices suggesting that the private rented sector provides a more affordable alternative to owner-occupation. This relationship is displayed in Table 2.

Table 2[1]

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Private sector rent index (Base 2000)	100	109	116	123	124	123	130
House price index (Base 2000)	100	110	128	149	165	173	182

[1] These figures are best viewed graphically.

Information is not held centrally on the number of Buy-to-Let properties below the national level.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether information held by Rightmove from home condition reports and home information packs will be included within the current and historic database that the Valuation Office Agency has access to under its ongoing contract with Rightmove. [124475]

Ruth Kelly: There is no requirement for information from home information packs to be placed on the Rightmove website. Only information that has previously been freely available to the public on Rightmove's website is accessed by the Valuation Office Agency.

Written Questions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to Question 137090, on home inspectors, tabled by the hon. Member for Cotswold on 9 May. [140350]

Ruth Kelly: I have now replied to the hon. Member's question.

TREASURY

Annuities: East Midlands

Annette Brooke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average time taken to process tax rebates for senior citizens with annuities through the Leicester and Northampton tax office was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [141762]

Ed Balls: HMRC receives just under half a million repayment claims after the end of each tax year from customers who are outside PAYE or self assessment and who have had tax deducted from investment income, including retirement annuities. The Department aims to deal with 97 per cent. of repayment claims within 15 days and has exceeded this target during April and May 2007. Average time, or separate information for retirement annuitants or senior citizens, is not available. Recent changes mean that most retirement annuitants will no longer need to make annual claims.

Arthritis: Young People

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many children under the age of 16 years in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK died from the juvenile form of rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997; [140826]

(2) how many adults died in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK from rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997. [140828]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 11 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many children under the age of 16 years in *(a)* the Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have died from the juvenile form of rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997 (140826); and how many people have d[illegible] in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South

Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK from rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997 (140828). I am replying in her absence.

The attached table provides the number of deaths from juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in children under 16, rheumatoid arthritis (not juvenile) in persons aged 16 and over, and rheumatoid arthritis (either juvenile or not) in people of all ages, in (a) Jarrow parliamentary constituency, (b) South Tyneside local authority, (c) North East government office region, and (d) the UK, from 1997 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Number of deaths with a cause of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years) or rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over): 1 Jarrow parliamentary constituency, South Tyneside local authority, North East Government Office Region, and UK, 1997-2005[1]

Deaths (persons)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Jarrow parliamentary constituency									
Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)	1	1	1	0	2	3	3	1	4
All rheumatoid arthritis	1	1	1	0	2	3	3	1	4
South Tyneside local authority									
Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)	4	1	2	1	5	4	4	3	5
All rheumatoid arthritis	4	1	2	1	5	4	4	3	5
North East Government Office Region									
Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)	49	43	30	32	58	58	53	37	55
All rheumatoid arthritis	49	43	30	32	58	58	53	38	55
United Kingdom									
Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis (under 16 years)	0	1	2	1	1	0	2	2	0
Rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over)	900	870	796	818	1,133	1,115	1,036	921	970
All rheumatoid arthritis	900	871	798	819	1,134	1,115	1,038	923	970

[1] Cause of death for juvenile rheumatoid arthritis was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 714.0-714.9 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes M05.0-M06.9, M08.0, M08.2, M08.3 and M08.9, where there was any mention of these codes on the death certificate, and the person was aged under 16 years. Cause of death for rheumatoid arthritis (16 years and over) was defined using ICD-9 codes 714.0-714.9 and ICD-10 codes M05.0-M06.9, M08.0, M08.2, M08.3 and M08.9, where this was recorded as the underlying cause of death, and the person was aged 16 years or over. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from this cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on parliamentary constituency and local authority boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Charitable Donations

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised for charities through payroll giving in the last year for which figures are available. [141391]

Mr. Timms: The amounts raised through payroll giving for years up to 2005-06 are published on the HMRC website in table 10.8:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm

The table will be updated with the result for the year 2006-07 at the end of June 2007.

Child Benefit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising child benefit for oldest children by *(a)* £2, *(b)* £4, *(c)* £6, *(d)* £8, *(e)* £10, *(f)* £12 and *(g)* £14. [137544]

Ed Balls: The estimated annual cost of raising the rate of child benefit for the only or oldest qualifying child is shown in the following table:

Estimated cost of increasing the rate of child benefit for eldest children

Increase in weekly rate for eldest child (£)	*Annual cost (£ billion)*
2	0.8
4	1.5
6	2.3
8	3.1
10	3.8
12	4.6
14	5.4

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate how many children would be taken out of poverty assessed as 60 per cent. of median income if child benefit for oldest children was increased by *(a)* £2, *(b)* £4, *(c)* £6, *(d)* £8, *(e)* £10, *(f)* £12 and *(g)* £14. [137545]

Ed Balls: Estimated impacts on child poverty in 2007-08 of raising the rate of child benefit for eldest children is shown in the following table .

Estimated impact on child poverty of increasing rate of child benefit for eldest children

Increase in weekly rate for eldest child (£)	*Estimated reduction in child poverty in 2007-08 (thousand, OECD scale)*
2	50
4	150
6	150
8	250
10	300
12	350
14	400

Poverty is assessed as less than 60 per cent of median household income with reference to the modified OECD equivalisation scale; figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the value of child benefit and tax credit payments made in relation to children from birth to 19 years old as an average for those eligible for such tax credits. [139540]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 4 June 2007]*: The amount of financial support that a family will receive between the birth of a child and them leaving education will depend on families' circumstances and income in each year.

For 2007-08, the maximum amount of financial support from the Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit is £3,330 a year for the first child and £2,475 a year for second and subsequent children, assuming there is no eligibility for disabled child elements or the under-ones family element.

Child Benefit: Migrant Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether child benefit is payable to migrant workers living in the UK in respect of children living abroad in other *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU countries; and if he will make a statement. [135531]

Mr. Timms: A person may not claim child benefit if he or she is subject to immigration control. Migrant workers cannot usually claim child benefit in respect of children living in a non-European economic area (EEA) country.

However, benefits for EEA workers' families—including child benefit—are governed by European Community law. Consequently, migrant workers from other EEA member states or Switzerland may qualify for child benefit even if their children are resident in another EEA member state or Switzerland.

Crown Estate: Annual Reports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the cost was of producing the Crown Estate's annual reports in each of the last three years; [140469]

(2) how much the Crown Estate spent on *(a)* public relations and *(b)* corporate hospitality in each of the last three years; [140470]

(3) what the staff costs of the Crown Estate's Communication Department were in each of the last three years. [140478]

John Healey: The information requested is given in the table:

£000

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Annual Reports (including Corporate Responsibility Report)	131	132
Public Relations	443	462
Corporate hospitality	10	6
Communications Department	131	235

Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Crown Estate: Wind Power

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income was received by the Crown Estate from wind-powered electricity generating installations situated offshore in each financial year since 2004-05. [140466]

John Healey: £181,000 in 2004-05 and £386,000 in 2005-06. Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Departments: ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on IT procurement in each year since 1997. [134595]

John Healey: The IT related procurement expenditure for financial years 2003-04 onwards was:

£ million

2003-04	1.30
2004-05	3.27
2005-06	3.04
2006-07	2.36

Information on years prior to 2003-04 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135740]

John Healey: For previous answers referring to website costs and visitors I refer the right hon. Member to the answers given on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1352W; 10 October 2005, *Official Report*, column 285W, 24 June 2004, *Official Report*, column

1470W, 14 April 2003, *Official Report*, column 548W, 22 October 2002, *Official Report*, column 219W.

The cost of establishing websites operated by the agencies and departments for which the Chancellor of the Exchequer is responsible, plus costs and traffic figures for each website during the 2006-07 financial year, are as follows:

Department/agency	*Website address*	*Cost of establishing website (£)*	*Maintenance costs 2006-07 (£)*	*Unique visits in 2006-07 (unless otherwise indicated)*
HM Treasury	www.hm-treasury.gov.uk	[1]—	130,781	2,460,197
HM Treasury specific sites	thegfp.treasury.gov.uk	Nil	7,993	68,050
	www.isb.gov.uk	68,573	11,750	[1]—
	www.stakeholdersaving.gov.uk	83,145	[1]—	13,629
	www.ges.gov.uk	[1]—	[1]—	212,331
	www.redbox.gov.uk	107,391	[1]—	[1]—
	Sites hosted on shared server:		18,710.70	
	www.gsr.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]21,846	16,582
	www.policyhub.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]25,487	350,932
	www.euro.gov.uk	9,602	11,985	245,000
	www.wga.gov.uk	500	[2]500	[1]—
	www.csren.gov.uk	[1]—	18,711	9,311
	www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk	Nil	n/a	3,399
	www.financial-reporting.gov.uk	Nil	n/a	[1]—
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs	www.hmrc.gov.uk	[1]—	[1]—	49,359,066
	www.businesslink.gov.uk	[1]—	841,667	[3]825,424
Debt Management Office	www.dmo.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]92,000	[4]49,645
OGC	www.ogc.gov.uk	[1]—	250,000	1,163,088
OGC buying solutions	www.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk	[1]—	87,879.01	669,209
Government Actuaries Department	www.gad.gov.uk	18,286	676	293,317
	www.gadopss.gov.uk	20,680	14,616	[1]—
Valuation Office Agency	www.voa.gov.uk	[1]—	[1]—	817,847
	www.mybusinessrates.gov.uk	70,983	[2]2,585	112,573
National Savings and Investments	www.nsandi.com	2,347,675	[2]247,125	14,966,310
Royal Mint	www.royalmint.com	[1]—	[1]—	5,758,270
	www.royalmint.gov.uk			
	www.royalmintwholesale.com			

Department/agency	Website address	Cost of establishing website (£)	Maintenance costs 2006-07 (£)	Unique visits in 2006-07 (unless otherwise indicated)
Office for National Statistics	www.statistics.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]1,017,195	7,464,654
	www.statistics.gov.uk/PBC			
	www.statistics.gov.uk/about			
	www.stats4schools.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]2,250	67,524
	www.gro.gov.uk, and	[1]—	[2]77,305	4,002,440
	www.gro.gov.uk/cip			
	www.eustatistics.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]14,250	91,317
	www.ness.gov.uk	[1]—	[2]100,000	1,638,102
	www.onsiobs.co.uk (new website)	19,550	Nil	Nil

[1] Unavailable
[2] Staff costs are included
[3] For April 2007
[4] Since November 2006
[5] To January 2007
[6] Inclusive of hosting for all ONS sites except onsjobs)
[7] Responsibility for th is website transferred to the ONS during 2006-07

Notes:
1. These figures include all direct costs, for example web hosting, software support, and infrastructure
2. Staff costs are included where available. Where staff costs can only be established at disproportionate cost they are not included.

Departments: Marketing

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which items with his Department's logo were *(a)* produced and *(b)* bought by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each year since 1997; and what the cost was of those items. [141309]

John Healey: The Treasury's accounting records do not distinguish between the cost of items that carry the Department's logo and the cost of those that do not. Therefore the information requested is not held.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139454]

John Healey: I refer to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1064W. The Treasury does not record public relations expenditure as a separate category but a check of supplier and expenditure records for the financial year 2006-07 has revealed no payments to suppliers that are known to be public relations companies. A more comprehensive answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Freedom of Information: Regulation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* other Treasury Ministers have had with the Ministry of Justice on amendments to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and associated regulations in the last six months. [141390]

John Healey: Treasury Ministers have discussions with a wide range of ministerial colleagues as part of the process of policy development and collective Cabinet responsibility. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Incentives: Informers

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Office last exercised its prerogative power to reward an informer providing information that led to a recovery of money for the Crown. [140753]

John Healey: The last reward paid by HMRC for the recovery of cash was in March 2007.

Monetary Policy Committee: Public Appointments

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) in what circumstances Monetary Policy Committee members are *(a)* invited to serve a second term and *(b)* allowed to apply to serve a second term; [142093]

(2) what criteria he uses when deciding whether to re-appoint Monetary Policy Committee members. [142097]

John Healey: The Chancellor appoints members of the Monetary Policy Committee in accordance with the criteria laid out in the Bank of England Act 1998.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of the Monetary Policy Committee have been appointed for a second term since 1997; and how many have served only one complete term. [142096]

John Healey: A full list of individuals that have served on the Monetary Policy Committee since 1997, alongside meeting attendance and voting records, is available from:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetarypolicy/mpcvoting.xls

Since 1997, two external members of the Monetary Policy Committee have served two full three-year terms. The remainder have served for one full three-year term.

Taxation: Charitable Donations

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax incentives are available to individuals wishing to make financial donations to arts institutions in the UK; and what the cost of these incentives was to the public purse in each of the last 10 years. [140750]

Mr. Timms: There are several tax incentives available to individuals wishing to make financial donations to arts institutions in the UK, provided the organisation is a registered charity. These include gift aid, payroll giving, relief on gifts of shares, securities and land and buildings. Gifts of assets to charities or for national purposes are also exempt from inheritance tax and capital gains tax. Guidance about tax effective giving by individuals to charities is available on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/donors/tax-efficient.htm.

It is not possible to ascertain the amounts of these reliefs in respect of arts organisations because HMRC records do not distinguish amounts repaid to or claimed by charities according to the type of charity. However, estimates of the aggregate costs of reliefs on donations to charities by individuals are published on the HMRC website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/menu.htm.

Taxation: Insolvency

Colin Burgon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will assess the implications of recent events at Leeds United Football Club for the effectiveness of the rules for the taxation of companies in administration. [141258]

John Healey: I cannot comment on the affairs of any particular taxpayer.

When companies enter administration they remain liable to pay taxes. Their affairs come under the control of the administrator who should on their behalf pay taxes arising during administration as an expense of and subject to the assets available in the administration.

VAT: Overpayments

Chris Huhne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases remain to be dealt with following the Michael Fleming/TA Bodycraft case; how many full-time equivalent caseworkers have been allocated to deal with these matters; and when such cases are likely to be concluded. [140880]

John Healey: As at 31 May 2007, 740 claims were being processed by HMRC following the Michael Fleming/TA Bodycraft case. A central team of four manages the handling of the claims but they are supported by many staff in other parts of the department who deal with the tax affairs of the relevant businesses. For this reason it is not possible to quantify the total resource allocated to this work.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse has been of implementing the *(a)* child tax, *(b)* working tax and *(c)* pension tax credit schemes since inception; and what the cost has been of recovering overpayments for each scheme. [136255]

Ed Balls: The cost of introducing, managing and paying child and working tax Credits are published in note 3 of the trust statement to the Inland Revenue and HMRC annual report and accounts, for each year since their introduction. Information on payments of entitlement is also published in note 3 of the same publication, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/annual reps.htm

The cost of recovering overpayments of child and working tax credits is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pension credit is not a tax credit.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many and what proportion of people who are eligible but not claiming tax credits have incomes which are at or above 60 per cent. of median income; [139794]

(2) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* value of tax credit payments which would need to be made to increase the income of those people who are eligible for but not claiming such payments to 60 per cent. of median income. [139795]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Estimates for the number of in-work families who were eligible but not claiming tax credits, by income used to calculate entitlement, is presented in table 4 of the publication "Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit. Take-up rates. 2004-05." This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/takeup-rates2004-05.pdf

No estimate has been made yet, which is consistent with the published statistics on tax credits take-up, of the position within the household income distribution of those families who are eligible but not claiming tax credits.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the next set of data on tax credit take-up rates will be released; and what official releases of data in relation to tax credits there will be in each month from June 2007 to June 2008. [141428]

Mr. Timms: No release date has been set as yet for the publication of the 2005-06 tax credit take-up statistics.

Information on official release dates of HMRC Tax Credit National Statistic publications are detailed in the Annual Updating Plan, which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/updates/index.htm

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the potential annual saving from reducing the current tax credits disregard on income increases from £25,000 to zero; and if he will make a statement. [141485]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 851W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people were taken to court for non-payment of tax credit overpayments in each month from April 2003 to June 2007; and if he will make a statement. [141489]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 2963W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 965W, on agriculture: subsidies, when his Department expects to make the 2005 single farm payment to Mr. Francis, single business identifier number 106302271, a constituent of the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey. [141579]

Barry Gardiner: Mr. Francis will be paid his 2005 single payment scheme payment within 28 days.

Animals: Circuses

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 1 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1457W, on animal: circuses, when he expects to announce the findings of his Department's Circus Working Group. [140678]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Circus Working Group will shortly provide a report setting out its findings to DEFRA Ministers. We hope to have draft regulations available for full public consultation later this year, with the aim of them coming into force in 2008.

Cattle: Exports

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with dairy farmers on ending the export of live calves. [140614]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is in regular contact, on a range of issues, with bodies that represent farmers.

I am aware of the public concern over the trade in live calf exports. However, this is a lawful trade and European Union (EU) law must be observed. The United Kingdom (UK) cannot place a unilateral ban on the export of calves. The Government have consistently said that we prefer a trade in meat to the long distance transport of live animals to slaughter.

Consequently, we are seeking to encourage the industry to develop alternative uses for calves other than live export, and welcome the joint initiative from Compassion in World Farming and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals to bring together welfare groups, the dairy and beef industry and the retail sector to discuss this issue. They hosted an event last July which I attended.

The industry has developed domestic veal rearing systems that satisfy robust welfare requirements, but the opportunities to sell the product in the UK are very limited while there remains strong commercial demand for veal calves on the continent. DEFRA recently commissioned a study to look at the economic drivers and potential for developing alternative markets to the export of veal calves. The report confirmed that the domestic market for home-produced veal is resistant to growth. It did, however, conclude that there are commercially attractive opportunities for rearing dairy calves for the growing domestic market for manufacturing beef. This is promising and DEFRA will continue to play its part in encouraging such alternative uses.

Coastal Erosion

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on dealing with coastal erosion; and if he will make a statement. [141350]

Ian Pearson: The Department meets regularly with European Union and other European counterparts at official level to exchange ideas on dealing with coastal erosion. Forums include, for example, the informal North Sea Coastal Managers Group. There have not been any recent official discussions at ministerial level, however I have discussed flood and coastal erosion issues informally with EU counterparts.

Coastal Erosion: Demolition

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what grants or financial assistance are available to those who are obliged to demolish their property due to coastal erosion; and what changes he plans to make to such provision. [141303]

Ian Pearson: In general, property owners are responsible for ensuring their buildings do not present a safety hazard. There are no grants available from central Government to assist with demolition.

Approaches to helping communities adapt to a changing coastline are being considered in a project, under the cross-Government "Making space for water" programme, to assess the scale and effect of concerns and to develop a broader portfolio of options for addressing them. This includes looking at the current powers local authorities have in relation to helping communities at risk from a changing coastline.

Dolphins: Conservation

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to protect dolphins internationally. [140391]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2007]:* The Department works with other countries, through the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS) toward the prevention of significant disturbance to cetaceans.

The Department has implemented a comprehensive system of by-catch monitoring under the requirements of the EC Habitats Directive and Council Regulation 812/2004. In 2003, the UK was the first member state to publish a response strategy for the monitoring of small cetaceans by-catch. In December 2004, the UK banned pelagic pair trawling for bass by UK vessels within 12 miles off the south-west coast of England. The Sea Mammal Research Unit (SMRU) regularly reports the results of its research on by-catch monitoring which covers all relevant UK fishery sectors, including the bass pair trawl fishery to the Department and has recently presented us with their 2006 findings. This report will be submitted to the European Commission and published on DEFRA's website in due course. The Commission evaluate all contributing member states' schemes.

The Department also provides funding for the Institute of Zoology and Natural History Museum Cetacean (and Turtle) Strandings Scheme, which monitors and investigates porpoise and dolphin strandings around the UK. This long-running DEFRA-funded contract showed a slight increase in strandings around the UK coast in 2006 compared to 2005. The latest report is scheduled to be published soon and will be available on DEFRA's website.

The latter two schemes have been extended until 2010.

EU and DEFRA-funded SMRU work continues on by-catch mitigation measures in the bass pair trawl fishery. The final results will be presented to the European Commission in the next two to three months.

The UK Government have also identified the potential benefits of acoustic devices such as pingers in reducing bycatch in fixed gear fisheries and argued successfully for these devices to be required in certain fisheries by EU legislation. Prior to enforcing the use of pingers under Council Regulation EC 8121 2004, the UK Government wants to ensure that those we recommend to be used are safe and cost effective for the industry and offer the maximum protection to porpoises.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what base year was used in calculations of local authority populations in his Department's new waste strategy for England; and what account has been taken of significant future population and housing growth in designated growth areas in setting targets. [141947]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste Strategy is a national strategy for England as a whole and does not contain local targets. As such, no calculations were carried out which required data relating to local authority populations.

The modelling that informed the setting of national targets for municipal solid waste assumed that the number of households will grow at 0.8 per cent. per annum until 2020. The national targets for reducing residual waste per head use the 2004-based principal population projections produced by the Government Actuary's Department (October 2005).

Elephants: Poaching

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his assessment is of *(a)* the quality of the data produced by the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants system and *(b)* its ability to detect changes in poaching rates. [141251]

Barry Gardiner: I am satisfied that the standards established for the Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) system, together with the governance arrangements, including advice from the MIKE-ETIS Technical Advisory Group, ensure that the data gathered are of sufficient quality.

Similarly, I am content that the data available to MIKE are fit for the purpose for which they are intended, namely:

(a) to measure levels and trends in the illegal hunting of elephants;

(b) to determine changes in these trends over time; and

(c) to determine the factors causing or associated with such changes, and to try and assess, in particular, to what extent observed trends are a result of any decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme on emissions of carbon dioxide in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* other participating nations in each year since its commencement; and if he will make a statement. [141655]

Ian Pearson: The approved UK national allocation plan (NAP) for phase I (2005-07) of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme is set to deliver carbon dioxide emissions savings of around 65 million tonnes (roughly 8 per cent.) below the projected business as usual emissions of the installations covered by the scheme during phase I. The rationale behind emission trading is to ensure that the emission reductions take place where the cost of the reduction is lowest thus lowering the overall costs of tackling climate change. The emissions reductions referred to above may not therefore all take place in the UK.

Comparing 2003 and 2005 emissions in the UK from incumbent installations in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme shows a reduction of around 10 million tones (Mt) of carbon dioxide (CO_2). This equates to 4 per

cent. However, a number of new installations commenced operation and entered the scheme in 2004 and 2005, emitting a total of around 5 Mt CO_2 in 2005. Therefore, the net total reduction in emissions from UK installations (incumbent and new) in the EU ETS was approximately 5 Mt CO_2 between 2003 and 2005.

The 2006 EU ETS results in the UK show an increase in emissions from 2005 of 8.8 Mt CO_2. This increase was due mainly to unusually high international gas prices leading to a switch to coal in electricity generation. It is difficult to assess what the level of emissions would have been if the scheme had not been in place, but they are likely to have been higher.

A study carried out last year estimated that emissions reductions (abatement) across the EU resulting from the implementation of EU ETS in 2005 could be somewhere in the region of 50 Mt CO_2 to 200 Mt CO_2. We are not aware of similar analysis for 2006.

The Government are committed to a strong and effective carbon market as a key factor in combating climate change. Phase I of the scheme is a learning phase and, for this reason, caution should be exercised when trying to draw conclusions from the results.

Ivory: Botswana

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposal by the Government of Botswana to allow the trade in stockpiled ivory on an annual basis; and if he will make a statement. [141252]

Barry Gardiner: The Government of Botswana's proposals, for annual sales and an increase in the size of any one-off stockpile sale, are to be discussed in the course of the 14th Conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Parties. The UK, along with EU member states, is currently looking at these proposals. We are clear that an annual quota for certain Southern African countries could only go ahead after the one-off sale has taken place and in circumstances where that sale's impact on the conservation status and poaching of all elephant populations has been fully assessed.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposal put forward by the Governments of Botswana and Namibia for the unlimited commercial trade in raw ivory at the forthcoming UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference. [141253]

Barry Gardiner: I am not aware of any proposals by the Governments of Botswana and Namibia for the unlimited commercial trade in raw ivory.

Ivory: Kenya

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the 20-year moratorium on the trade of ivory proposed by the Governments of Kenya and Mali for the forthcoming UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species conference; and whether this proposal will have the support of UK delegates. [141255]

Barry Gardiner: While I appreciate the reasons given for the proposed 20-year moratorium, I do not agree with the principle and the UK will therefore oppose the proposal. Such a position would be against the tenet of the Convention; that decisions are taken on the basis of the best available scientific and trade data available at the time. In practice, no worthwhile purpose would be served, as a moratorium could be reconsidered and reversed at any subsequent Conference of Parties.

Ivory: Trade

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the level of the international illegal trade of elephant ivory. [141254]

Barry Gardiner: The UK has seen, and is satisfied with, the assessments of the level of the international illegal trade in elephant ivory made by the Elephant Trade Information System (ETIS). Indeed, since 2003, the UK has contributed £119,200 toward the ETIS programme.

Oil: Pollution

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 44-45W, on Oil: Pollution, whether he intends to pursue additional measures against oil pollution in those regions where the total number of private and commercial oil pollution incidents has risen between 2002 and 2006; and if he will make a statement. [141677]

Ian Pearson: The latest figures on oil pollution incidents show a clear downward trend in most English regions. This suggests that the measures in place are the right ones. The Environment Agency, as regulator, will consider whether additional enforcement action is required where the downward trend is not in evidence.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the targets set in the Guidance Notes for the Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 of reducing oil related water pollution incidents by about half between 1999 and 2005 have been met; and if he will make a statement. [141678]

Ian Pearson: I understand from the Environment Agency that the reduction in oil-related pollution incidents between 1999 and 2005 is substantial. I shall write to the hon. Member when I have the precise figures from the Agency to confirm whether the target has been met. I will arrange for copies of the letter to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Packaging: Recycling

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department has taken to encourage retailers to provide on-pack information about recyclability of packaging. [140805]

Mr. Bradshaw: Most, if not all packaging is recyclable. Commission Decision 97/129/EC provides for numbering and abbreviations to identify packaging materials. While the marking system is voluntary, we would encourage manufacturers to use the markings, wherever possible, to aid the process of sorting and recycling of packaging waste.

Poultry: Auctions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects it to be safe to allow poultry auctions to reopen. [141020]

Mr. Bradshaw: At present, there are no bans on poultry auctions. The temporary ban on gatherings involving chickens and ducks during the recent case of low pathogenic H7N2 avian influenza was lifted on Friday 1 June. Bird gatherings, including auctions, can now proceed as before, subject to the usual biosecurity, notification and record keeping conditions in the general licence, which can be found on the DEFRA website.

Recycling: Regulation

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government plan to review regulations for the operators of green waste recycling centres; and if he will make a statement. [141685]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environmental Permitting Programme, launched by DEFRA in partnership with the Environment Agency and Welsh Assembly Government, seeks to combine the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) and waste management licensing systems into a common permitting and compliance system.

The new system, consisting of fewer, simpler rules and clearer guidance, will result in a simpler and more unified approach allowing industry, regulators and the public to focus more on environmental outcomes and less on how they are achieved. A simpler approach should allow businesses to more easily diversify into new areas of waste management—for example, the new system will allow a waste operator to extend their site more easily.

There is also an exemption from the need for a permit for smaller composting operations.

All of the exemptions are currently being reviewed with the aim of revising them by April 2009.

Recycling: Voluntary Organisations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the impact on voluntary sector recycling projects of the introduction by local authorities of twin bins. [140920]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* No such estimate has been made by my Department.

Waste Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what expenditure from the public purse on *(a)* anaerobic digestion and *(b)* composting of waste was in each of the last three years; what it is expected to be in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [140638]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department is providing a range of targeted support to help increase the UK's processing capacity for organic waste and develop markets for its end products. Projects are being delivered by DEFRA's Waste Implementation Programme, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Environment Agency.

Composting

DEFRA provided £3,266,000 in 2004-05, £3,587,000 in 2005-06 and £3,479,000 in 2006-07 for delivery of WRAP's Organics programme, which is aiming to increase the UK's composting capacity by 23 per cent. A further £6.4 million has been allocated for 2007-08. Funding for future years has not yet been decided.

For every £1 spent within the Organics programme, an investment of approximately £2.80 has been made into the corporate industry by the private sector.

WRAP's Home Composting Programme was allocated £7,045,000 in 2004-05, £13,085,000 in 2005-06 and £10,116,000 in 2006-07. A further £300,000 was awarded to WRAP in 2006-07 for their Food Waste Collection Trials and £110,000 has been allocated to them for their work on anaerobic digestion in 2007-08. The aim of this programme is to increase waste diversion through home composting, where local authorities are WRAP's main delivery partners.

Anaerobic Digestion

The Waste Implementation Programme's £30 million New Technologies Programme, has contracted with four anaerobic, aerobic and in-vessel composting organisations to provide demonstrator projects. A total of £5,917,576 has been allocated to four plants.

In addition, approximately £600,000 will be spent over the next two years on research and development projects running alongside each demonstrator.

Expenditure over the last three years has been as follows:

		£
2004-05	—	0
2005-06	Total	1,139,749
	Bioganix	125,348
	Envar	280,563
	Biocycle	733,838
2006-07	Total	1,225,320
	Premier	911,263
	Bioganix	314,057
2007-08	Total	3,022,004
	Bioganix	85,595

		£
	Envar	788,596
	Premier	1,610,651
	Biocycle	537,162
2008-09	Total	530,417
	Envar	152,417
	Premier	378,000
2009-10		[1]0

[1] Projects are expected to be completed in 2008-09.

Under the auspices of the Methane to Markets partnership, DEFRA hosted a high-level international workshop in November 2006. Its objective was to identify the policies needed to grow markets for anaerobic digestion in order to reduce global levels of agricultural methane emissions. We contributed £58,241.96 to the cost of the event.

DEFRA has also spent £52,000 in 2004-05 £3,000 in 2005-06 and £132,000 in 2006-07 on research and development of anaerobic digestion. Resource allocation for future research has yet to be determined, but DEFRA is committed to ongoing funding for research in this area.

Un-ringfenced funding is also provided to local authorities under the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant, which is supporting new and more efficient ways to deliver waste reduction, increase recycling and divert waste from landfill. Local authorities are free to choose which projects they support to achieve these objectives. Local authorities received £45 million in 2005-06, £105 million in 2006-07. £110 million is allocated for 2007-08.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government plans to put in place targets for the anaerobic digestion of *(a)* household organic waste and *(b)* agricultural waste; and if he will make a statement. [140645]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has no plans to set specific targets for anaerobic digestion. However, we are committed to making the most of the potential of anaerobic digestion to contribute to a number of our key objectives: reducing greenhouse emissions, improving air and water quality, and a growth in the production of renewable energy.

The UK Biomass Strategy and the recently published Waste Strategy for England 2007 set out the important contribution which anaerobic digestion can make to achieving these objectives. Waste Strategy for England 2007 identifies anaerobic digestion as the preferred technology for recovering energy from waste and outlines measures to promote its greater uptake. It particularly encourages local authorities and businesses to consider using anaerobic digestion to treat separately collected food waste.

In the Energy White Paper, the Government announced that we would be consulting on the banding of the renewables obligation. Under these proposals, electricity produced by anaerobic digestion would receive two renewable obligation certificates per megawatt hours.

The Environment Agency has agreed to develop a standard for digestate in 2007-08. This will allow modern regulatory principles to be applied to the use of this material and bring certainty to when this material is considered to be "fully recovered". This should help to facilitate the development of markets for digestate.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of *(a)* household organic and *(b)* agricultural waste was (i) aerobically and (ii) anaerobically digested in each of the last seven years; how much he expects to be digested in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [140646]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total organic household waste collected by local authorities in England for central composting since 2000 is shown in the following table[1]. This is also expressed as a percentage of total household waste arisings. 2006-07 figures are not yet available. Based on an extrapolation from historical growth rates, the Waste and Resources Action Programme estimates the figure is likely to be between 2.9 million and 3.2 million tonnes.

	Compost tonnages (Thousand tonnes)	*As percentage of total household waste*
2000-01	798	3.2
2001-02	954	3.7
2002-03	1,189	4.6
2003-04	1,362	5.4
2004-05	1,960	7.6
2005-06	2,439	9.6

DEFRA does not hold specific figures for the amount of waste that is aerobically or anaerobically digested. However, a report from the Composting Association estimated that less than 1 per cent. of total waste was composted at centralised sites using anaerobic digestion. This estimate is based on a sample of compost producers which responded to the Composting Association survey.

Agricultural waste was not classified as controlled waste until the Waste Management (England and Wales) Regulations 2006 came into force on 15 May 2006, so no figures are available for management of agricultural organic waste. The Composting Association report[2] estimates that on-farm composting grew by 40 per cent. from 2003-04, from 0.25 million tonnes (Mt) to 0.35 Mt, but on-farm processing still represented just 13 per cent. of the overall organic waste processed in 2004-05.

[1] Municipal Waste Statistics

[2] 'The State of Composting and Biological Waste Treatment in the UK, 2004-05'

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the implementation of joint waste authorities; and what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities likely to adopt such schemes. [140804]

Mr. Bradshaw: My officials and I have held a number of discussions with our counterparts in the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) on proposals to allow local authorities to work together to deliver waste services, through the establishment of statutory joint waste authorities.

The Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government (Ruth Kelly) announced the Government's intention to introduce these powers in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill on the 22 January.

No estimate has been made by my Department on the number of local authorities likely to apply to create a joint waste authority.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking in response to the ongoing imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi. [140979]

Mr. Hoon: We have repeatedly condemned the continuing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. My right. hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary issued a statement on 26 May condemning the Burmese government's decision to extend Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest by a further year and called for her release and that of all other political prisoners in Burma. The EU also released a similar statement on 25 May.

On 28 May, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs, (Mr. McCartney), met the Burmese Foreign Minister at the Asia/Europe Foreign Ministers meeting in Hamburg and called again for the Burmese government to release Aung San Suu Kyi.

With the UN and other key partners, we will continue to press for an open and inclusive political process in Burma, and an improvement in the human rights situation. The release of Aung San Suu Kyi is central to both objectives.

Chagos Islands

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further action the Government plans to take in relation to *(a)* compensation and *(b)* repatriation for the Chagos Islanders; and if she will make a statement. [141056]

Mr. Hoon: The Chagossians have already received compensation to the value of £14.5 million at today's prices through two payments made in the early 1970s and 1982. They were also given the right to apply for British citizenship by the British Overseas Territories Act 2002.

In 2004, the Court of Appeal, following a two year litigation, confirmed the decision of Mr. Justice Ouseley in rejecting all claims by the Chagos Islanders to additional compensation from the Government.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will consider the 23 May judgment of the Court of Appeal carefully. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reserves the right to petition the House of Lords to grant permission to appeal, as she is entitled to do within one month. The Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore remains the subject of possible ongoing legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the return of the Chagossians to the Chagos Islands following the Court of Appeal ruling that the orders in council preventing them from returning were unlawful. [142051]

Mr. Hoon: The Court of Appeal handed down its judgment on the 2004 Orders in Council on 23 May. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will consider it carefully and reserves the right to petition the House of Lords to grant permission to appeal, as she is entitled to do within one month.

The Government's policy in relation to the British Indian Ocean Territory therefore remains the subject of possible ongoing legal proceedings and it would be inappropriate to comment further.

Chechnya

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the situation in Chechnya; and if she will make a statement. [138244]

Mr. Hoon: We monitor the situation in Chechnya and the wider north Caucasus regularly. Recent years have seen a gradual improvement in the security situation in Chechnya, resulting in the UN downgrading its security classification for Chechnya from Phase 5 to Phase 4 in August 2006. But the security situation in neighbouring Ingushetia and Dagestan is increasingly concerning.

The death of Shamil Basayev in 2006 was followed by an amnesty under which over 500 rebel fighters were reported to have surrendered, creating the opportunity for a process of reconciliation that could underpin long-term security. Although the general security trend is positive and large-scale military action by federal troops has now ceased, low-intensity clashes with separatist groups continue to be reported.

We believe that the best prospect for political stability in the republic is for the federal and local authorities to work together towards democratic accountability of government structures and to address the social and economic needs of the population.

We remain concerned about reports of human rights abuses in the north Caucasus. There are reports of forced disappearances, torture and extra-judicial killing in the republic. We believe that security measures which do not respect international human rights law are counter-productive and that a long-term solution to the region's problems is only possible once an end has been put to human rights violations. It is important that President Kadyrov ensures that all government agencies operate within the law and that all security measures are combined with a full respect for human rights.

The situation in Chechnya and the wider north Caucasus remains an issue of importance in our continuing bilateral and EU discussions with Russia. With EU partners, we raised the latest developments in Chechnya with the Russian government at the EU-Russia Human Rights Consultations on 3 May.

The Government are also active in assisting development in the north Caucasus through individual projects supported by the global conflict prevention pool, our bilateral £1 million north Caucasus education initiative, and the €20 million technical aid to the Commonwealth of independent states special assistance programme, which was agreed under the UK's EU presidency in 2005.

Departments: Ministerial Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of her Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the code of conduct for special advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140125]

Margaret Beckett: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Ethiopia: Political Prisoners

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what further steps she has taken since October 2006 to secure the release of Kifle Tigneh Abate and other opposition political leaders being detained by the Ethiopian government; and if she will make a statement. [140922]

Mr. Hoon: We continue to make representations to the Government of Ethiopia to ensure that the continuing trials of all opposition political leaders, including Kifle Abate, are swift, transparent and fair, and that their individual human rights are respected.

On 11 December 2006 our Ambassador in Addis Ababa raised the case with the Ethiopian Minister and State Minister for Justice. On 3 January and 26 May he met Kifle Abate's wife to discuss his ongoing trial.

Our Ambassador in Addis Ababa has raised the opposition trials with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi on several occasions, most recently on 11 May.

Embassy officials in Addis Ababa continue to monitor Kifle Abate's trial. At the last hearing on 14 May, the judges dismissed the charge of attempted genocide against him and released 14 of his 32 co-defendants. The court will reconvene on 19 October to consider the charge of "outrage against the constitutional order".

EU Constitution Treaty

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had on the EU constitutional arrangement; and if she will make a statement. [141475]

Mr. Hoon: EU institutional reform will be discussed at the European Council on 21-22 June. We expect the presidency to issue a report on its consultations with member states before the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June.

We have made clear to partners our belief that the EU should return to the model of an amending Treaty. The principles behind the Government's approach remain those set out in my written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Department's policy is on transferring additional powers to the European Union as part of any new constitutional treaty; and if she will make a statement. [141933]

Mr. Hoon: EU institutional reform will be discussed at the European Council on 21-22 June. We expect the presidency to issue a report on its consultations with member states before the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 18 June.

We have made clear to partners our belief that the EU should return to the model of an amending treaty. The principles behind the Government's approach remain those set out in my written ministerial statement of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS.

Foreigners: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what account is taken of past convictions for violent crimes when considering whether to issue visas to foreign nationals. [141362]

Dr. Howells: In accordance with paragraph 320(18) of the Immigration Rules, an Entry Clearance Officer will normally refuse an entry clearance application if the applicant has been convicted of an offence in any country, which, if committed in the UK, would be punishable by imprisonment of 12 months or more.

Iran: Afghanistan

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of Iran's decision to expel illegal Afghan migrants; and what steps she plans to take in response in Afghanistan. [140156]

Dr. Howells: We have received a number of reports from our embassies in Tehran and Kabul about the expulsion of illegal Afghan immigrants from Iran. The Iranian Government estimates that there are about 1 million unregistered Afghans in Iran who do not have refugee status and it has made it clear that it intends to expel them. Iran is also host to 1 million documented Afghan refugees.

In mid April the Iranian authorities launched a repatriation campaign for these illegal refugees, focusing particularly on moving them out of Iranian

Sistan-Baluchistan (with the movement of 3,000 refugees from Iran into the Afghan province of Nimroz in the first month of the campaign).

Against a backdrop of public and parliamentary disquiet the Government of Afghanistan is looking at ways to manage the situation. It has convened its National Emergency Response Commission, with the Refugee Ministry in the lead. The Afghan Foreign Ministry is in discussions with Iran to ensure better procedures to deal with the return of Afghan nationals.

We remain in touch with the Government of Afghanistan and office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees on this issue.

Iran: Nuclear Programme

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what International Atomic Energy Agency supervision the Iranian Government would be required to accept in order for the UK Government to be satisfied that uranium enrichment in Iran would be confined to entirely peaceful purposes; and if she will make a statement. [139826]

Dr. Howells: After many years of hiding its nuclear programme from the world, Iran needs to satisfy the international community, and not just the UK, that its programme is for purely peaceful reasons. The generous and far-reaching proposals presented to Iran on behalf of the E3+3 (France, Germany, UK + China, Russia, US) by Dr. Javier Solana in June 2006 would give Iran everything it needs to develop a modern civil nuclear power programme. These remain on the table and we stand ready to negotiate with Iran on the basis of these. But Iran first needs to suspend its enrichment-related activities, as repeatedly required by the UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors, to gain the confidence of the international community.

We will not be satisfied that Iran's nuclear programme is for entirely peaceful purposes until Iran meets in full the requirements of the international community. These include Iran's obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions 1696, 1737 and 1747, as well as the requirements under IAEA Board of Governors decisions and resolutions. In particular, as the Director-General of the IAEA has stated many times, unless Iran addresses the long outstanding verification issues, and implements the Additional Protocol which it has agreed with the agency, as well as essential transparency measures, the IAEA will not be able to fully reconstruct the history of Iran's nuclear programme and provide the international community with assurances about the exclusively peaceful nature of that programme. The Director-General has also stated that these required transparency measures would need to go further than the measures prescribed in the Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, given the 20 years of undeclared nuclear activities in Iran. In the Director-General's most recent report on Iran on 23 May, he noted that the agency's level of knowledge of certain aspects of Iran's nuclear related activities had deteriorated over the past year.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response she has made to proposals for *(a)* further incentives for Iran to suspend Iranian enrichment and *(b)* a further round of sanctions against the Iranian regime; and if she will make a statement. [140157]

Mr. Hoon: The report by the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. ElBaradei, of 23 May made clear that Iran had not complied with UN Security Council Resolution 1747. As envisaged in the resolution, the Security Council will respond accordingly and will adopt further sanctions on Iran. We remain committed to the twin-track approach and stand ready to enter negotiations with Iran, once they comply with the Security Council Resolutions and the IAEA Board of Governors, on the basis of the generous and far-reaching proposals presented to Iran by Javier Solana in June 2006 on behalf of the E3+3 (France, Germany, UK + China, Russia, US).

Iraq: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in setting up co-operation programmes between Iraq and its neighbours on *(a)* border security, *(b)* energy and *(c)* refugees. [140376]

Margaret Beckett: Following agreement at the Iraq Neighbours Conference on 4 May, we understand that the Government of Iraq plans to hold the first meetings of the working groups on energy, security and refugees between 5-15 June.

Iraq: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what body will have responsibility for the co-ordination and monitoring of the international compact with Iraq; and when this body is planned to be formed; [140372]

(2) if she will make a statement on the broader international assistance in the development of Iraqi security forces which is described in the international compact with Iraq; which countries are to be involved; and what form this assistance is to take; [140373]

(3) how often and at what level the participants in the Iraq compact are expected to meet; and if she will make a statement. [140374]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

The international compact for Iraq (ICI) is an opportunity for the Government of Iraq to set out its economic and political priorities for the next five years, with the help of the United Nations and the international community. It will develop the key reforms necessary to enable Iraq to make the most of its own resources and build a strategy for longer-term growth. The focus will be to build a framework for Iraq's economic transformation and integration into the regional and global economy. Its scope will cover short-term and long-term economic goals to enable Iraq to become financially self-sufficient, in order to ensure economic development and sustainable growth. The UK is pleased that the Government of Iraq is

tackling these important issues and we hope that regional and international partners will support their efforts.

The Security context of the compact stresses the importance for the Government of Iraq to work with international partners to develop the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF). Security assistance is provided to Iraq under the auspices of the multi-national force for Iraq. This force is in Iraq at the request of the Iraqi government and is mandated by UN Security Council Resolutions 1546 and 1723 to develop stability and security in that country; 25 countries contribute to it, all with the common objectives of helping to provide security, training and mentoring to the Iraqi security forces until they are fully able to manage the security situation.

Implementation of the compact priorities will be overseen by the compact secretariat which was established on 28 May in Baghdad. The secretariat will operate out of the Deputy Prime Ministers' Office and will be supported by a Steering Committee and a number of sector working groups. The secretariat will be responsible for coordinating, implementing and monitoring performance of the policies and reforms laid out in the joint monitoring matrix.

The Government of Iraq plans to meet regularly with the international community to keep them updated on progress. They will produce monthly/quarterly reports on progress against indicators in the compact. Such reports will be passed for discussion to the Baghdad coordination group (BCG), which includes all participants in the Iraq compact based in country. There will also be regular meetings with donors as part of sector working group discussions.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the impact of the US surge strategy for Baghdad on security levels in the city; and if she will make a statement. [141658]

Mr. Hoon: The increase in US forces in Baghdad and the surrounding provinces, as part of the Multinational Force in Iraq, is intended to support the Iraqi-led Baghdad Security Plan, which also involves the deployment of additional Iraq security force personnel as well as a range of political and economic activities. It would be premature to judge the success of the plan before all the additional US forces are in theatre.

Ultimately, the strategy is designed to create the political space necessary for progress by the Government of Iraq and other Iraqi parties and communities on national political issues, including reconciliation. We continue to provide encouragement and practical support for this process.

Iraq: National Reconciliation Plan

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in establishing a national dialogue and reconciliation in Iraq. [140375]

Margaret Beckett: High levels of violence have undermined progress on the Iraqi Government's national reconciliation plan published last year, but reconciliation and power-sharing between Iraq's different communities remains central to the country's future. We welcome the establishment of an Executive Council comprising Prime Minister Maliki, President Talabani and the two Vice-Presidents, which first met on 15 May. The Council will allow for high-level cross-sectarian oversight of, and co-operation on, key policy issues.

The Iraqi Government is conducting dialogues with various opposition groups and tribes, and there is evidence of Sunni tribes in Anbar Province working with the authorities to confront al-Qaeda in Iraq. We are also encouraged by the constructive approach taken by all representatives on the Constitutional Review Committee, which is considering issues central to reconciliation, including federalism and distribution of resources. We hope that the recent Iraq Neighbours Meeting in Sharm el Sheikh will lead to greater regional support for the reconciliation process.

Islam: Democracy

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to promote and embed democracy in the countries of the Islamic world; and if she will make a statement. [141070]

Dr. Howells: We support efforts to promote democratic principles in the Islamic world, including through our contacts with governments and civil society, and projects both bilaterally through the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund and multilaterally, including through the G8-Broader Middle East and North Africa and Euromed processes.

Kyrgyzstan: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to improve consular services in Kyrgyzstan; and if she will make a statement. [138548]

Mr. Hoon: The Government retain the services of an honorary consul in Bishkek, overseen by our embassy office in Almaty. The honorary consul is trained to provide consular services and assistance to British nationals who find themselves in need. The current level of demand for these services does not indicate that any increased resource is needed at present, but the situation is kept under review.

Lancaster House

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* conferences and events and *(b)* visitors there were at (i) Lancaster House and (ii) Marlborough House in each of the last five years. [141429]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) hosted the following conferences/meetings and functions at Lancaster House in the period 2002-06.

	Conferences/Meetings	Functions
2002	29	65
2003	23	51
2004	29	64
2005	38	59
2006	27	44

Although the FCO arranges occasional informal tours of Lancaster House no statistics are kept on the number of visitors.

The FCO does not have responsibility for the management of Marlborough House, which is carried out by the Commonwealth Secretariat. No FCO events were hosted there from 2002-06.

Lebanon: Armed Forces

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is giving to the Lebanese armed forces. [140367]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is committed to helping Lebanon to implement UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. As part of this, we spent approximately 1 million to support the Lebanese security sector, including the Lebanese armed forces (LAF), last financial year (2006-07). This included providing 47 Land Rovers to the LAF to increase their mobility and their capacity to implement UNSCR 1701. Our current programme of assistance includes a security sector advisor, public order training and equipment and human rights training for the LAF. We plan to maintain our engagement with and support of the LAF going forward.

Lebanon: Islamic Extremists

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the *(a)* origin, *(b)* affiliation and *(c)* role of extremist Islamist groups in Lebanon; and if she will make a statement. [140368]

Margaret Beckett: The Government have received reports on the origin, affiliation and role of Islamic extremist groups in Lebanon from a range of different sources. These include diplomatic, intelligence, press and academic reports.

We judge that there are a number of extremist Islamist groups operating in Lebanon, of different affiliations and with different and constantly changing allegiances and objectives. Hezbollah is the main force among the Shiite population. There are also several small extremist Sunni groups operating in Lebanon; this includes Fatah Al Islam.

We continue to be concerned by the presence of such groups in Lebanon and their effect on the country's long term stability. We support full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1559 which calls for the disbanding and disarmament of all militias in Lebanon.

Lebanon: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals have been put forward by the United Kingdom to resolve the impasse over the formation of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon; and if she will make a statement. [140377]

Margaret Beckett: The UK is determined that those responsible for the assassination of Rafik Hariri should be brought to justice. In November 2006, with the UK's support, the then UN Secretary-General wrote to Prime Minister Siniora inviting the Lebanese Government to approve statutes for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. In the context of the political impasse in Lebanon this was not possible, and Prime Minister Siniora and the Lebanese parliamentary majority wrote to the UN Secretary-General asking him to explore alternative ways forward. We have since worked with Security Council partners to assist Lebanon in setting up the Tribunal. UN Security Council Resolution 1757, formally establishing the Tribunal, was successfully passed on 30 May. We will work towards its full implementation.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place with the Government of Lebanon on initiatives to make political progress in Lebanon; and if she will make a statement. [140378]

Margaret Beckett: The Government have remained in regular contact with the Government of Lebanon throughout the political crisis of recent months. My hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East, (Dr. Howells), and I have both recently visited Lebanon to show our ongoing support for the democratically elected Government and to discuss ways forward with both the Government and opposition. The UK is also active on the ground through our ambassador in Beirut. The UK has supported a number of regional and international efforts by Saudi Arabia, the Arab League and the UN to resolve the crisis. We continue to call on all sides in Lebanon to show flexibility and engage constructively to resolve the current political impasse.

Lebanon: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which countries are believed to be breaching the UN arms embargo on Lebanon set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1701(2006); and what recent steps have been taken to improve the implementation of the arms embargo. [140369]

Margaret Beckett: In March, the UN Secretary-General reported that there was mounting evidence that Hezbollah was rearming and smuggling arms across the Syria/Lebanon border in breach of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. While the UN Secretary-General's report did not specifically identify the supplier of these arms, we continue to judge that both Syria and Iran are involved in providing Hezbollah with weapons in breach of UNSCR 1701. This is a serious concern.

The UK continues to work for the full implementation of UNSCR 1701. Bilaterally, the UK has provided the Lebanese armed forces with 47 Land Rovers to increase their mobility and capacity to

implement UNSCR 1701. We are also supporting a German-led initiative to improve Lebanese border monitoring capacity.

The UK fully supported the UN Security Council decision to mandate a border assessment mission to visit Lebanon. The Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team is currently in Lebanon assessing the current border security arrangements in support of UNSCR 1701. On its return, the team will provide recommendations to both the Secretary-General and the Government of Lebanon for improving the security of the Syria/Lebanon border.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what UN mechanisms exist for the review of the implementation of the restrictions set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1701(2006). [140370]

Margaret Beckett: The UN Secretary-General is required to report on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701 every three months. The UK fully supported the UN Security Council decision to mandate a border assessment mission to visit Lebanon. The Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team is currently in Lebanon assessing the current border security arrangements in support of UNSCR 1701. On its return, the Team will provide recommendations to both the Secretary-General and the Government of Lebanon for improving the security of the Syria/Lebanon border.

Mexico: Overseas Trade

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she plans to take to increase contacts and trade with Mexico. [141413]

Mr. Hoon: The UK's relationship with Mexico has broadened and deepened over recent years and contacts have increased. We expect this to continue, not least through Mexico's participation in the G8 plus five outreach group.

We now hold annual high level talks and in 2007 will introduce annual economic talks at senior official level. Ministers and officials also hold many other meetings with their Mexican opposite numbers. In January, President Calderon visited the UK. His programme included meetings with my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer and in addition key UK business leaders through a Confederation of British Industry event. During the visit my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa.

Most recently, my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, met Mexican Foreign Minister Espinosa on 20 April at the EU Rio ministerial meeting in Santo Domingo. In addition, officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs visited Mexico City in April to discuss UK/Mexico co-operation on sustainable development and climate change. We also liaise closely with the Mexicans over their role on the G8 plus five outreach group.

On the trade front, UK Trade and Investment's (UKTI) strategy 'Prosperity in a Changing World' has a particular focus on deepening our trade and economic relationship with emerging markets, and Mexico is identified as one such emerging market. As a result, UKTI's network in Mexico has been increased by five members of staff. Mexico has also been identified as a potential source of inward investment and has a new dedicated inward investment team based in Mexico City.

Middle East

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1511W, on the Middle East, what proposals the UK has put forward for the strengthening of the Lebanese border with Syria; and if she will make a statement. [140354]

Margaret Beckett: The Government continue to attach importance to strengthening the Lebanon/Syria border in the context of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The UN Secretary-General has recently voiced his concerns about arms smuggling across the border.

The UK fully supported the UN Security Council's decision to mandate a border assessment mission to visit Lebanon. The Lebanon Independent Border Assessment Team is currently in Lebanon assessing the current border security arrangements in support of UNSCR 1701. On its return, the team will provide recommendations to both the Secretary-General and the Government of Lebanon for improving the security of the Syria/Lebanon border. We are also supporting a German-led initiative to improve Lebanese border monitoring capacity and bilaterally with the Lebanese armed forces to build their capacity.

Middle East: Gaza Strip

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on the security situation in the Gaza Strip. [140381]

Margaret Beckett: We are very concerned by the on-going violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Since 13 May, when Palestinian factional violence erupted, over 45 Palestinians have been killed. Two Israelis have been killed in Qassam rocket attacks, and over 45 Palestinians, including seven children, have been killed in Israeli air force air strikes since 17 May. We welcome Palestinian President Abbas' efforts to restore calm and hope that all sides can exercise restraint. The cycle of violence and the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories underlines the need for the current on-going political processes. We welcome the fortnightly discussions between Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas as well as US Secretary of State Rice's recent efforts and those of the Arab League.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any progress has

been made by the Palestinian Authority towards meeting the Quartet conditions; and if she will make a statement. [140380]

Margaret Beckett: We will judge the Palestinian Government by its platform and actions and respond accordingly. We have always been willing to work with anyone who endorses the Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) principles: renunciation of violence; recognition of Israel; and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations. The US and EU also support this position. No Hamas members of the current Government have yet made clear that they have accepted these principles. We are working with those members of the Government who do.

Pakistan: Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the security situation in Pakistan; and if she will make a statement. [141741]

Dr. Howells: The security situation in Pakistan remains fragile. There is a high threat from terrorism and sectarian violence throughout the country. Internal security in the border provinces remains volatile, where there has been a series of recent attacks and suicide bombings targeted against both the authorities and the public. Since March, following the Government of Pakistan's decision to suspend the Chief Justice, there have also been frequent, sometimes violent, protests in major cities throughout the country.

We are closely following the situation and will amend Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice if we assess that the security situation has changed.

Palestinians: Security Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is providing to assist the strengthening of the Palestinian security forces; and if she will make a statement. [141740]

Dr. Howells: The UK has seconded staff to the EU Police Mission in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and EU Border Assistance Mission Rafah and the US Security Co-ordinator General Dayton. In addition, we have provided non-lethal equipment to the presidential guard and radio equipment to the Palestinian civil police.

Poland: Environment Protection

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government intends to make an intervention to the European Court of Justice in the case of the European Commission and Poland, on the construction of those parts of the Augustow and Wasilkow road bypasses that will pass through the Rospuda Valley and Knyszyn Primeval Forest; and if she will make a statement. [141119]

Mr. Hoon: In April, the European Court of Justice ordered interim measures halting construction work, and a date to be fixed for a hearing to clarify factual matters. If the case goes to a full hearing, once details are published in the Commission's Official Journal, we will consider whether to intervene.

Russia: Estonia

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have made to *(a)* Russia and *(b)* Estonia on the recent confrontation over the movement of a war memorial; and if she will make a statement. [138144]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not made any recent representations to either the Russian or Estonian governments on the dispute over the relocation of the "Bronze Soldier" war memorial. The Estonian Foreign Minister briefed my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and other EU Foreign Ministers on relations with Russia at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 14 May. The Government fully support the EU Presidency and NATO statements, which expressed grave concern over the safety of the Estonian embassy and its staff in Russia, and urged Russia to fulfil its international obligations under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. We see this as an internal matter for Estonia and we recognise the right of the Estonian government to relocate memorials and war graves. We note this has been done with due sensitivity and respect.

Terry Lloyd

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions her Department has had in response to the finding of the coroner in October 2006 that ITN correspondent Terry Lloyd was killed unlawfully; and if she will make a statement. [140908]

Dr. Howells: We have asked US officials whether they plan to take any action on Terry Lloyd's case following the Oxfordshire coroner's ruling last October that Mr. Lloyd was unlawfully killed. The US has confirmed that no action is planned.

The Crown Prosecution Service is considering Mr. Lloyd's case. We await the outcome of their deliberations and will consider any further action at this time.

PRIME MINISTER

First Ministers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what the status was of the meeting with the Welsh First Minister and the Scottish First Minister in January 2007; and in what capacity he attended the meeting. [140841]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Islam: Conferences

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Prime Minister whether his Office helped to organise the guest list for the recent conference on Muslims and Islam in the World Today held by Cambridge university in London. [141342]

The Prime Minister: Cambridge university organised the conference on 4 June, in consultation with a number of partners including the Coexist Foundation, which is an interfaith charity, the Weidenfeld Institute for Strategic Dialogue and the Government.

JUSTICE

Crime: Victims

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what support her Department provides for victims of crime. [141130]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government provide a wide range of emotional, practical and financial support to victims of crime.

The code of practice for victims of crime gives victims a statutory right to receive information, support and advice about their case.

The Government fund the voluntary organisation, Victim Support, £30 million annually to provide a nationwide service of practical and emotional support to victims and witnesses of crime. Last year almost 1.4 million people were referred to Victim Support.

The Victims' Fund, established in 2004, has so far distributed £5.25 million to fund specialist support services.

The Government fund the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority which awards about £170 million annually in financial compensation to blameless victims of violent crime (including terrorism).

In addition there are 165 witness care units in England and Wales, ensuring that witnesses receive a tailor-made service from the point of reporting a crime, so that they are supported through the court process.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent by her Department and its predecessor on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139397]

Ms Harman: Information on how much the Department has spent on legal fees in each of the last five years cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the total value of private finance initiative projects included in her Department's balance sheet *(a)* is and *(b)* was in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137824]

Ms Harman: Information on total capital value of on-balance sheet PFI deals by project is contained in the following table.

£ million

	2007	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*
Hereford and Worcester magistrates court	25.00	25.00	—	—	—
Humberside magistrates court	19.00	19.00	—	—	—
Manchester magistrates court	30.00	30.00	—	—	—
Derbyshire magistrates court	31.00	31.00	—	—	—
East Anglia courts	25.00	25.00	25.00	—	—
Sheffield Family Hearing Centre	5.00	5.00	5.00	—	—
Exeter combined court	15.00	15.00	15.00	—	—
LOCCS	27.00	27.00	20.00	20.00	20.00
LIBRA	38.90	38.90	38.90	38.90	38.90
Avon and Somerset magistrates courts	45.00	45.00	—	—	—
HMP Altcourse	68.00	68.00	68.00	68.00	68.00
HMYOI Ashfield	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00	26.00
HMP Bronzefield	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00
HMP Dovegate	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00	64.00
HMP Forest Bank	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00
HMP Lowdham Grange	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
HMP Parc	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00	47.00
HMP Peterborough	68.00	68.00	68.00	68.00	68.00
HMP Rye Hill	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00
HES1	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00	9.00
HES2	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00	16.00
STC Cookham Wd	14.30	14.30	14.30	14.30	14.30
STC Onley	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90	18.90
STC Hassockfield	15.40	15.40	15.40	15.40	15.40
Milton Keynes STC	19.00	19.00	19.00	19.00	—

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the value was of annual private finance initiative payments made by her Department from *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue budgets in each of the last five years. [137825]

Ms Harman: Information on annual unitary charge payments is contained in the following table, with all payments coming from revenue budgets:

	Annual unitary charge (£ million)
2006-07	181.04
2005-06	211.44
2004-05	183.47
2003-04	234.72
2002-03	423.76

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what value of annual private finance initiative payments by her Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137826]

Ms Harman: All payments made under PFI are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what value of annual private finance initiative (PFI) payments were *(a)* to repay capital and *(b)* expenditure on other parts of each PFI contract, broken down by project in each of the last five years. [137827]

Ms Harman: The Department does not hold records on this centrally. The information is not therefore currently available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agency Fees

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much her Department, its predecessor and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139911]

Ms Harman: It is not possible to list the costs spent on travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997 without incurring disproportionate costs as the expenditure is not separately identifiable within the Department's accounts.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the ministerial code and 'Travel by Ministers', copies of which are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members. All official travel by civil servants is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the 'Civil Service Management Code', a copy of which is also available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Expert Evidence: Expenditure

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what proportion of the legal aid budget dedicated to public law Children Act matters was spent on expert witnesses in each year from 2001-02 to 2005-06. [141096]

Vera Baird: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* prison governors and *(b)* prison officers are suspended pending investigation at each prison establishment; and if she will make a statement. [141278]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of public sector Prison Service employees, of any grade, suspended pending investigation is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Injuries

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prison officers were refused payment of a section 11 benefit award following the issuing of a certificate of permanent injury qualification in each of the last five years. [141431]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners

David Davis: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how prison population projections are calculated; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the models used to do so. [140913]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The models used to calculate the current prison population projections are described in Annex 2 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin 11/06, 'Prison population projections 2006-2013, England and Wales', published on the Home Office website in July 2006. There are five elements to the modelling. In the very short term (the first three months) the X12-ARIMA method developed by the USA Census Bureau is used. This method is publicly available at:

www.census.gov/srd/www/xl2a/.

In the short term (between four months and two years) the population is modelled by a stock-and-flow model. This is not publicly available as it links to Prison Service databases that cannot be published. In the longer term (between two and seven years) the Grove-Macleod model is used. This has been published in OR Insight Vol. 11 Issue 1, January-March 1998, pp. 3-9, 'Forecasting the prison population'. More detail is also available in Occasional Paper 80, 'Modelling crime and offending: recent developments in England and Wales' published on the Home Office website in 2003. The impacts of some changes in legislation and operational procedures are estimated using the Criminal Justice System Model and, if necessary, one-off bespoke calculations. The Criminal Justice System Model is owned by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and is available to CJS practitioners but

is not publicly available. Any one-off calculations are described in the aforementioned mentioned Home Office Statistical Bulletin.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* convicted prisoners and *(b)* remand prisoners committed suicide in each financial year from 2000-01 to 2006-07. [141563]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested in respect of self-inflicted deaths according to legal status is provided in the following table.

Remand/convicted self-inflicted deaths[1]: 2000-01 to 2006-07

	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Remand[2]	34	28	41	35	27	26	22
Convicted unsentenced[3]	8	10	15	16	17	11	7
Sentenced	35	37	50	42	42	37	44
Total	77	75	106	93	86	74	73

[1] Self-inflicted deaths include all deaths where it appears the individual acted specifically to take their own life, not only those that received a suicide or open verdict at inquest.
[2] Includes some with detainee status.
[3] Includes some with J/R status (judgment respited, convicted but awaiting further reports before sentencing).

Prisons

Mr. Howard: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1148W, on prisons, how many prison places have been provided *(a)* under the private finance initiative, *(b)* via other sources of funding and *(c)* in response to prison overcrowding. [141576]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the private finance initiative (PFI) the number of prison places provided (i.e. delivered) under this administration is 5,397, of which 894 places were contracted under the previous administration but delivered by this one.

Between the end of April 1997 and the end April 2007 a further 13,126 places have been provided through funding other than PFI. This includes a number of places in public sector managed prisons whose contract to build new accommodation will have been signed before 1 May 1997. It is not possible to identify those additional places associated with those contracts.

All this additional operational capacity has been provided as a response to increasing population pressures.

Prisons: Catering

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will list the prison establishments that have reported difficulties with catering deliveries following the introduction of the shared service centre; what the cost of the shared service centre project has been; which prison establishments have returned to purchasing from local shops for catering purposes; and if she will make a [illegible]tement. [140055]

[illegible]r. Sutcliffe: Difficulties with catering deliveries [illegible]t directly and definitively be attributed to the [illegible]uction of the shared service centre. As such there are no comprehensive central records that detail them exhaustively and compiling such a record would be prohibitively expensive.

The total cost of the shared service centre project is £84.8 million. This excludes capital costs and ongoing running costs.

Purchasing from local suppliers on an ad hoc basis is a recognised and legitimate contingency measure when failures are experienced in the main supply chain for foodstuff. For example, recent difficulties getting the bulk supply of long-grain rice from North America has caused the Prison Service to purchase existing stocks from local suppliers.

Royal Courts of Justice: Library

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether she plans to re-open the library at the Royal Courts of Justice to the public. [140831]

Ms Harman: There are no plans to re-open the library at the Royal Courts of Justice for use by the public.

Solicitors Regulation Authority

John Mann: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which solicitors were disciplined by the Solicitors Regulation Authority in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 to date. [140914]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority has advised that only a limited amount of information is publicly available on solicitors whom it has disciplined. However, an individual may contact the SRA directly to find out about an individual solicitor or firm of solicitors.

In 2006 there were 743 matters involving 1094 individuals that had a disciplinary decision recorded against the solicitor (as listed). There were also 495 matters involving 529 individuals that were referred to other bodies, including the Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal (SDT) and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO).

So far in 2007 there have been 396 matters involving 596 individuals with a decision recorded, and there have been 252 referrals of matters involving 334 individuals.

In extracting these figures the Solicitors Regulation Authority have defined "disciplined" as having one of the following decisions:

Disapproval

Finding and Warning

Intervention (this information is available to the public)

Practising Certificate—suspended under Section 13B of the Solicitors Act 1974 (this information is available to the public)

Reprimand

Reprimand severely

Vest Discretion (this information relates to conditions imposed on practising certificates and is available to the public)

The SRA defines a "matter" as a complaint or allegation. A single matter could be about a firm and the disciplinary decision made against some or all of the partners; therefore a single matter can result in multiple decisions.

Young Offender Institutions: Suicide and Self-Harm

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* suicides and *(b)* incidents of self-harm took place at each young offender institution in (i) 2002-03, (ii) 2003-04, (iii) 2004-05, (iv) 2005-6 and (v) 2006-07. [141564]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested in respect of suicides in young offenders institutions is provided in the following table.

YOI self-inflicted deaths[1]: 2002-03 to 2006-07

Establishment	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Castington	2	—	—	—	—
Hindley	1	—	—	—	—
Aylesbury	1	1	—	—	—
Glen Parva	—	—	—	2	1
Lancaster Farms	—	1	1	—	—
Portland	—	1	—	—	—
Stoke Heath	—	—	1	—	—
Brinsford	—	—	1	—	1
Reading	—	1	—	3	—
Swinfen Hall	—	1	—	—	—

[1] Self-inflicted deaths include all deaths where it appears the individual acted specifically to take their own life, not only those that received a suicide or open verdict at inquest.

The exact information requested at *(b)* is not available. Self-harm figures are derived from a national recording system of each incident of self-harm in prison, the majority of which are minor, and can be considered only as an estimate.

Young Offenders

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what criteria determine whether a 2052 SH form should be opened on a prisoner detained in a young offenders institution; and if she will make a statement. [141557]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The F2052SH (self-harm at risk form) has been replaced by an improved assessment and care planning tool known as the ACCT Plan (Assessment, Care in Custody and Teamwork). As with the F2052SH, in the event of any incident of self-harm, or whenever a member of staff believes a prisoner/trainee is at risk of suicide or self-harm, they must (where there is not one open already) open an ACCT Plan.

HEALTH

Bicycles: Trains

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the carriage of bicycles on trains; and if she will make a statement. [139955]

Caroline Flint: There have been no specific meetings on this issue. The discussions between the Department and Department for Transport Ministers in the context of the inter-ministerial group on physical activity have covered broader issues on the importance of walking and cycling to the physical activity agenda.

Blood: Contamination

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many known haemophiliacs who acquired HIV and hepatitis C through blood transfusions there are in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* the UK. [140358]

Caroline Flint: Data are not collected on the number of patients with haemophilia infected with HIV and hepatitis C who are living in Kent. Data for the United Kingdom are provided in the table.

	Estimated number of haemophilia patients infected through contaminated blood products who are alive
Hepatitis C[1]	2,538
HIV[2]	360

[1] Estimated data from the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Directors' Organisation National Haemophilia Database.
[2] Data from the Macfarlane Trust.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women are on the waiting list for an appointment at the North London Breast Screening Service; and if she will make a statement. [139009]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Strict quality assurance is operated across the national health service breast screening programme at a cost of £4 million a year and the performance of local screening services is kept under close review.

Following concerns in relation to the North London Breast Screening Service, it was temporarily suspended on 29 December 2006.

In April 2007, a report by NHS cancer screening programmes into services in North London was passed to Enfield primary care trust, and it, together with other stakeholders, reviewed the report's findings and recommendations and developed an action plan for improvement. As a result, the screening service resumed on 14 May 2007 and is being closely monitored to ensure quality and safety.

Cervical Cancer: Vaccination

Laura Moffatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she expects to make a decision on the implementation of the human papilloma virus vaccine following the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation meeting on 28 June 2006; [139170]

(2) if the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation will bring forward the date of its meeting on the human papilloma virus vaccine; and if she will make a statement; [139171]

(3) if she will ensure that she makes a decision on the introduction of the human papilloma virus vaccine as soon as possible after the relevant meeting of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation; and if she will make a statement; [139172]

(4) what discussions her Department has had with the Scottish Executive on the school-based vaccination programme for the human papilloma virus in Scotland; and if she will make a statement. [139174]

Caroline Flint: We are currently seeking expert advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the efficacy, safety and benefits that new vaccines against human papilloma virus (HPV) may offer. It is important that they thoroughly consider all the available evidence around HPV vaccines and that they only make recommendations when they are sure that all relevant information has been considered.

No decisions will be taken on introducing these vaccines into the immunisation programme until the main JCVI present their recommendations to Ministers for consideration.

Officials in my Department and the Scottish Executive have had discussions on this matter.

Dental Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has issued to primary care trusts on how they should interpret their duty to meet all reasonable requirements for NHS dentistry under the Health and Social Care Act 2003. [138262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The commissioning framework set out in the Annex to "Health Reform in England", published by the Department in July 2006, sets out guidance for commissioning national health service services. Further guidance on commissioning is set out in the "Commissioning framework for health and well-being" published in March 2007. The principles and features of good commissioning set out in these documents, including the importance of assessing local needs, reviewing service provision, deciding priorities, designing services and seeking public and patient views, apply to commissioning primary dental care services.

Dental Services: Dorset

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices in *(a)* North Dorset Primary Care Trust; *(b)* South and East Dorset Primary Care Trust and *(c)* South West Dorset Primary Care Trust accepted NHS patients in the 12-month period up to April 2006. [140700]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on dental practices accepting national health service patients is not held centrally. However, information on the number of NHS dental practices and dentists in the North Dorset, South and East Dorset and South West Dorset Primary Care Trusts (PCT) in the 12-month period up to April 2006 is shown in the following table.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): Total numbers of GDS/PDS dentists and practices in specific primary care trusts (PCTs) as at 31 March 2006

Primary care trust	*Total number of GDS and PDS dentists*[1]	*Number of dental practices*
North Dorset	40	13
South and East Dorset	70	29
South West Dorset	65	30

[1] Data are extracted from NHS Dentist Statistics for England Quarter 3: 31 December 2006 report published by The Information Centre on 23 March 2007.

Notes:

1. Dentists will be counted more than once if they have contracts in more than one PCT.
2. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the PCT.
3. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees. Prison and emergency contracts are excluded.
4. A dentist with a contract may provide as little or as much NHS treatment as he or she chooses.

Source:

Business Services Authority
The Information Centre for health and social care

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dental practices within Dorset Primary Care Trust are accepting NHS patients. [140701]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data on national health service dental practices accepting new NHS patients are not available centrally under the new contractual arrangements. However, data on the number of NHS dentists (performers) contracted to perform NHS dental work at primary care trust (PCT) level are available.

Data on the number of NHS dentists (performers) are available quarter ending 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 at England, strategic health authority and PCT levels in section G of annex 3 of the

NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3:31 December 2006 report published by The Information Centre for health and social care. This table also includes the population per NHS dentist.

This report has been placed in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Data for the quarter ending March 2007 will be published 19 June 2007.

Doctors: Training

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements her Department *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make to analyse the security implications of the recent Medical Training Application Service website security breach for the Connecting for Health IT project. [136007]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Department has investigated the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) security breach and discovered that it resulted from a failure on the part of those contracted by the Department to provide this service to apply appropriate security safeguards.

MTAS was not implemented by the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency, nor developed by any of its systems suppliers. There are no security implications for any of the applications or services which the agency is providing for the national health service via the national programme for information technology.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding her Department has provided for drug rehabilitation in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139014]

Caroline Flint: Funding which has been made available, in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget (PTB) and local mainstream funding, for the treatment of drug misuse for England in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

£ million

	PTB	*Local funding*	*Total*
2002-03	191	131	322
2003-04	236	200	436
2004-05	253	204	457
2005-06	300	208	508
2006-07	385	212	597

The PTB is allocated to drug action teams throughout the country, who use the funding to commission all forms of drug treatment services to best meet local need.

A further £54.3 million of capital funding was identified in 2006 to improve inpatient and residential drug and alcohol facilities and access to those services. There was a national bidding process held and the money will be available to fund the successful building projects over the next two years.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many places for drug rehabilitation were made available in each of the last five years, broken down by region; and if she will make a statement. [139021]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ephedrine and Pseudoephedrine

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what legal limit applies to the quantity of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine that can be bought on the internet and imported to the UK; and whether her Department plans to criminalise such imports. [134666]

Caroline Flint: In the United Kingdom, there are strict legal controls on the retail sale, supply and advertisement of medicinal products. Pharmacy medicines must be supplied from a registered pharmacy by, or under the supervision of, a pharmacist. These controls apply equally to medicines sold or supplied through internet transactions and mail order. If supply is made through a UK pharmacy-based internet transaction then there is currently no legal restriction of quantity, although a pharmacist would use their professional judgment whether or not to supply the quantity sought.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) monitors the online availability of medicines. UK based websites which are identified dealing in breach of medicines legislation are referred for appropriate enforcement action. Websites discovered operating illegally outside of the UK are referred to the relevant authority in the country concerned for appropriate action.

As precursors that can be used in the manufacture of illicit drugs, ephedrine and pseudoephedrine are subject to the 1988 UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and are scheduled as category 1 precursors under European legislation. Anyone who imports any quantity of ephedrine and pseudoephedrine is required to obtain a license from the Home Office. The Home Office is currently preparing legislation, to supplement European Union regulation, which will impose criminal penalties for the importation of scheduled substances, including ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, without a valid importation authorisation.

Fats: Health Hazards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the typical unsaturated fat content of a serving of *(a)* oven chips, *(b)* deep fried chips, *(c)* chicken masala, *(d)* fish and chips and *(e)* samosa. [139727]

Caroline Flint: Data on the unsaturated fatty acid content of foods can be found in McCance and Widdowson's *The Composition of Foods* series. Latest data from this series published in 2002 are set out in the following table.

Food	Total unsaturated fatty acids (9/100g)[1]	Typical portion size (g)[2]	Total unsaturated fatty acids per serving (g)
Oven chips, frozen, baked	2.2	165	3.6
Chips[3], retail, fried in blended oil	10.7	210	22.5
Chicken tikka masala, retail	6.6	300	19.8
Fish[4] and chips[3], fried in blended oil	11.7	380	44.6
Meat samosas, takeaway	11.8	70	8.3

[1] Data from Food Standards Agency (2002) McCance and Widdowson's The Composition of Foods, Sixth summary edition. Cambridge: Royal Society of Chemistry.
[2] Portion size information taken from Food Standards Agency (2002) Food Portion Sizes, 3rd Edition, London, HMSO.
[3] The fat content of chips will be variable and dependent on a number of factors related to their preparation, including how thick they are cut and their shape, i.e. crinkle as opposed to straight cut.
[4] Based on cod, in batter, fried in blended oil.

Folic Acid: Flour

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's policy is on adding folic acid to flour. [139191]

Caroline Flint: The Department is expected to receive advice from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on the issue of folic acid fortification.

At its open meeting in May 2007, the FSA Board recommended the mandatory fortification of bread or flour. The Board will consider whether to fortify bread, flour, or flour for bread making purposes only, at its open meeting in June 2007, after which it will submit its advice to United Kingdom Health Ministers.

Food Poisoning

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many recorded incidents of food poisoning there were in each of the last 10 years. [140174]

Caroline Flint: The number of notified cases of food poisoning in England and Wales reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) each year since 1996 is shown in the following table. Total notifications have shown a decrease since 1996.

Annual corrected food poisoning notifications. England and Wales 1996 to 2006[1]

	Formal notifications	Notifications otherwise ascertained[2]	Total
1996	50,718	32,515	83,233
1997	54,233	39,668	93,901
1998	53,764	40,168	93,982
1999	48,454	37,862	86,316
2000	46,481	40,047	86,528
2001	46,768	38,700	85,468
2002	38,541	34,108	72,649
2003	35,695	35,200	70,895
2004	34,376	35,935	70,311
2005	34,642	35,765	70,407
2006[3]	31,374	39,557	70,931

[1] Includes port health authorities.
[2] Provisional data.
Source:
HPA.

Food: Additives

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when she last met the Hyperactive Children's Support Group to discuss children's food additives; and if she will publish the minutes of the meeting; [140175]

(2) what assessment she has made of the initial findings of research by the University of Southampton commissioned for the Food Standards Agency on children's food additives; when she expects the report to be published in full; and if she will make a statement; [140176]

(3) what recent assessment she has made of the levels of public trust in food safety; and if she will make a statement; [140177]

(4) when she last met the Food Standards Agency to discuss additives to children's food; and if she will publish the minutes of the meeting; [140192]

(5) what recent discussions she has held with Ministers of other EU states on food additives. [140193]

Caroline Flint: No recent discussions have been held with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on additives in children's food, nor have there been any meetings with the Hyperactive Children's Support Group.

The findings of the research by Southampton University on food additives and children's behaviour are currently undergoing a process of peer review by experts from one of the Government's independent advisory committees (the Committee on Toxicology of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment) and as part of the process of publication in a scientific journal. This peer review process ensures that the validity of the research is confirmed. The full technical report from the study is currently being finalised and will be published after the scientific papers are published in a scientific journal. Prior release of the results of the research would jeopardise the publication of the scientific papers.

There have been no discussions with other Ministers from European Union member states on food additives; however, discussions between EU member states are currently on-going concerning revisions to the harmonised food additive legislative framework. The European Food Safety Authority has commenced a review of the safety of all food additives, starting with colours, and the FSA will inform the European Commission when the Southampton University research is published so the results can be considered as part of the EU review.

An assessment of the levels of public trust in food safety is made annually, using the FSA's Consumer Attitudes Survey which is published on their website at:

www.food.gov.uk/science/surveys/foodsafety-nutrition-diet

From this survey the proportion of UK adults saying they are concerned about food safety remained constant between 2000 and 2005.

Food: Advertising

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will hold discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport to ensure the Committee for Advertising Practices revised non-broadcast code makes a difference to the nature and balance of advertising of foods high in fat, sugar and salt to children under the age of 16 years; and if she will make a statement. [140584]

Caroline Flint: Departmental officials and I meet regularly with our counterparts in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to discuss the CAP, BCAP and Ofcom rules regarding the advertising and promotion of food in non-broadcast and broadcast media. The Government are committed to reviewing the change in the nature and balance of food advertising and promotion to children in 2008 and will consider further action based on the outcome of that review.

Food: Labelling

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the Food Standards Agency's colour-coded food labelling recommendations on consumer behaviour. [139743]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has made a commitment to independently evaluate front of pack nutrition signpost labelling schemes in operation in the United Kingdom and their effect on consumer behaviour and understanding. A study will be commissioned later this year to carry out a comparative evaluation of the three main front of pack labelling approaches currently in use in the UK marketplace, including the FSA's recommended colour coded scheme.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* food labelling expressing guideline daily amounts and *(b)* other food labelling differing from the Food Standards Agency's recommendations. [139744]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency has made a commitment to independently evaluate front of pack nutrition signpost labelling schemes in operation in the United Kingdom and their effect on consumer behaviour and understanding. A study will be commissioned later this year to carry out a comparative evaluation of the three main front of pack labelling approaches currently in use in the UK marketplace.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the level of implementation of the Food Standards Agency's colour-coded food labelling recommendations. [139940]

Caroline Flint: Current adopters of the Food Standards Agency (FSA's) front of pack signpost nutrition labelling approach tell us that by the end of 2007 over 8,000 own label retailer products and 100 manufacturer product lines will carry signpost labelling based on the FSA's core principles. This includes products by Boots, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's, Waitrose, the Co-operative Group, Virgin trains, Avondale, Britannia, The New Covent Garden Soup Company, McCain, Moypark, Bernard Matthews, S&B Herba Foods, Bombay Halwa and Budgens/Londis.

A number of additional companies are in the process of putting traffic light front of pack signpost labelling on their products, so these figures are likely to increase later in the year. A full list of those who are using the traffic light signpost can be found on the FSA's eatwell website at www.eatwell.gov.uk.

Food: Safety

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what further steps she plans to take to ensure that food that is past its use-by date is not sold to the public. [139236]

Caroline Flint: Legislation requires that food business operators ensure that all food sold or supplied is safe for human consumption. Most pre-packed food must also be labelled with a use-by date or a best before date as an indication of minimum durability. It is illegal to sell food after its use-by date.

Responsibility for enforcing this legislation falls to local authorities, who carry out checks to ensure that hygiene and labelling requirements are met, taking enforcement action where appropriate.

Health Hazards: Noise

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to educate people about the risk to their hearing from over exposure to loud noise; and if she will make a statement. [139164]

Caroline Flint: The Department has set up an ad hoc advisory group to advise about the effects of environmental noise on health, which includes the risk to hearing from over exposure to loud noise. This group is currently producing a report on these matters, which is due to be published later this year.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) produce a leaflet entitled 'Protect your hearing or lose it', which looks at noise and health issues in the workplace. This is available on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg363.pdf, and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Hybrid Embryos

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance her Department has given to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on the use of hybrid embryos; and if she will make a statement. [139189]

Caroline Flint: No advice or guidance has been given to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority on the use of hybrid embryos.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what consultation her Department is undertaking with health authorities on the implementation of Government guidance that they should provide infertile women with one round of IVF on the NHS; [138586]

(2) how many strategic health authorities are implementing the Government guidelines on providing women with one cycle of IVF on the NHS; [138587]

(3) what estimate her Department has made of the cost to the NHS of implementing Government guidelines that women suffering from infertility should be able to get one cycle of IVF on the NHS. [138588]

Caroline Flint: We are funding the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to work with primary care trusts (PCTs) to identify and share good practice in the provision of fertility services, including in vitro fertilisation. The implementation of guidelines produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), including the NICE fertility guideline, is a matter for individual PCTs, in discussion with local health bodies and patient groups, and taking account of local circumstances. There is no firm central estimate of the current cost to the NHS of providing one cycle of IVF. When the fertility guideline was published, NICE issued a costing template for use by individual PCTs.

Insulin

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 595W, on insulin, on which of the dates referred to she met Dr. Sue Roberts and Dr. Nick Summerton of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to discuss the Institute's future programme on insulin treatments; and what the outcome of such discussions was. [141912]

Caroline Flint: I was not present at any of the meetings between Dr. Sue Roberts and Dr. Nick Summerton, where I understand they discussed the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) future programme on diabetes. A further meeting was held on 17 May 2007. These meetings are part of a series of meetings with the NICE and I understand that discussions are still ongoing.

Malaria: Travel Information

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from where *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* pharmacists draw their information on the malarial status of destinations for UK travellers; and how frequently this information is updated. [138999]

Caroline Flint: Guidelines for use by healthcare workers on malaria prevention for travellers from the United Kingdom are formulated by the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) Advisory Committee on Malaria Prevention in UK Travellers (ACMP). The 2007 guidelines, and any change to advice arising since publication, are posted on the web at www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/malaria/guidelines.htm. Hard copies are available free of charge on request. The guidelines will be reviewed yearly by ACMP and updated as necessary. The British National Formulary (BNF), issued free to general practitioners and pharmacies by the Department, makes recommendations based on the guidelines.

The ACMP guidelines and any changes to advice are also available to professionals via the National Travel Health Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) website at www.nathnac.org and from the TRAVAX website at www.travax.nhs.uk (The A to Z of Healthy Travel; maintained by the Travel Health Division of Health Protection Scotland). NaTHNaC is funded by the Department to promote clinical standards in travel medicine, and has a telephone advice line for health professionals. The departmental publication 'Health Information for Overseas Travel' is available on the NaTHNaC website. The BNF references the HPA guidelines as well as the NaTHNaC and TRAVAX websites.

Mental Health Services: Greater London

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many secure places there are for psychiatric patients in London hospitals; and how many there were in each year between 2004 and 2006. [137020]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data collected record the number of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in national health service units, not the number of psychiatric secure unit beds.

The following table shows the average daily number of available secure unit beds, both mental illness and learning disability secure unit beds, in NHS organisations in London between 2003-04 and 2005-06.

Average daily number of available secure unit beds, NHS organisations in London, 2003-04 to 2005-06

	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
Organisation	*Mental illness*	*Learning disability*	*Mental illness*	*Learning disability*	*Mental illness*	*Learning disability*
Total for London	800	17	831	17	823	16
Central and North West London Mental Health NHS Trust	69	0	75	0	75	0
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	176	0	175	0	175	0

Average daily number of available secure unit beds, NHS organisations in London, 2003-04 to 2005-06

Organisation	2003-04		2004-05		2005-06	
	Mental illness	*Learning disability*	*Mental illness*	*Learning disability*	*Mental illness*	*Learning disability*
Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust	135	0	157	0	184	0
Camden and Islington Mental Health and Social Care Trust	26	0	17	0	24	0
East London and the City Mental Health NHS Trust	95	0	112	0	138	0
Oxleas NHS Trust	84	0	84	0	84	0
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	114	17	114	17	46	16
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	101	0	97	0	97	0

Source:
Department of Health form KH03.

Note that these beds are from mental health providers in the London area, so they may not all be available for residents in London. There may be beds outside the London area that are used for residents within London. This can be due to the placement needs of individuals.

The source for these figures is the 'Department of Health Dataset KH03' and the definitions for the purposes of this collection are as follows.

These figures do not represent the full level of secure services available to the NHS. Low secure mental health services are not consistently defined and may well fall outside the definitions below. This means that the figures above mainly show the numbers in high and medium secure mental health services in NHS units. These figures also show NHS beds only and not those commissioned by the NHS and provided by independent sector providers.

The definitions of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection, are:

Mental illness—other ages, secure unit

An age group intended of National Code 8 'Any age', a broad patient group code of National Code 5 'Patients with mental illness' and a clinical care intensity of National Code 51 'for intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management. This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one to one nursing while on a standard ward'.

Learning disabilities—other ages, secure unit

An age group intended of National Code 8 'Any age', a broad patient group code of National Code 6 'Patients with learning difficulties' and a clinical care intensity of National Code 61 'designated or interim secure unit'.

From the data dictionary at:

www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/datadictionary/data_dicionary/messages/central_returns/hospital_aggregated_statistics/kh03/kh03_3_fr.asp

Methylphenidate

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 775-6W, on methylphenidate, what progress has been made with updating the product information for methylphenidate to advise about serious cardiovascular adverse effects. [141744]

Caroline Flint: Following Europe-wide discussions, the product information for Concerta was revised in November 2006, to advise about serious cardiovascular adverse effects, and to recommend that methylphenidate should not be used in children or adolescents with known serious structural cardiac abnormalities. The product information for Ritalin was revised accordingly in June 2007, and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is currently in discussion with the licence holder for Equasym.

Copies of the most up-to-date product information for Ritalin, Concerta and Equasym can be found in the Electronic Medicines Compendium available at www.medicines.org.uk. This includes the patient information leaflet provided for patients with their medicines and summaries of product characteristics which provide information for doctors and pharmacists.

Milton Keynes Hospital: Armed Forces

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy is in place in Milton Keynes General Hospital for the treatment of reservists on return from operational service. [141575]

Andy Burnham: The national health service has effective arrangements in place for the reception and treatment of reservists returning from operational service, and all necessary care is provided within the NHS.

Musgrove Park Hospital: Parking

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* revenue income and *(b)* estimated overhead cost of the parking charges scheme at Musgrove Park hospital in Taunton constituency was in each of the last 10 years. [141502]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available in the precise format required.

Data on the gross income that national health service trusts receive from car parking charges paid by staff and visitors have been collected since 2000. Information in respect of Musgrove Park hospital is in the table.

The Department does not collect information about the overhead costs that trusts will incur in providing car parking facilities.

	Total income from car parking fees (£)
2000-01	147,000
2001-02	146,000
2002-03	293,000
2003-04	517,466
2004-05	560,500
2005-06	362,157

NHS: Drugs

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 606W, on NHS: drugs, what recent discussions she has had on limits on the length of prescription periods. [138870]

Caroline Flint: We have had no such discussions. Responsibility for prescribing, including the issue of repeat prescribing and the length of prescriptions, rests with the clinician who has clinical responsibility for that particular aspect of a patient's care.

Nutrition: Pupils

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the decision to award the contract for a seminar on the Effects of Nutrition on School Attainment under the auspices of the Food Standards Agency to the Smith Institute was the subject of a competitive process; and if she will make a statement. [141256]

Caroline Flint: In line with HM Treasury and European Union public sector procurement rules, contracts worth less than £25,000 are not normally subject to formal competitive processes because of the disproportionate effort in relation to value. However, all proposals are assessed on a value-for-money basis and given the costs of staging seminars of this kind the Smith Institute proposal represented good value for money.

Nutrition: Training

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions Ministers and officials of her Department have had with *(a)* officials from the Sector Skills Development Agency, *(b)* regional development agencies and *(c)* representatives of the catering industry on training in nutrition and its relationship to health and well-being for chefs. [139951]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency have informed me that they have not had any discussions with the Sector Skills Development Agency nor the regional development agencies on the subject of training for chefs. They have, however, had discussions with People1st, the Sector Skills Council for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism, which is responsible for identifying and tackling skills gaps in that sector.

Following the 2005-06 review of national occupational standards for food preparation and cooking, a specific unit was created on preparing and cooking healthier dishes. This unit is now available to those training to be chefs who are taking the National Vocational Qualification in food preparation and cooking. In addition, newly developed qualifications in professional cookery contain a mandatory unit on healthier eating and special diets. This means that chefs catering the industry with this qualification will have gained an understanding of the importance of healthier eating.

Obesity

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the reasons for recent trends in rates of obesity; and what steps she is taking to encourage physical exercise. [139799]

Caroline Flint: Although the rise in obesity cannot be attributed to any single factor, it is the imbalance between energy in (through the food choices we make) and energy out (mainly through physical activity) which is the root cause.

Following input from academic, commercial and voluntary sector sources, the Medical Research Council report reviewing the evidence for behaviour change goals is now complete and was launched on 14 March 2007.

"Choosing Activity: a physical activity action plan" was published on 9 March 2005. This represents the first truly cross-Government plan to co-ordinate action aimed at increasing levels of physical activity across the whole population. In August 2006 I was asked by the Prime Minister to work across Government on a new strategy, building on Choosing Activity to increase the public's fitness and activity levels in the run up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress is being made in the Government's obesity social marketing campaign. [140606]

Caroline Flint: We have developed a robust social marketing/consumer insight framework to inform and enable targeted work at a national, regional and local level to tackle childhood obesity. We have also been working closely with a wide range of stakeholders across the food and activity spectrum, including representatives from Government, commercial and not-for-profit sectors. A core expert review group have validated the approach taken and outputs to date.

The first initiative in the programme, the "5 A DAY Top Tips for Top Mums" campaign, was launched in March. The campaign encourages families to think more about how they can improve their diet and increase fruit and vegetable consumption among children between the ages of two and 11, specifically those in low-income young families.

Obesity: Departmental Co-ordination

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions she has had with the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on *(a)* progress on tackling obesity and *(b)* cross-departmental working on the matter. [140605]

Caroline Flint: The obesity public service agreement (PSA) target is jointly owned by the Department, the Department for Education and Skills and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in recognition that delivery will depend on a joined up effort across Government.

The three Departments are working on six fronts: to change population attitudes towards eating and activity; helping children to be active and eat healthily; supporting targeted local-level obesity interventions in children; raising awareness of the importance of healthy weight to children and parents; working with local partners on delivery; and developing the knowledge base.

There are a number of mechanisms to ensure that the Departments are working effectively in partnership. Ministers, and also permanent secretaries, who are responsible for the PSA target have held regular meetings to monitor progress and identify areas for action.

The target is co-ordinated by a cross-Government team, led by a cross-Government programme manager and senior officials who are the senior responsible officers for each Department. The PSA programme board brings in delivery chain partners and senior officials from other Government Departments beyond the target-holding Departments.

Radiotherapy

Mr. Horam: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many intensity modulated radiation therapy machines are in regular use in the NHS; and if she will make a statement on progress in introducing these machines. [140407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A survey of radiotherapy equipment is currently under way, and the results of this are expected to be published in the summer.

The survey includes questions regarding which radiotherapy centres are undertaking intensity modulated radiotherapy, and the numbers of patients they treated in the financial year 2006-07 for each disease application of the technology (prostate, lung and head and neck cancers). It does not ask centres to identify which machine(s) they are using to treat these patients.

Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child in the last 12 months. [139008]

Caroline Flint: A range of Government Departments and stakeholders, including the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC), were consulted earlier this year on the implications of the legislation proposed in the Termination of Pregnancy Bill.

In addition, over the last 12 months, the Department has received approximately 5,300 letters enclosing correspondence from SPUC on issues including abortion, euthanasia and the Mental Capacity Act.

Skin Cancer: Health Education

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the priorities of the SunSmart campaign will be during the summer. [139255]

Caroline Flint: The key messages for the next phase of SunSmart (2007-10) are:

the importance of early detection;

avoidance of burning;

the dangers of sunbed use (especially by those under 18); and

an emphasis on highlighting those most at risk of skin cancer (i.e. people with fair skin, lots of moles or freckles or a family history of skin cancer).

The target audience for 2007 is holidaymakers.

Information about the SunSmart campaign and available resources are on the SunSmart website at:

www.sunsmart.org.uk.

Smoking: Public Places

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance she is providing to those responsible for the management of *(a)* places of worship and *(b)* listed buildings on the legal requirements to display no smoking signs. [138702]

Caroline Flint: Section 6 of the Health Act 2006 sets out a duty for any person who occupies or is concerned in the management of smokefree premises to make sure that no-smoking signs complying with the requirements of the new law are displayed. The new law will require virtually all enclosed workplaces and public places to be smokefree, including places of worship or listed buildings.

Through the Smokefree England communications campaign, the Department has made guidance available on the new legislation. The guidance makes specific reference to the display of no-smoking signs in heritage buildings within the frequently asked questions section. Guidance has been posted to employing businesses across England, and is also available from the Smokefree England information line on freephone 0800 169 169 7 or to download on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

Local councils can also provide advice and support on the new law.

Departmental officials have met representatives from the Church of England and the Churches Main Committee regarding smokefree legislation. Meetings have also been offered to other faith groups. A Smokefree England fact sheet on smokefree legislation and places of worship has also been produced.

The Smokefree (Signs) Regulations 2007 set out requirements for the display of no-smoking signs in smokefree premises and vehicles. These regulations have been drafted in a way to afford maximum flexibility

within the requirements in the Health Act 2006 for the display of no-smoking signs.

No-smoking signs may be displayed in a way that fits the decor of premises, as long as the minimum requirements set out in the regulations are met. A sign will need to be displayed in a prominent position at each entrance to smokefree premises. However, it need not be permanently mounted on the building because, for example, the display of a sign on a moveable stand at each entrance would satisfy the legal requirement.

To support the implementation of smokefree legislation, the Department is making no-smoking signs that meet the legislative requirements freely available to businesses and organisations.

South East Strategic Health Authority: Redundancy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals employed by the South East strategic health authority have been made redundant since its inception; what percentage of staff this represents; and what the total cost of redundancy payments has been. [141346]

Caroline Flint: There were 241 compulsory redundancies made in South East Coast strategic health authority in the 2006-07 financial year.

This represents 0.25 per cent. of the total workforce of 97,980 in the September 2006 census.

The costs of redundancy payments have not yet been collected centrally.

Strokes: Diagnosis

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with a stroke in the most recent year for which figures are available. [140921]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* Hospital Episode Statistics from 2004-05 suggest there were around 73,000 emergency admissions with a primary diagnosis of stroke. However, this figure under-represents the true incidence of stroke for two reasons: firstly some hospital patients who have a stroke may also have another condition as their primary diagnosis; secondly, not all stroke patients currently attend hospital.

Academic estimates suggest there are around 110,000 strokes in England per annum.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration Policy Enforcement

10. **Mr. Ian Austin:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he is taking to enforce immigration policies. [141133]

Mr. Byrne: What people want to see is the UK's immigration system working fairly and effectively.

That is why we have:

Removed more failed asylum seekers and illegal migrants than ever before;

stopped 180,000 people from boarding aircraft to Britain through our airline liaison officers and

revamped the old IND turning it into the new Border and Immigration Agency, making it more open and more accountable

We want go further—that is why we are:

Recruiting more immigration officers and police officers;

introducing tougher powers for front line staff; and

introducing a migration management system which gives those who can contribute the most the best chance of entering this country.

Asylum Seekers

11. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to remove failed asylum seekers. [141134]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency employs a raft of measures to maximise the number of failed asylum seekers removed.

13. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of measures to deport failed asylum seekers. [141137]

Mr. Byrne: The effectiveness of measures deployed to remove failed asylum seekers are assessed on an ongoing basis. These measures have ensured that the removal of failed asylum seekers has been steadily increasing over the past few years.

Jamil el-Banna

12. **Sarah Teather:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the immigration status of Jamil el-Banna. [141136]

Mr. Byrne: Mr. el-Banna was recognised as a refugee by the United Kingdom in 1997, and was granted indefinite leave to remain in 2000. That leave has now lapsed.

Safer Neighbourhood Teams

14. **Mr. Blizzard:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what role he expects Safer Neighbourhood Teams to play in reducing the number of criminal damage offences. [141138]

Mr. Coaker: Neighbourhood Policing Teams can play a vital role with others in tackling criminal damage.

They get to know people in their local neighbourhoods so that they have a better understanding of the nature and extent of the problem and what contributions others can make to reducing it.

They can then work with a range of agencies who can take action in line with local priorities, as well as taking police enforcement action where appropriate.

Special Constables

16. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to encourage staff in retail establishments to join the special constabulary. [141140]

Mr. Coaker: In February 2004, the Home Office, Metropolitan police, Dixons, and Woolworths launched the Shopwatch initiative, which recruits employees as special constables from the retail establishments to patrol specific retail areas.

The Shopwatch programme was piloted in the general Camden area, Regent/Oxford street and the Birmingham Bullring Palisades.

The Shopwatch programme has succeed in reducing retail crime by 50 per cent. in 2004 in participating retail stores.

The Shopwatch programme is a prime example of proactive partnership working across the community and forces.

Knife Crime

18. **Mr. Jim Cunninghani:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests for knife-related crime there were in each of the last four years. [141142]

Mr. Coaker: The main arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by main offence group (ie violence against the person, robbery, burglary etc.) only.

Knife related offences are not specifically defined by statute, and details of the individual circumstances of arrests are not asked for as part of the Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) collection.

Immigration System

19. **Mr. Mudie:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will increase the staffing resources dealing with priority legacy immigration cases. [141143]

Mr. Byrne: The chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, Lin Homer, wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February with an update on the Legacy Programme. Her letter confirmed that a new directorate had been established to deal specifically with legacy cases, with significant case-working capability.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress is being made in reviewing the immigration system; and if he will make a statement. [141139]

Mr. Byrne: We are making good progress against the milestones published in the IND Review, which was published last year. This includes meeting almost all of the milestones we had set to achieve by April 2007.

Intelligence Sharing

20. **Mr. Wallace:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with West Yorkshire police on the exchange of intelligence between them and the security services. [141144]

Mr. McNulty: I have not had any discussions with West Yorkshire police on the exchange of intelligence between them and the Security Service.

It is not appropriate to discuss operational matters. The sharing of intelligence is a matter for the agencies involved.

Immigration and Nationality Directorate

21. **Keith Vaz:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to visit the Immigration and Nationality Directorate before he leaves office. [141145]

Mr. Byrne: As part of my ongoing programme of regional visits to the Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) operations in Croydon and around the UK, I discuss the services provided by managed migration, asylum and enforcement with both staff and stakeholders. I also regularly discuss the efficiency of the service with the chief executive of BIA, and other senior officials.

Antisocial Behaviour

22. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with Ministers and officials in the Ministry of Justice on combating anti-social behaviour. [141146]

Mr. Coaker: I have had no formal meetings with Ministers or officials in the Ministry of Justice, since its inception last month, specifically concerning antisocial behaviour.

Ministers and officials in the Home Office engage in regular discussions with their counterparts in the Ministry of Justice, and other Government Departments about combating antisocial behaviour and other issues.

Asylum

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions are in place to help asylum-seekers gain a better understanding of the UK asylum process. [140649]

Mr. Byrne: Within a week of making their asylum application an applicant meets their case owner. The case owner remains the applicant's single point of contact for all aspects of their asylum application. At this first reporting event, the case owner fully explains to the applicant how the asylum process works and answers any questions. They also provide information about access to legal representatives. The applicant is able to contact their case owner at any time during the asylum process with any queries or concerns they may have.

Accommodation providers and voluntary sector organisations also deliver briefings to applicants about the asylum process and applicants' rights and responsibilities while they are in the UK. We are currently working with them to update this briefing to ensure it properly reflects our process and is fully up to date.

The Border and Immigration Agency public website also contains information about asylum policies and procedures.

Asylum: Fraud

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted in 2006 of conspiracy to help people gain asylum fraudulently; and how many of those were deported. [138600]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* The information could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Gender

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of New Asylum Model case owners in each region are *(a)* male and *(b)* female; and if he will make a statement. [140902]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is shown in the table.

Regional asylum teams	*Percentage case owners*	
	Male[1]	*Female*[1]
North East	45	55
Wales and the South West	52	48
West Midlands, East Midlands and East of England	26	74
North West	40	60
London and the South East	41	59
Scotland and Northern Ireland	38	62

[1] Percentages are based on management information.
[2] Includes Detained Fast Track teams at Harmondsworth and Yarl's Wood.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Border and Immigration Agency is expected to have the capacity to allow asylum seekers at screening stage to express a preference as to the sex of the New Asylum Model case owner to be allocated to them and for that request to be met; and if he will make a statement. [140903]

Mr. Byrne: Applicants can request a gender specific case owner at any time, including during the screening interview. All requests will be met where it is operationally possible to do so.

Community Support Officers: Protective Clothing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will issue guidance to all chief constables in England and Wales advising them of the benefits of stab vests for police community support officers. [123882]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 February 2007]:* The Home Office Scientific Development Branch produces standards for body armour which incorporate a number of different protection levels. These standards were last published in 2003 but we plan to issue revised standards in the next month. All body armour is tested against these standards at Home Office approved test houses.

In 1995 the Home Office Scientific Development Branch, in collaboration with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), developed a Police Operational Requirement (POR) for body armour. This requirement states that the protection provided by ballistic and stab resistant body armour must be sufficient to prevent the wearer from sustaining serious or permanent injury. To achieve this, five vital organs located within the torso must be protected: the heart, lungs, liver, spleen and kidneys.

The provision of police equipment is a matter for chief officers. However I have written to the forces which do not provide protective armour to police community officers to ask them to clarify the reasons for their decision, and I will let my hon. Friend know the responses of the four forces at the earliest opportunity.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of withdrawing the UK's reservation to the UN convention on the rights of the child. [141141]

Mr. Byrne: We have reviewed the need to retain this Reservation a number of times. Our own legal advice is that effective immigration control would be compromised were we to withdraw this Reservation.

Criminal Records

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the review of his Department's systems in relation to the recording of crimes committed abroad will be completed. [141135]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Secretary has asked Sir Ian Magee to undertake a review of the ways in which information about criminality is recorded, used and shared for public protection purposes.

It will be a two stage process and the overall duration will be determined once the first stage has been completed. That first stage will be brisk and will focus on scoping the problems, assessing what deficiencies there are and where they lie. The second stage will constitute the substance of the work and will concentrate on conclusions and recommendations for improving the relevant systems.

The review will take account of the report of the inquiry into the handling of overseas convictions. Whatever the review recommends, we will only be able to reduce risks rather than remove them altogether.

Departmental Expenditure

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the original predicted cost was for the *(a)* CJS Exchange, *(b)* EDRM, *(c)* Adelphi, *(d)* immigration and nationality directorate's points based system, *(e)* Mycroft, *(f)* NSPIS Case and Custody, *(g)* IMPACT Nominal Index, *(h)* Cross Regional Information Sharing Project (CRISP), *(i)* WITR, *(j)* WISP, *(k)* Warnings Index Portfolio, *(l)*

Identity Management, *(m)* ePassports, *(n)* Biometric residence permits, *(o)* IBIP, *(p)* e-Borders procurement, *(q)* CIDTR, *(r)* identity cards, *(s)* CID and *(t)* NOMIS IT projects. [108115]

Mr. Byrne: The Information requested is set out in the following table.

Policy/Programme	*Project Name/ID*	*Project Description, Scope and the Key Elements/Sublevels*	*Original Planned Cost (£ million)*	*Current estimated cost (£ million)*[1]
NOMS	NOMIS	National Offender Management Information System for the Prison service	200.00	200.00
IND 5 year Strategy	CID	Support and maintenance of existing casework system, and adaptation to developing business requirements	70.00	66.00
IND 5 year Strategy	CID TR	Redesign of existing casework system to facilitate support and maintenance, and adaptation to developing business requirements	36.00	Project now subsumed into other CID project
IND 5year Strategy	Biometric Residence Permits	Introduction of new format EU residence permits. Part of CID Project.	For reasons of commercial sensitivity we are not able to provide further cost details at this time.	For reasons of commercial sensitivity we are not able to provide further cost details at this time.
e-Borders	e-Borders procurement	Involves the procurement and implementation of solution to capture and analyse passenger information in advance of arrival into/departure from the UK and alert the appropriate Border Control Agencies of high risk passengers. Also replaces the current WI system used to support clearance into the UK & watchlisting of visa applications.	For reasons of commercial sensitivity we are not able to provide further cost details at this time.	For reasons of commercial sensitivity we are not able to provide further cost details at this time.
IND 5 year Strategy	IBIP	Key enabler for introduction of biometric-based identification "documents"	64.00	64.00
IND 5 year Strategy	ePassports (readers)	Provision of readers for new format passports. Sub-project within IBIP	9.00	1.40
IND 5 year Strategy	Identity Management (Fingerprint Recognition)	Major expansion of capacity of existing fingerprint recognition system. Sub-project within IBIP.	11.00	Project now subsumed into another multi-agency project
IND 5 year Strategy	Warnings Index Portfolio	Warnings Index Tech Refresh, Warnings Index Support Procurement	32.00	28.50
IND 5 year Strategy	WITR	Warnings Index Tech Refresh. Sub-project of Warnings Index Portfolio	21.00	14.50
IND 5 year Strategy	WISP	Warnings Index Support Procurement. Sub-project of Warnings Index Portfolio	11.00	14.00
Bichard Implementation	Home Office IMPACT Programme	Improves abilty of police service to manage and share operational information to prevent and detect crime. Constituent projects: INI (IMPACT Nominal Index), IMPACTCRISP (IMPACT Cross Regional Information Sharing Project) and PND (Police National Database). Costs are From 2005-6 to 2015-16 including post-implementation costs	367.00	357.00
IND	Mycroft	Provides a secure networked intelligence system that delivers timely and legally compliant intelligence through the use of IT	65.00	42.00
IND	Points-Based system	Provides an automated points based system for assessing and deciding certain applications for leave to enter/remain in the UK	For reasons of commercial sensitivity we are not able to provide further cost details at this time.	For reasons of commercial sensitivity we are not able to provide further cost details at this time.
Corporate Services	Adelphi	Finance, HR and procurement system for core HO	68.00	59.00
Corporate Services	EDRM	Records management	55.00	45.00

Policy/Programme	Project Name/ID	Project Description, Scope and the Key Elements/Sublevels	Original Planned Cost (£ million)	Current estimated cost (£ million)[1]
OCJR	CJS Exchange	Tri-laterally funded under OCJR. Exchange hub for data sharing across the CJS	240.00 over 10 years	260.00 over 10 years
Police ICT	NSPIS Case and Custody	Electronic custody suite and case files	249.00 to April 2008. Note that this figure covers the cost of delivering the programme only. It does not include maintenance costs until April 2013. The figure of £364 million provided in response to PQ 86109 in July 2006 included all of these maintenance costs.	259

[1]This table provides the most up to date and reliable figures programmes/projects requested available for the

Departments: Ministerial Statements

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his Department's policy is on the announcing of statements to the media; and if he will make a statement. [140189]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Statements to the media are made in line with the Ministerial Code and Cabinet Office propriety guidance provided by the Government Communications Network (GCN). I have arranged for a copy of the recently revised guidance to be placed within the House Library.

This guidance can also be accessed online via the following weblink:

http://www.comms.gov.uk/Public_Website/guidance/propriety.aspx

Departments: Public Expenditure

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* refreshments and *(c)* stationery by his Department in each year since 2005. [137023]

John Reid: The Department's expenditure on advertising, refreshments and stationery in each of the last two years was:

	£ million	
	2005-06	2006-07
Advertising	15.83	10.64
Refreshments	1.13	1.25
Stationery	6.58	7.02

The numbers for advertising include expenditure on publicity and the numbers for refreshments are a combination of refreshments and working lunches. To show advertising and refreshments separately could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Tagging

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of deploying human radio-frequency identification (RFID) microchipping; what meetings he has held on such microchipping; what representations he has received from civil liberties groups on RFID microchipping; and if he will make a statement. [141784]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

We have looked into the merits of deploying this technology in the past but we have not seen any evidence that it would work successfully.

On that basis there have been no representations received by stakeholders from civil liberties groups as there is currently no intention of using this technology.

Instead, a pilot for the use of satellite tracking technology to monitor the compliance of offenders who are subject to exclusion conditions, and to monitor offenders' whereabouts as a condition of a licence on release from prison, took place from September 2004 until June 2006. The pilots are currently the subject of a comprehensive review and an independent evaluation, the results of which are due out later this year.

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individuals in each police force area *(a)* were convicted and *(b)* received upon conviction a minimum five-year sentence for possessing an illegal firearm in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [121512]

(2) how many individuals in each constituency *(a)* were convicted and *(b)* received upon conviction a minimum five-year sentence for possessing an illegal firearm in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [121514]

Mr. Coaker: The minimum five year sentence applies only to persons aged 18 or over and came into force for offences committed from 22 January 2004. The information requested, relating to England and Wales for the years 2004 and 2005, is shown in the following table. Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Court proceedings data cannot easily be related to constituency areas as they are collected by police force area and local justice area.

Persons aged 18 and over sentenced and those sentenced to mandatory 5 year term (or over) for possession of firearms, by police force area, England and Wales

	2004		2005	
Police force area	*Total persons sentenced*	*5 year + custodial term*	*Total persons sentenced*	*5 year + custodial term*
Avon and Somerset	12	1	10	3
Bedfordshire	4	1	1	1
Cambridgeshire	5	—	—	—
Cheshire	12	—	4	2
Cleveland	8	—	3	—
Cumbria	4	—	1	
Derbyshire	7	—	6	4
Devon and Cornwall	11	—	2	1
Dorset	5	1	2	—
Durham	6	—	6	1
Essex	22	—	6	—
Gloucestershire	3	—	2	—
Greater Manchester	62	3	30	15
Hampshire	11	1	6	1
Hertfordshire	6	1	5	1
Humberside	11	—	5	1
Kent	15	2	5	—
Lancashire	7	—	8	1
Leicestershire	12	2	6	2
Lincolnshire	5	—	3	—
London[1]	162	36	116	61
Merseyside	41	9	22	10
Norfolk	10	—	4	3
Northamptonshire	5	1	7	3
Northumbria	28	3	5	1
North Yorkshire	4	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	17	2	10	4
South Yorkshire	14	3	10	7
Staffordshire	8	—	3	—
Suffolk	5	1	5	—
Surrey	6	—	2	1
Sussex	11	—	7	1
Thames Valley	16	—	4	2
Warwickshire	7	1	—	—
West Mercia	9	—	3	1
West Midlands	46	5	22	9
West Yorkshire	39	3	9	4
Wiltshire	3	—	2	1
Dyfed-Powys	4	—	1	—
Gwent	3	—	1	—
North Wales	7	—	3	—
South Wales	13	—	6	1
Total	686	76	353	142

[1] Metropolitan and City of London police forces

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Firearms: Sentencing

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of people convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 have received the mandatory sentence established by the Act since it came into force, broken down by age group; [129923]

(2) what the average sentence handed down to people convicted of carrying an illegal firearm under the Criminal Justice Act 2003 was in each of the last three years. [129924]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 March 2007]:* The minimum five year sentence (three years for those aged 16 or 17) came into force on 22 January 2004. The available information, relating to England and Wales for 2004 and 2005, is contained in table one. Data sent

to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 5 June (see table 2) show that the average sentence for firearms possession has increased from 27.3 months in 2003 to 47.3 months in 2005. The equivalent figures in 1995 were 12.1 months.

Figures for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Table 1: Persons[1] sentenced for firearms possession offences involving mandatory custodial sentences, England and Wales

						Of which: 5 years or over[2]		
Offence	*Statutes*	*Year*	*Age group*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Persons given immediate custody*	*No.*	*% of total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition or firearm disguised as other object.	Firearms Act 1968 sections 5(1)(a),(ab),(aba),(ac),(ad), (ae), (af) or (c) and section 5(1A)(a) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 section 287.	2004[3]	16-17	49	10	5	10.2	25.0
			18-20	122	35	13	10.7	39.5
			21+	565	206	63	11.2	35.3
			Total	736	251	81	11.0	35.3
		2005	16-17	32	9	4	12.5	26.0
			18-20	59	34	18	30.5	45.5
			21+	294	199	124	42.2	48.6
			Total	385	242	146	37.9	47.3

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Three years in the case of persons aged 16-17.
[3] Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory sentence being introduced in January 2004.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Table 2: Persons[1] sentenced for firearms possession offences involving mandatory custodial sentences (from 2004), England and Wales, 1995-2005

						Of which: 5 years or over[2]		
Offence	*Statutes*	*Year*	*Age group*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Persons given immediate custody*	*No.*	*% of total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition or firearm disguised as other object.	Firearms Act 1968 sections [illegible](a), (ab), (aba)[3], (ac), (ad), (ae), (af)[4] or (c) and section 5(1A)(a) as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 section 287.	1995	16-17	39	4	—	—	3.0
			18-20	102	10	—	—	10.2
			21+	524	70	1	0.2	12.9
			Total	665	84	1	0.2	12.1
		1996	16-17	34	5	—	—	6.0
			18-20	87	10	—	—	3.2
			21 +	597	93	9	1.5	19.4
			Total	718	108	9	1.3	17.2
		1997	16-17	32	3	—	—	10.7
			18-20	105	9	—	—	2.7
			21 +	639	94	7	1.1	16.8
			Total	776	106	7	0.9	15.3
		1998	16-17	36	2	—	—	4.5

Table 2: Persons[1] sentenced for firearms possession offences involving mandatory custodial sentences (from 2004), England and Wales, 19995-2005

					Of which: 5 years or over[2]		
Offence	*Statutes*	*Year*	*Age group*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Persons given immediate custody*	*No.*	*% of total sentenced*	*Average custodial sentence length (months)*
			18-20	159	19	—	—	5.4
			21 +	836	150	7	0.8	15.1
			Total	1,031	171	7	0.7	13.9
		1999	16-17	36	2	—	—	7.5
			18-20	98	12	—	—	5.2
			21 +	666	124	7	1.1	17.1
			Total	800	138	7	0.9	15.9
		2000	16-17	35	3	—	—	10.0
			18-20	109	16	1	0.9	14.4
			21 +	585	123	5	0.9	19.6
			Total	729	142	6	0.8	18.7
		2001	16-17	62	2	—	—	8.0
			18-20	148	21	—	—	7.5
			21 +	529	108	7	1.3	21.0
			Total	739	131	7	0.9	18.7
		2002	16-17	54	8	—	—	9.8
			18-20	115	26	—	—	16.6
			21 +	603	140	15	2.5	23.0
			Total	772	174	15	1.9	21.3
		2003	16-17	52	8	—	—	11.0
			18-20	121	23	—	—	18.6
			21 +	713	183	34	4.8	29.3
			Total	886	214	34	3.8	27.3
		2004[3]	16-17	49	10	5	10.2	25.0
			18-20	122	35	13	10.7	39.5
			21+	565	206	63	11.2	35.3
			Total	736	251	81	11.0	35.3
		2005	16-17	32	9	4	12.5	26.0
			18-20	59	34	18	30.5	45.5
			21 +	294	199	124	42.2	48.6
			Total	385	242	146	37.9	47.3

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Three years in the case of persons aged 16-17.
[3] Came into force during 1997.
[4] Came into force during 2004.
[5] Many of the persons dealt with in 2004 will have committed their offences prior to the mandatory sentence being introduced in January 2004.
Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Ministry of Justice

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals' records are held on the National DNA Database, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* the police force which provided the profile. [139976]

John Reid: Tables showing the information requested will be placed in the Library. These show the number of profiles on the database as at 31 January 2007 broken down by gender, police force, age when the profile was taken, and ethnic appearance, as recorded by the officer taking the DNA sample. Some people arrested by a force live in the area of another force—the force

shown is the one which took the profile. The number of profiles is 13.7 per cent. higher than the number of individuals because of duplicate records. There were 37,476 profiles on the database where the gender was not recorded, and these have not been included in the figures.

Immigration Controls: Luton Airport

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from London Luton Airport on the number of HM Immigration Service staff at London Luton Airport. [140636]

Mr. Byrne: A letter was received from the Managing Director of London Luton Airport Operations Limited on 30 April 2007 making representations about the level of border control staff at London Luton.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* HM Prison Service and *(b)* private sector contractors on recommended staff/detainee ratios in immigration removal centres. [136974]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency does not provide guidance on staff detainee ratios to HM Prison Service as they have vast experience in operating custodial environments.

The Border and Immigration Agency does not provide guidance on staff/detainee ratios to private sector organisations. Staffing levels are none the less a key area of evaluation during the competitive tender process for the operation of removal centres. All contractors are required to provide a safe environment at all times for detainees, staff and visitors.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter dated 23 April 2007 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. Qaisar Ilyas. [141076]

John Reid: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 5 June 2007.

Naturalisation: English Language

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for naturalisation as a British citizen were *(a)* delayed and *(b)* refused because of concerns about the veracity of the evidence supplied by the applicants on his or her knowledge of English in the last period for which figures are available. [121153]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Police: Community Support Officers

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department has taken to promote public awareness of the difference between police officers and police community support officers. [140198]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Home Office has focused on raising public awareness of the new role of police community support officers (PCSOs) and neighbourhood policing teams, which are now being implemented across England and Wales. A successful national PCSO recruitment campaign in 2006 was designed not only to encourage applications but also to help explain the role of a PCSO. This campaign included television and radio adverts, poster campaigns and national and local press advertising.

In addition, a six-part documentary series followed the work of PCSOs in Lancashire and the Thames Valley. The series ran between October and December 2006 on ITV (England) and achieved an average audience of 2.3 million rising to 3 million. All of this activity has raised the profile of PCSOs and the neighbourhood policing teams in which they serve. It has also supported the police service in their drive to increase PCSO numbers to 16,000 across England and Wales.

Neighbourhood policing teams will consist of police sergeants, constables and PCSOs, and may also comprise special constables, wardens, neighbourhood managers, housing managers, youth workers and other community partners, depending on the needs and priorities of the community that the team serves. In promoting neighbourhood policing teams the Home Office and the police service has celebrated the diverse and complementary nature of the various ranks and roles within these teams which join together to provide a visible and accessible service to the communities they serve.

Police: Manpower

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police liaison officers there are in England and Wales, broken down by police force area. [140776]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics.

Police: Pensions

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average contribution from gross pay was by individual police officers towards pension funds in the latest period for which figures are available. [140886]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not held centrally. Police officers contribute either 11 per cent. or 9.5 per cent. of their pensionable pay depending on whether they are members of the Police Pension Scheme 1987 or the Police Pension Scheme 2006 respectively.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average lump sum pension payment was to *(a)* female and *(b)* male

police officers in the latest period for which figures are available; [140887]

(2) what methodology and calculations are used to work out the lump sum pension payment for *(a)* female and *(b)* male police officers. [140888]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested about the average size of a pension lump sum is not held centrally. Under the Police Pension Scheme 1987 a lump sum is not paid out automatically but only where the officer chooses to convert (commute) part of his or her pension into a lump sum. The size of a lump sum depends on the officer's pensionable pay, his or her length of pensionable service, the proportion of pension that the officer chooses to commute, and the commutation factor to be applied to the surrendered portion of pension in order to convert it into a lump sum.

The Police Pensions Regulations 1987 require that the lump sum be determined as the actuarial equivalent of the surrendered portion of the pension at the date of retirement, calculated from tables prepared by the Government Actuary. The commutation factors used for the 1987 Scheme are graduated according to the age and gender of the officer concerned in order to reflect the fact that, on average, women live longer than men and younger people have a longer remaining life expectancy than older people. Pension scheme actuarial factors are exempted from the legal requirements for sex and age equality.

Police: Telephone Services

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1420W, on police telephone services, when he expects the target times for answering *(a)* emergency and *(b)* non-emergency calls under the National Call Handling Standards to be (i) collated nationally and (ii) implemented by all police forces. [138780]

John Reid *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* Data relating to emergency (999) calls are being collated by the Home Office for the first time this year. Data will be gathered on a quarterly basis as part of an Annual Data Requirement. At present, there are no plans to collate at a national level data relating to non-emergency calls.

The National Call Handling Standards were agreed by ACPO in November 2006. An implementation review is being undertaken by the National Policing Improvement Agency with a target completion date of November 2007.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women *(a)* are being held in UK prisons and *(b)* were being held in each year since 2000. [141412]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Figures showing the numbers of female prisoners in all prison establishments in England and Wales between 2000 and 2006, as at 30 June each year, and for April 2007, can be found in the following table.

	Number
2000	3,355
2001	3,713
2002	4,394
2003	4,595
2004	4,452
2005	4,514
2006	4,463
2007 (April)	4,502

The figures between 2000 and 2005 were taken from table 8.1 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which is held in the House of Commons Library. The figures for June 2006 and for April 2007 were taken from the published Population in Custody monthly tables.

The Scottish Executive and the Northern Ireland Prison Service are able to give the figures for prison establishments in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible data entry and processing errors.

Terrorism Act 2000

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 92W, on the Terrorism Act 2000, how many people were awaiting trial under terrorism legislation during the period 1 January to 1 April 2007. [140546]

John Reid *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Statistics for this period are not yet available. However, as soon as they are finalised they will be placed on the Home Office website.

As stated in a previous answer of 8 May 2007, there were 98 individuals at or awaiting trial for terrorist offences as of 31 December 2006.

Terrorism: Hotline

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people are employed to handle calls to the anti-terrorism hotline; what the total cost of their annual salaries is expected to be in 2007-08; and what the annual cost is of the salary of the head of the anti-terrorism hotline. [139595]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The total number of people employed to handle calls on the anti-terrorism hotline is not fixed.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Counter Terrorism Command has a dedicated team of 16, led by a detective sergeant. This team provides a 24/7 communications capability and are responsible for initial receipt of all communications including the anti-terrorism hotline. It is not possible to establish what proportion of time is spent solely on the hotline.

The annual budget for this team is £472,446 and the salary for the team manager is drawn from within this amount.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 12 June 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Bookmakers: Licensing

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on the level of licence fees from the Gambling Commission for bookmakers; and if she will make a statement. [142184]

Mr. Caborn: My Department has received 246 responses relating to this issue. This includes 134 formal responses to the consultation exercise in 2006 and 112 associated follow-up queries. We have also had a number of meetings with representatives of the betting industry, including with the Association of British Bookmakers.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology is used by her Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140781]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has not formally adopted a methodology to account for its carbon emissions. We calculate our carbon emissions following DEFRA guidelines.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by her Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139416]

Mr. Lammy: The Department's public relations spend in the last five years occurred only in 2004-05 and 2005-06 and relates to the digital campaign, aimed at increasing public awareness of digital switchover, and the licensing campaign aimed at small businesses to increase awareness of the implications of the Licensing Act.

	Spend (£)
2004-05	100,000
2005-06	250,000
2005-06	24,300

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment she has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on her departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142490]

Mr. Lammy: My Department has made no assessment of the merits of providing British Sign Language videos on its departmental website.

National Lottery

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations she had received as of 4 June 2007 on the Gambling (Lottery Machine Interval) Order; what assessment her Department has conducted of the likely effect of the implementation of such an order on small clubs; what discussions she has had with representatives of licensed establishments that cannot sell lottery tickets from vending machines concerning the order; and if she will make a statement. [141769]

Mr. Caborn: The consultation on the Gambling (Lottery Machine Interval) Order 2007 closed on Friday 18 May. The Department received 18 formal responses. In addition, more than 200 clubs and a number of hon. Members wrote to the Department.

A partial regulatory impact assessment was issued alongside the consultation and is available on the Department's website at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/Gambling_racing/QuickLinks/Consultations/?expand=2007_closed_consultations

A full regulatory impact assessment is currently being prepared and will be available shortly in the House Library.

Ministers and officials have met representatives of the clubs sector on a number of occasions to discuss the order.

National Lottery: Sales

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the monthly sales of the Olympic lottery game have been since its launch; and what the monthly sales of all other lottery games have been over the same period. [142162]

Mr. Caborn: The table (provided by the National Lottery Commission) shows the split between sales of National Lottery games designated to support the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games and all other National Lottery games. The figures are monthly and go back to July 2005 when the first game designated to support the Olympics went on sale.

Month	*NLDF sales*	*OLDF sales*	*Total sales*
2005			
July	508,018,924	272,493	508,291,417
August	370,245,832	5,370,216	375,616,048
September	366,530,671	4,526,347	371,057,018
October	445,823,655	5,473,990	451,297,645
November	362,404,450	3,625,094	366,029,544
December	474,765,469	3,813,771	478,579,241
2006			
January	448,994,006	7,435,371	456,429,377
February	409,802,098	15,005,060	424,807,158
March	362,890,506	15,517,327	378,407,833
April	447,954,473	9,721,769	457,676,242

Month	NLDF sales	OLDF sales	Total sales
May	352,895,359	8,030,915	360,926,273
June	349,081,164	6,826,427	355,907,591
July	432,523,867	16,434,352	448,958,219
August	342,507,120	18,427,346	360,934,466
September	430,610,691	21,796,695	452,407,386
October	395,378,054	19,888,015	415,266,069
November	430,491,594	20,222,146	450,713,739
December	435,816,849	23,739,535	459,556,384
2007			
January	338,847,852	20,531,989	359,379,842
February	361,523,375	23,344,416	384,867,792
March	426,964,830	26,514,508	453,479,338

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Basic Skills

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* adults over 25 years received (i) Learning and Skills Council funding and (ii) funding through Train to Gain in (A) 2003-04, (B) 2004-05 and (C) 2005-06. [138367]

Phil Hope: Figures for adults funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The following table shows the number of adult learners (aged 19 and over) and adult learners aged 25 and over on LSC-funded further education, Work Based Learning and Adult and Community Learning provision in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06.

	Adults	Thousand Adults aged 25+
2003/04	4,587.8	3,801.8
2004/05	4,547.1	3,731.1
2005/06	3,872.4	3,125.4

The Train to Gain programme was piloted from April 2006 onwards. A full rollout of Train to Gain commenced from 1 August 2006. To January 2007 there have been 89,000 learners who have enrolled on Train to Gain.

Pre-School Education: Codes of Practice

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if his Department will commission an independent regulatory impact assessment on the 2006 Code of Practice on free entitlement to nursery education; and what assessment he has made of the impact of the implementation of the code on the number of children's nurseries. [141426]

Beverley Hughes: The single substantive change to the delivery of the free early education entitlement, set out in the 2006 code of practice, was the extension of the minimum free entitlement from 33 to 38 weeks. Following full public consultation, we made clear our recognition that not all providers would be able to extend their provision to 38 weeks and that, at each local authority's discretion, they could be funded for the provision they actually delivered. Furthermore, all local authorities received additional funding to support the extension to the free entitlement. We therefore concluded that there should not be a substantive regulatory impact and that a regulatory impact assessment was not required. We have no plans therefore for an independent impact assessment.

We have no evidence of the code of practice having a significant impact on the number of early years settings.

Pre-School Education: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what consideration local authorities give to the level of private, voluntary and independent nursery sector provision when determining the levels of funding under the free entitlement requirements for providers in the area. [141425]

Beverley Hughes: Funding for nursery education provision is provided to local authorities through the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). Local authorities—in consultation with their School Forums—are responsible for deciding how best to apply their total school and early years funding across all age groups and between different types of provider, based on an assessment of local circumstances.

The code of practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds requires local authorities to ensure settings are funded equitably, transparently and fairly, reflecting local need and circumstances. My letter in December 2006, to all local authority chief executives reiterated this point and asked them to reassure themselves that their funding levels support a diverse local child care market and take into account the impact on provider sustainability.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* adult learners and *(b)* adult learners over 25 years receiving Learning and Skills Council funding excluding funding through Train to Gain were given workplace training in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06, broken down by number of hours of workplace training given. [138364]

Phil Hope: Figures for adults funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The following table shows the number of adult learners (aged 19 and over) and adult learners aged 25 and over on LSC-funded work based learning provision in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06.

	Adults	Thousand Adults aged 25+
2003/04	235.7	3.0
2004/05	227.2	7.2
2005/06	217.6	9.0

It is not possible to break down these figures by number of hours of work place training given as this varies for each type of provision and subject sector. The Train to Gain programme was piloted from April 2006 with a full rollout commencing from 1 August 2006 and Train to Gain activity is recorded for the first time in the 2006/07 ILR.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's employee surveys for *(a)* 2001, *(b)* 2002, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2005. [142025]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Staff surveys are valuable tools used by Departments to help them improve performance. The results of the recent Department of Trade and Industry survey are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov/uk/management/statistics/news/staff_survey/index.asp

Employment: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will break down by employer the number of jobs safeguarded or created as mentioned on page two of the Northwest Development Agency's Improving the Economic Performance of England's Northwest document, dated February 2007. [140087]

Margaret Hodge: The NWDA does not collect data in the form requested. The agency has safeguarded or created 161,208 jobs between 1999 and 2006 as reported in the Improving the Economic Performance of England's Northwest report. The breakdown, by Regional Economic Strategy (RES) theme, is as follows:

Employment 1999-2006

	Number
Business Growth	
Exploiting the growth potential of business sectors, for example through cluster programmes and international trade	19,476
Improve the competitiveness and productivity of businesses	
Providing high quality business support, supply chain development, management and work force development, and exploiting the region's knowledge base	23,569
Urban, Rural and Economic Inclusion	
Implementing the Urban Regeneration Companies, regenerating deprived areas, brownfield land, housing, implementing the Regional Rural Recovery Plan and market towns, encouraging social enterprise, start ups from ethnic minorities, community finance and addressing barriers to work	105,986

Employment 1999-2006

	Number
A Healthy Labour Market	
Improving adult basic skills, the demand for and participation in learning, graduate retention, and the integration of business support and skills development activities	698
Strategic transport, communications and infrastructure	
Identifying and championing the implementation of strategic transport initiatives, preparing a Regional Transport Strategy, supporting Regional Planning Guidance, broadband and regional cities	833
Employment sites	
Securing the development of strategic regional sites and a portfolio of sub-regional and local employment sites	10,106
Image	
Regional marketing programmes, culture, tourism and major events in the region	540
Total	161,208

Of the 161,208 jobs, 100,283 jobs were created or safeguarded between 1999 and 2002. Examples of some of the larger inward investments from this period include:

Company	*Jobs created/safeguarded*
MBNA	1,200
HJ Heinz	1,300
QVC	100
Vauxhall	850
Fujitsu	1,000
Ryder Group	470

The following table provides a breakdown, by year, of the 28,965.5 jobs created or safeguarded through inward investment projects 2002-06.

	New jobs	*Jobs safeguarded*
2002-03	8,143	1,558
2003-04	4,400	6,539.5
2004-05	3,214	2,389
2005-06	1,872	850
Total	17,629	11,336.5

Examples of some of the larger inward investments from this period include:

Company	*Jobs created/safeguarded*
MBNA	2,000
Caudwell Communications	1,000
INEOS Chlor	3,500
Bentley	886

It is not possible to provide a full breakdown by employer as this information is confidential and commercially sensitive.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims by former miners or their families have yet to be settled in respect of compensation for *(a)* chronic bronchitis, emphysema or other respiratory diseases, *(b)* vibration white finger, *(c)* carpal tunnel syndrome and *(d)* pneumoconiosis in (i) Stoke-on-Trent Central, (ii) Stoke-on-Trent North, (iii) Stoke-on-Trent South, (iv) Stone and (v) Stafford constituencies; and how many claimants in each category have received interim payments. [141242]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The following tables show the information requested. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) covers chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

		Stoke-on-Trent, Central constituency		*Stoke-on-Trent, North constituency*		*Stoke-on-Trent, South constituency*	
		Miners	*Families*	*Miners*	*Families*	*Miners*	*Families*
COPD claims	Claims registered	762	1,123	928	1,710	1,578	1,752
	Claimants who have received an interim payment	112	161	135	274	165	240
	Total outstanding	124	427	141	653	237	691
	Total settlements	638	696	787	1,057	1,341	1,061
VWF claims	Claims registered	434	55	446	56	993	96
	Claimants who received an interim payment	152	11	187	11	408	29
	Total outstanding	32	5	47	5	110	6
	Total settlements	402	50	401	51	883	90
Carpal tunnel syndrome claims	Claims registered	43	6	34	3	108	3
	Claimants who received an interim payment	20	4	15	1	60	2
	Total outstanding	4	1	4	—	22	1
	Total settlements	39	5	28	3	86	2

		Stone constituency		*Stafford constituency*	
		Miners	*Families*	*Miners*	*Families*
COPD claims	Claims registered	592	532	133	135
	Claimants who have received an interim payment	37	70	6	10
	Total outstanding	79	209	14	52
	Total settlements	513	323	119	83
VWF claims	Claims registered	340	22	74	7
	Claimants who received an interim payment	135	4	30	1
	Total outstanding	29	1	11	—
	Total settlements	311	21	63	7
Carpal tunnel syndrome claims	Claims registered	36	3	—	—
	Claimants who received an interim	21	3	—	—
	Total outstanding	9	1	—	—
	Total settlements	27	2	—	—

Note: The figures include almost 5,000 overseas claims.

The Department is unable to identify those COPD claims which include a pneumoconiosis element. However, under the Coal Workers Pneumoconiosis Scheme (CWPS) we have received 83,759 claims, 82,595 of which have been settled by payment, denial or withdrawal.

We have realised that there was an error in the answer given to the parliamentary question tabled on the 6 June 2007, recorded in *Hansard* on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351W, regarding the figures for pneumoconiosis under CWPS. I have written to you about the error and will place copies of the letter in the Libraries of the House.

Leeds United Football Club

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will assess the implications of Leeds United Football Club's move into administration for the effectiveness of the regulation relating to companies entering administration where a party involved in the decision to initiate the process has a commercial interest in the assets of the company. [141250]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* I should state at the outset that the Secretary of State has no powers to impede a company moving into administration as this process is commenced by way of a court order or as a result of a qualifying floating charge holder, company or its directors filing a Notice of Appointment at court.

Administrators, as licensed insolvency practitioners, are regulated professionals and are obliged by law to perform their functions in the interests of the company's creditors as a whole. Accordingly, where there is a sale of assets to a connected party of the company in administration, the administrators will need to have satisfied themselves that they are not only achieving the best possible price in the circumstances but that it is an arm's length transaction. Such a sale is sometimes the best option for delivering value for creditors. The Secretary of State has no power to stop a sale and even if he did, such a power could harm the interests of creditors of the company, many of whom have already lost considerable sums as a result of the failure. It is only a creditor or member of a company in administration that can apply to the court if they consider the administrator is acting, has acted, or proposes to act so as unfairly to harm the interests of the applicant (whether alone or in common with some or all members or creditors).

I believe it is important to emphasise that in the specific case mentioned, the administrators agreed to the sale of assets on the condition that it would be approved by the body of creditors as part of a proposal to put the company into a Company Voluntary Arrangement (CVA) and that this arrangement was approved on 1 June by more than 75 per cent. of creditors in value.

This Government want to promote an effective framework for corporate activity, to give confidence to investors, business and other stakeholders. Within that framework it is essential that we have an insolvency regime, which, while encouraging enterprise and reducing the stigma associated with failure, deals fairly and effectively with financial failure and at the same time deters fraud and misconduct. I can assure you that we are fully committed to tackling abuse and misconduct and that we have in place, and in use, mechanisms to deal with that abuse.

You may be interested to know under the Insolvency Act 1986 (before it was amended) the only option to floating charge holders would have been to have put the company into administrative receivership. Under this procedure the administrative receiver's main duty was to the appointing floating charge holder. Under the provisions of the Enterprise Act this was amended to give the option of administration so that now the interests of the creditors as a whole are taken into account. The Insolvency Service is undertaking an evaluation to assess to what extent the provisions introduced by the Enterprise Act meet the policy objectives. The final evaluation reports will be published later this year.

I am therefore content that the existing regulatory framework is sufficiently robust to prevent abuse.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Magilligan Prison

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to announce the decision on the replacement of Magilligan prison, County Londonderry. [141632]

Paul Goggins: I announced on 21 February that I had tasked the Prison Service to provide me with a comprehensive options appraisal by the end of this summer. This is intended to enable me to announce the decision on the location of the replacement to the existing Magilligan prison before the end of the year.

Paedophilia

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what plans he has to pilot in Northern Ireland the North Somerset pilot project of permitting parents to know if known paedophiles are residing nearby. [133030]

Maria Eagle: We will be carefully studying the recommendations in the Child Sex Offender Review and how they could be applied in Northern Ireland. Some are likely to be subject to pilot schemes in England and Wales and we will await the outcome of those trials before decisions are taken on the way forward.

TRANSPORT

Aircraft: Prime Minister

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made with purchasing a new aeroplane for use by the Prime Minister; what the cost of purchasing the aeroplane will be; and by what date he expects the purchase to be complete. [141271]

Gillian Merron: On 23 May 2007, the Secretary of State for Transport announced the launch of the formal procurement process and a Prior Information Notice to potential suppliers was published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* on 25 May 2007.

Sir Peter Gershon's Independent Air Travel Review, copies of which are available in the Library, set out the estimated cost and timescale for delivery of this service.

Eddington Report

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 149, on the Eddington Report, which carriages will be available on the rail network by the end of 2008; and on which routes they will be available. [141037]

Mr. Tom Harris: I anticipate that orders for additional carriages will be placed between now and 2010, the first of the carriages becoming available on the network by the latter part of 2008, with a view to completing delivery between 2009 and 2013. The precise phasing of the orders will reflect where crowding relief is most urgently needed; Network Rail's timetable for any platform-lengthening or increase in power supply which is required to accommodate longer trains; and the capacity of the suppliers of rolling stock.

It is too early to say where precisely the additional rolling stock will be used. The deployment of the new rolling stock will be agreed with the industry following the publication of the High Level Output Specification and the long-term rail strategy this summer, in accordance with the periodic review timetable set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's advice to Ministers published in February 2007.

Park and Ride Schemes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will list the park and ride schemes which made a loss during the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what the amount of the loss was in each case; [142081]

(2) if he will initiate a nationwide audit of park and ride schemes to assess their worth and the on-going cost to public funds of their operation. [142083]

Gillian Merron: Local authorities are responsible for funding most park and ride schemes and for monitoring their financial results. The Department for Transport does not request or require returns from local authorities about the financial performance of these schemes.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many grants his Department gave for park and ride schemes in each year between 2000 and 2006. [142084]

Gillian Merron: Most park and ride schemes are implemented by local authorities at their discretion from the general transport funding provided by Government. In addition, the Department provides project-specific funding for the construction of larger transport schemes. Between 2000 and 2006, nine of these schemes have included elements of park and ride.

Funding for each scheme may span a number of years. The following table shows a breakdown of the nine schemes according to the year their funding began.

	Number
2000	0
2001	0
2002	1
2003	0
2004	4
2005	1
2006	4

Park and Ride Schemes: Bridlington

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used by his Department in approving a park and ride scheme for Bridlington. [142082]

Gillian Merron: The Bridlington Integrated Transport Scheme, which includes a park and ride element, was given an initial approval (Programme Entry) by this Department in July 2006.

The decision to fund the scheme was based on the Department's assessment of East Riding of Yorkshire Council's business case. This assessment looks, in particular, at the strategic case, value for money, deliverability, and financial and commercial aspects. The value for money assessment takes into account economy, safety, integration, environment and accessibility.

All new major local authority schemes for which project-specific funding is sought are assessed according to these criteria.

Parking: Cycleways

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ban the parking of cars in bicycle lanes. [141414]

Gillian Merron: Cycle lanes are marked on the carriageway. There are two types:

the mandatory cycle lane (with a solid white line) supported by a traffic regulation order, which prohibit the use of the lane by motor vehicles during its hours of operation and can prohibit parking; and

the advisory cycle lane (with a broken white line), which while not prohibiting entry by motor vehicles can be useful in giving space to cyclists at places where the carriageway may be too narrow to safely accommodate a mandatory lane.

As with any section of carriageway, parking in cycle lanes may be prohibited by yellow line restrictions subject to a traffic regulation order made under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

Public Transport: Crimes of Violence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many incidents of violent behaviour were reported to the British Transport Police in each police authority area in each of the last five years; [141035]

(2) how many violent offences were dealt with by the British Transport Police in each police authority area in each of the last 12 months; [141036]

(3) how many crimes were reported to the British Transport Police in each police authority area in each of the last five years; and how many of these crimes were solved; [141052]

(4) how many people were convicted of violent behaviour on the rail network and subsequently sentenced to a prison sentence in each of the last 12 months. [141058]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk

Public Transport: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the local transport authority in East Sussex received *(a)* in total, *(b)* per mile of road and *(c)* per head of population in each year since 1997. [138057]

Gillian Merron: The following table shows the total funding allocated to East Sussex council in the local transport capital settlements in each year between 1997-98 and 2006-07 (inclusive) in terms of *(a)* totals *(b)* per mile of road and *(c)* per head of population.

East Sussex Council

	Total funding (£000)	*Funds per mile (£000)*	*Funds (£ per head)*
1997-98	9,047	4.29	18.21
1998-99	5,449	2.59	10.97
1999-2000	5,478	2.60	11.03
2000-01	8,043	3.82	16.19
2001-02	10,061	4.78	20.26
2002-03	10,767	5.11	21.68
2003-04	10,694	5.08	21.53
2004-05	11,955	5.67	24.07
2005-06	10,931	5.19	22.01
2006-07	10,473	4.97	21.09

The Government also support local transport authorities through the general revenue support and councils do spend some of this support on highways and transport services according to their own priorities. In addition, the Government are providing record levels of funding for railways infrastructure through the passenger franchises and by direct grant to Network Rail. This funding is not classified by local authority area, but all local authorities have benefited from work by Network Rail to address the rail infrastructure renewals backlog. Additional support for public transport over this period has seen East Sussex being awarded a total of £3,671,920 for eight bus project schemes which include both rural and urban bus challenge schemes and for 2007-08 they received £953,263 in rural bus subsidy grant. In addition East Sussex receives Bus Service Operator Grant (BSOG) and funding for concessionary fares (through the revenue support grant).

Tankers

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Marine Coastguard Agency involvement was with the tanker West Sailor in the Pentland Firth on 2 June; and if he will make a statement. [141511]

Dr. Ladyman: On 2 June, at 0846, the Aberdeen Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) received a call from the chemical tanker West Sailor, on passage through the Pentland Firth, stating she had engine room difficulties and needed to anchor to carry out repairs to the engine water cooling system.

Aberdeen MRCC coordinated the attendance of the RNLI Longhope lifeboat. In addition the MCA Emergency Towing Vessel was brought to immediate readiness and sent to the scene.

By 1133, the ship had successfully repaired the engines and was under way and resuming passage. The RNLI lifeboat escorted the ship through the Pentland Firth.

The Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) was kept fully apprised of the situation.

Tolls

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to introduce road user charging schemes in *(a)* Gravesham, *(b)* the Thames Gateway and *(c)* Kent. [141618]

Dr. Ladyman: None. Decisions on whether to introduce road user charging schemes in those areas would be for the relevant local authorities.

Vehicle Number Plates: Fire Services

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to integrate on-board cameras on fire engines into the Automated Number Plate Recognition database. [141825]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to integrate on-board cameras on fire engines with the DVLA's Automatic Number Plate Recognition [ANPR] database of unlicensed vehicles. DVLA's ANPR system is subject to stringent type approval testing by the Home Office to enable detected offenders to be taken to court for prosecution direct from the digital image captured by the cameras. Other cameras are not type approved and therefore offenders detected by other cameras would not be subject to prosecution.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will re-examine the position of commoners associations as the vehicle for making single farm payments to those who graze on commons; and which cases of such payments have been suspended. [133133]

Barry Gardiner: A number of claims have been submitted under the single payment scheme by commoners associations and those that the Rural Payments Agency have confirmed meet the scheme eligibility criteria have been allocated entitlements and received associated payments. The eligibility status of remaining claims is being considered on a case-by-case basis with the commoners associations concerned.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which farm payment deadlines missed by the UK in 2003-04 led to the European Commission's recovery of 53.7 million euros; and from which budget he expects funds recovered to be paid. [134683]

Barry Gardiner: This sum represents the deductions made to UK re-imbursements in the 2004 EU financial year in respect of mainly bovine direct aid payments relating to earlier scheme years. While the relevant Commission decision has only recently been published, the deductions were applied at the time and there will be no further impact on the UK Exchequer in relation to them.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which EU member state was subject to the greatest financial correction as a result of non-respect of payment deadlines in 2003-04. [134684]

Barry Gardiner: On the basis of decisions published to date, the UK.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of claimants in *(a)* Torridge and West Devon and *(b)* the south-west for the single farm payment scheme in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006 have been paid their payments (A) in full and (B) in part. [140797]

Barry Gardiner: As of 6 June 2007, a total of 104,618 farmers in England have received either a full or partial payment under the 2006 single payment scheme year. This total includes 98,750 full and 5,868 partial payments. This represents 96 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

RPA's target is to pay 96.14 per cent. of the total value of the fund by 30 June 2007.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the single payment scheme is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what rate of change in carbon dioxide emissions was recorded in *(a)* the EU and *(b)* the US in 2006. [140976]

Ian Pearson: In 2005, the latest year for which information is available, carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions from the EU-15 were 0.9 per cent higher than 1990 levels, although total emissions of all greenhouse gases decreased by 4.0 per cent. Emissions data to 2005 for the EU-27 are not yet available, although statistics for the EU-25 show that net CO_2 emissions decreased by 2.4 per cent. between 1990 and 2004.

CO_2 emissions in the US in 2005 were 20 per cent. above 1990 levels and total emissions of all greenhouse gases were 16 per cent. above 1990 emissions.

Between 2004 and 2005 CO_2 emissions in the EU-15 decreased by 1.2 per cent., while CO_2 emissions in the US increased by 0.4 per cent.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the percentage change in carbon dioxide emissions by the Government was over the course of 2006. [140988]

Ian Pearson: Energy data compiled for the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government Annual Report 2006 show that there was a 2.3 per cent. reduction (after correcting for weather variations) in annual carbon emissions from Government buildings during the period April 2005 and March 2006.

Figures for the financial year to March 2007 are currently being compiled and will be published by the Sustainable Development Commission later this year.

Crops: EC Law

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility of his Department's proposals on the coexistence of GM, conventional and organic crops with European law. [140798]

Ian Pearson: We are confident that our coexistence proposals are consistent with EU law.

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library the *(a)* name of the consent holder, *(b)* crop trailed, (c) location of the test sites based on six figure map references, *(d)* conditions placed on the consent and *(e)* post release assessments reports for each of the part B experimental consents 94/R20/1, 98/R28/2, 00/R20/4 and 00/R20/5 issued under EC Directive 90/220. [140875]

Ian Pearson: I have arranged for the information requested to be placed in the House Library.

EC Environmental Policy

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the inclusion of Ministers from the devolved Administrations in *(a)* Northern Ireland, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales in the United Kingdom delegation at future EU ministerial negotiations on (i) fisheries, (ii) agriculture and (iii) environmental policy. [139883]

Barry Gardiner *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* As specified in the memorandum of understanding between the UK Government and the devolved Administrations, decisions on ministerial attendance at EU Council meetings will be taken on a case-by-case basis by the lead UK Minister. In reaching decisions on

the composition of the UK team, the lead Minister will take into account the extent to which substantive discussion is expected of matters likely to have a significant impact on devolved responsibilities.

Environmental Stewardship Scheme

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for the higher level stewardship scheme were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each Government region in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [140799]

Barry Gardiner: The following table shows the number of higher level stewardship applications received and granted in each of Natural England's regions in 2005-06.

Region	Received	Granted
East	69	56
East Midlands	38	30
North-east	51	48
North-west	137	119
South-east	116	92
South-west	235	182
West Midlands	225	202
Yorkshire and the Humber	57	46

In 2006-07, the number of higher level stewardship applications received and granted in each of Natural England's regions were as follows:

Region	Received	Granted
East	236	127
East Midlands	194	108
London	6	3
North-east	127	59
North-west	161	71
South-east	253	166
South-west	376	128
West Midlands	206	94
Yorkshire and the Humber	154	78

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the *(a)* highest, *(b)* lowest and *(c)* average value of award made under the higher level stewardship scheme was in each government region in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [140800]

Barry Gardiner: For 2005-06, the highest, lowest and average value of annual payments made under higher level stewardship in each of Natural England's regions are set out in the following table:

Region	Highest	Lowest	£ Average
East	127,583.97	6,547.83	33,306.46
East Midlands	66,466.32	4,228.90	20,160.76
North-east	300,583.13	2,609.15	32,763.34
North-west	21,465.80	6,18.75	7,560.48
South-east	80,918.61	3,276.83	19,164.00
South-west	83,731.58	826.95	13,271.12
West Midlands	83,878.21	800.00	14,018.73
Yorkshire and the Humber	29,616.27	1,185.95	10,752.87

For 2006-07, the highest, lowest and average value of annual payments made under higher level stewardship in each of Natural England's regions were as follows:

Region	Highest	Lowest	£ Average
East	328,689.74	310.80	28,439.21
East Midlands	82,815.17	1,444.62	20,472.84
London	48,982.08	14,936.00	31,959.00
North-east	88,793.15	1,730.91	20,896.62
North-west	109,956.40	1,212.23	13,326.24
South-east	315,214.00	748.58	22,125.65
South-west	183,576.75	284.32	17,439.23
West Midlands	81,849.61	480.00	14,646.17
Yorkshire and the Humber	101,078.80	1,326.77	14,865.21

Floods: Databases

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of the recent pilot mailings by the Environment Agency to households and businesses about the Floodline Warnings Direct service was sent to households or businesses which are not above the threshold level of flood risk; [140836]

(2) what the threshold level of flood risk is above which households and businesses are included in the Floodline Warnings Direct database; [140833]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of households and businesses excluded from the Floodline Warnings Direct database in error which are above the threshold level of risk from floods; [140834]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of households and businesses included in the Floodline Warnings Direct database in error which are below the threshold level of flood risk. [140835]

Ian Pearson: The Environment Agency (EA) incorrectly sent a letter about Floodline Warnings Direct to 50 households at moderate flood risk. This represents 0.1 per cent. of the recent Floodline Warnings Direct recruitment mailings that the EA has sent to households across England. The EA have confirmed this as an error isolated to Congresbury, North Somerset and has contacted the 50 householders concerned to apologise.

The EA takes into consideration the source, the risk and the impact of flooding on a community when evaluating where it provides a flood warning service and the method by which flood warnings are communicated to the public.

The EA offers Floodline Warnings Direct to those households and businesses with a high risk of flooding.

We define high risk as flooding at, or greater than, the 1 in 100 year return period (1 per cent. probability of occurring in any year) for flooding from rivers and the 1 in 200 year return period (0.5 per cent. probability) for flooding from the sea.

However, in some locations the EA has offered the Floodline Warnings Direct service to households and businesses up to the Extreme Flood Outline which represents the 1 in 1,000 year flood (0.1 per cent. probability) due to the predicted impacts of flooding on the community.

The EA does not offer the flood warning service to properties outside the Extreme Flood Outline. Therefore, the EA has not excluded any households or businesses in error from Floodline Warnings Direct which are above the threshold level of risk from flooding.

In March 2007, the EA mailed 9,166 of the 195,000 properties registered with Floodline Warnings Direct in England who no longer require warnings as they are not within the Extreme Flood Outline. The EA has not included these 9,166 properties in Floodline Warnings Direct in error as since the properties were included their level of flood risk has been updated with more accurate information.

Gardens: Heating

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will estimate the *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* greenhouse gas emissions created by outdoor patio heaters in (i) the most recent year for which information is available and (ii) the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement on the expected effect on the (A) use of and (B) volume of emissions from outdoor patio heaters resulting from changes to legislation related to smoking in public places from 1st July 2007. [140639]

Ian Pearson: Currently, only limited information is available about the number of outdoor patio heaters in use in the UK.

The market transformation programme (MTP) estimates that the number of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) patio heaters is around 630,000 in the domestic sector and between 3,000 and 12,500 in the hospitality sector (pubs, restaurants and hotels). This does not include electric outdoor heating appliances, however, which appear to be gaining market share.

The LPG Association has provided sales figures for LPG supplied in cylinders sized for outdoor heating appliances each year. From the association's 2005 figures, the MTP estimates that annual carbon dioxide emissions from patio heaters in the UK are around 22.2 thousand tonnes. No information on other greenhouse gas emissions from outdoor patio heaters is available.

The MTP estimates are not derived from surveys or detailed research, and should not be interpreted as accurate data on energy consumption and carbon emissions. Information about emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases is not available for future years.

There is currently no information available on the expected effect on the use and volume of emissions from patio heaters resulting from changes to legislation related to smoking in public places from 1 July 2007. However, the MTP is currently updating its briefing note 'Outdoor Heating for Comfort' to look at the possible impacts of the smoking ban on UK carbon dioxide emissions. This is available on the MTP website.

This updates the information I gave in my answer to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mr. Todd) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 474W.

GMOs: Crops

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to what use the residues produced by the processing of BASF's GM starch altered potato (EU marketing application EH92-527-1) will be put. [140877]

Ian Pearson: No consent to cultivate or market this potato product has yet been granted. However, the conditions of the draft Commission decision on it require BASF to include a label informing operators and final users that products containing or consisting of potato tubers of line EH92-527-1 cannot be used for human or animal consumption. The draft decision also states that material should be exclusively used for industrial purposes or destroyed.

Hill Farming

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average age is of a hill farmer in England; and if he will make a statement. [140424]

Barry Gardiner: In 2005, the average (median) age of a holder in a less favoured area in England was 58 years. This excludes holdings where the holder is a legal entity, as well as group holdings where there is no single holder.

Japanese Knotweed

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to define standards for eradication of Japanese knotweed; and if he will make a statement. [141298]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA partially funded, and fully supports, the guidance set out in the Environment Agency's "Knotweed Code of Practice: Managing Japanese Knotweed on Development Sites", which was published in September 2006. This sets out advice on how to deal with Japanese knotweed to an acceptable standard of effectiveness. It also advises on relevant pesticide, environmental protection and controlled waste legislation and the offence under section 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 of planting or causing Japanese knotweed to grow in the wild.

The Secretary of State may approve any code of practice relating to species covered by section 14 of the 1981 Act. Any such code is then admissible in any court proceedings and must be taken into account by a court in any case in which it is deemed to be relevant. The Japanese knotweed code is one that we will be considering for such approval.

National Parks: South Downs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to make an announcement on a National Park covering the South Downs. [140757]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA will shortly be inviting further representations on matters that were not able to be addressed by the South Downs Inquiry. In the light of responses received, Ministers will consider whether it is appropriate for the inquiry to be re-opened. If the inquiry is re-opened, an announcement on the decision whether to create a South Downs National Park is expected no later than autumn 2008. If it is not re-opened, an announcement early in 2008 will be possible.

Waste Management

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil servants are working on policy on aerobic composting, broken down by grade; and if he will make a statement. [140637]

Barry Gardiner: No DEFRA officials work exclusively on aerobic composting. However, a number of officials in the Waste Strategy, Waste Management, Air and Environment Quality, Waste Implementation Programme, and Endemic Diseases divisions work on issues relating to aerobic composting. These issues include policy and targets, the regulatory system for the composting process and its outputs, the demonstration of new composting technologies and animal by-product processing.

SCOTLAND

Employment

7. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the employment levels were in Scotland in each of the last four years; and if he will make a statement. [140958]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the final quarter of the last four years the employment levels in Scotland were:

2.39 million in 2003;

2.45 million in 2004;

2.46 million in 2005; and

2.50 million in 2006.

11. **Mr. Devine:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the most recent figures for overall employment levels in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [140964]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the first quarter of 2007 the employment level in Scotland stood at 2.53 million. This marks a record high for the number of people employed.

Business Environment

8. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Government are taking to ensure a long-term stable environment for Scottish business. [140959]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Scottish economy continues to benefit from the domestic stability delivered by the UK Government's strong macroeconomic framework, which has delivered sustained growth, low interest rates and stable inflation. This Government have facilitated the strongest Scottish labour market in decades with employment and unemployment around their historically best positions.

Civil Service Jobs

9. **Mr. Moore:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on numbers of civil service jobs in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [140960]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular discussions with my right hon. Friend on a range of issues.

Broadcasting

10. **Pete Wishart:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with Scottish Ministers on the further devolution of broadcasting powers. [140961]

David Cairns: Parliament decided in the Scotland Act 1998 that broadcasting should be a reserved issue and there are no plans to change that.

Carbon Capture: Peterhead Project

12. **Mr. Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the future of the Peterhead carbon capture project. [140965]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I discuss a wide range of subjects with ministerial colleagues on a regular basis.

Research and Development

13. **Ann McKechin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent estimate he has made of the number of research and development projects being undertaken in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [140966]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not compile such estimates but I note that a survey for IBM last autumn showed Scotland's success in attracting 19 per cent. of all UK research and development projects in the UK—well above our population share.

Absent Voting

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will conduct an investigation into the postal ballot delays for the Scottish elections on 3 May. [136137]

David Cairns *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The Electoral Commission has appointed Mr. Ron Gould to lead the statutory review of the May elections. The Electoral Commission published the terms of reference of this review on 21 May, confirming that Mr. Gould will consider the arrangements for postal voting.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his estimate is of the number of voters in Scotland who will be unable to cast their vote for the Scottish Parliamentary and local government elections as a result of the delay in sending out the postal ballots; and if he will make a statement. [136138]

David Cairns *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* This information is not available because there is no way of knowing, from those who do not return their postal votes, how many simply chose not to return their ballot papers and how many were not able to return them for practical reasons, for example, being on holiday. I understand that the majority of postal votes were received by voters a week before polling day, or even earlier.

Devolution: Co-operation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of processes in place to facilitate co-operation between the Scottish Executive and the Government. [140962]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A memorandum of understanding sets out the over-arching principles that underpin relations between the UK Government and the devolved Administrations. The Government have no plans to revise this memorandum of understanding.

Drugs: Misuse

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what measures are being taken to combat illegal drug use in Scotland. [140963]

David Cairns: Operational responsibility for tackling illegal drug use in Scotland is devolved and is the responsibility of the Scottish Executive.

Elections

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what dates in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007 (i) Ministers and (ii) officials in his Department had meetings regarding the running of the Scottish elections on 3 May 2007. [136139]

David Cairns *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* Scotland Office Ministers and officials had meetings every month since January 2006 about the Scottish Parliament elections on 3 May 2007. Ministers had 13 meetings and officials had 158.

Elections: Ballot Papers

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what role *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department played in the negotiation of the contracts with private companies to carry out the printing, collating and distribution of postal ballot papers for the elections in Scotland on 3 May. [136136]

David Cairns *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The responsibility for handling postal ballot papers rests with Returning Officers. The printing of postal ballot papers formed part of the contract to deliver an electronic counting service. This contract was negotiated through an electronic counting project board, consisting of representatives of Returning Officers, Scottish Executive and Scotland Office officials, and DRS. Decisions relating to the e-counting contract with DRS were taken by the electronic counting project board. The collation and distribution of postal ballot papers for the elections were handled through separate, individual, contracts between the Returning Officer and their suppliers.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefit: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Warrington are in receipt of council tax benefit, broken down by ward of resident; and what the average award made was in 2006-07. [142483]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Information for council tax benefit is not available at ward level.

As at November 2006, the most recent available information, there were 13,770 households in receipt of council tax benefit in the Warrington borough council area; the average weekly amount of council tax benefit was £12.71.

Council Tax Benefits: Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's timetable is for reform of council tax benefit further to the recommendations of Sir Michael Lyons. [142263]

Mr. Plaskitt: There is a great deal for the Government to consider, arising from Sir Michael Lyons report, much of it identified as being for the longer term.

We already have in place more accessible council tax benefit arrangements for pension credit customers, and we are considering whether these can be further improved.

In the longer term, we want to ensure that council tax benefit is delivered as accessibly, simply and securely as possible. We intend to carry out more research into the feasibility of using data held across Government Departments in order to build up profiles of people likely to be entitled. We also intend to develop the concept of a "single point of contact" for pensioners for access to their benefits, coupled with alignment of application processes. This would produce a better public service as well as greater efficiency.

We will consider, in our research, the impact on fraud and error and issues of practicality and affordability, alongside priorities for the tax and benefits system as a whole. We will also consider the relative merits of piloting any changes and rolling them out nationally.

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his policy is on the provision of council tax benefit in Scotland. [142356]

Mr. Plaskitt: Council tax benefit is a national benefit and we have no plans to change this.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139449]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department buys advertising through the Central Office of Information (COI). Under the terms of COI framework agreements, advertising agencies are contracted to supply advertising services only. Advertising agencies on COI's roster do not supply broader consultancy services. On occasion wider ranging consultancy projects may inform campaign work, but the costs would not be attributed to the campaign.

Where consultancy is provided by other organisations it usually results in a range of communication activities which may or may not include advertising; it is not possible to distinguish the cost of providing consultancy for advertising from that for other forms of communication.

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on his Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [140668]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has not received any revenue, over the last 10 years, from either *(a)* public information leaflets or *(b)* public websites.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the code of conduct for special advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140135]

Mrs. McGuire: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the code of conduct for special advisers, including section 22(iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Flexible Working

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress his Department has made in extending the right to request flexible working arrangements to cover care of older children further to the consultation strategy published in February 2005. [141265]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The responses to the Work and Families consultation in February 2005 showed that carers should be the priority group in any extension of the right to request flexible working. As a result we extended the right to 2.65 million carers of adults in April. We are currently keeping the law under review.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on housing benefit in each year since 1997; and what percentage of the non-pension welfare budget was spent on housing benefit in each year. [140585]

Mr. Plaskitt: For details of housing benefit expenditure, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1160W. Information on the proportion of the non-pension welfare budget spent on housing benefit is in the following table.

Proportion of the non-pension welfare budget spent on housing benefit: Great Britain

	Percentage
1997-98	14.8
1998-99	14.3
1999-2000	14.0
2000-01	13.9
2001-02	13.7
2002-03	14.9
2003-04	17.3
2004-05	18.5
2005-06	19.7
2006-07	20.1
2007-08	20.5

Note:
These figures are not comparable over time due to changes in the benefit system. For example, the transfer of child elements from benefits to tax credits.
Source:
DWP expenditure tables

Housing Benefit: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for housing benefit were dealt with by Warrington borough council in each of the last five years; and what the average award was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [141013]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit (HB) claims in Warrington borough council

	Number of HB claims
2002-03	5,014
2003-04	n/a
2004-05	3,469
2005-06	4,124
2006-07	2,940

n/a = Not available

Notes:

1. Figures are for financial years.
2. For 2006-07 the data are from April to December 2006.

As at November 2006, the average weekly amount of housing benefit in Warrington borough council was £58.21.

Performance management information returned by local authorities to the Department is published on the Housing Benefit Operational Database (HoBOD). HoBOD can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hobod

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time taken by Warrington borough council to process a claim for housing benefit was in the most recent period for which figures are available; and what the average time was in comparable local authorities. [141014]

Mr. Plaskitt: The average time taken by Warrington Borough Council to process a claim for housing benefit up to 31 December 2006 is 25 days. For the same period the national average time for local authorities to process a housing benefit claim is 34 days.

Performance management information returned by local authorities to the Department is published on the Housing Benefit Operational Database (HoBOD). HoBOD can be accessed using the following link:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hobod

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents *(a)* claiming income support and *(b)* who had been claiming income support for longer than five years had children aged (i) under three years, (ii) under five years, (iii) between five and 11 years, (iv) between three and 11 years and (v) over 11 years in each month since January 1992. [138726]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The information is not available in the format requested. Because of changes in methodology comparable figures are not available prior to 1999. The available information is in the following tables.

Number of lone parents receiving income support, by youngest child's age, in Great Britain at quarters shown

Quarter ending	With a youngest child under three	With a youngest child under five	With a youngest child aged between three and 11	With a youngest child aged between five and 11	With a youngest child aged over 11
1999					
August	305,830	469,050	522,980	359,760	116,250
November	298,940	460,910	515,690	353,730	115,610
2000					
February	294,940	456,240	511,950	350,660	116,580
May	291,960	453,320	510,170	348,800	117,310
August	289,280	451,520	512,550	350,310	118,270
November	285,110	444,500	503,820	344,430	116,830
2001					
February	287,060	446,500	503,260	343,820	117,890
May	283,160	442,120	499,800	340,830	117,470
August	283,540	441,860	499,930	341,620	116,740
November	273,530	427,400	489,700	335,830	115,360
2002					
February	272,980	425,200	487,740	335,520	116,400
November	265,740	412,690	475,400	328,450	115,090
2003					
February	263,620	408,350	470,050	325,330	115,170
May	267,030	413,730	473,670	326,970	115,100
August	265,300	411,280	472,640	326,650	113,790
November	259,150	401,220	459,880	317,810	112,720
2004					
February	258,130	400,270	458,930	316,790	113,200
May	257,130	397,750	453,550	312,930	112,600
August	254,220	394,000	452,200	312,420	111,680
November	247,360	383,050	439,000	303,320	110,160
2005					
February	246,090	380,690	436,600	302,000	110,440
May	246,390	379,540	433,250	300,090	109,690
August	243,880	377,270	435,250	301,860	110,220
November	242,220	373,090	427,320	296,450	109,050
2006					
February	240,600	372,030	427,610	296,170	108,890
May	240,660	371,970	426,100	294,800	108,100
August	241,170	374,930	433,070	299,300	108,950
November	240,990	373,010	426,500	294,470	108,130

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

Number of lone parents receiving income support for five years or more, by youngest child's age, in Great Britain at quarters shown

Quarter ending	With a youngest child under three	With a youngest child under five	With a youngest child aged between three and 11	With a youngest child aged between five and 11	With a youngest child aged over 11
1999					
August	50,750	93,940	205,750	162,560	60,180
November	49,300	92,670	204,530	161,160	60,420

Number of lone parents receiving income support for five years or more, by youngest child's age, in Great Britain at quarters shown

Quarter ending	With a youngest child under three	With a youngest child under five	With a youngest child aged between three and 11	With a youngest child aged between five and 11	With a youngest child aged over 11
2000					
February	43,280	91,680	204,230	160,820	61,230
May	47,480	90,640	203,860	160,700	61,930
August	46,750	89,890	204,050	160,920	62,500
November	45,840	88,310	201,700	159,230	61,980
2001					
February	45,700	87,460	200,540	158,790	62,320
May	44,860	85,920	199,070	158,010	62,290
August	44,740	85,050	198,260	157,960	61,870
November	43,060	81,540	195,900	157,410	61,620
2002					
February	43,050	80,410	195,180	157,810	62,140
May	42,580	79,440	194,600	157,740	61,980
August	42,840	79,870	195,920	158,890	62,160
November	42,700	79,280	193,820	157,240	62,230
2003					
February	42,580	79,230	194,260	157,620	62,920
May	42,790	79,420	193,700	157,070	62,610
August	43,210	80,210	193,710	156,720	61,950
November	43,130	79,660	191,900	155,370	62,370
2004					
February	43,260	80,170	192,410	155,500	62,880
May	43,810	80,670	191,810	154,950	63,230
August	43,850	80,670	192,050	155,220	63,150
November	43,330	79,230	188,980	153,090	63,120
2005					
February	42,930	78,300	187,710	152,340	63,190
May	43,130	78,480	187,430	152,090	63,110
August	42,560	78,040	188,230	152,750	63,470
November	42,520	77,850	186,890	151,550	63,270
2006					
February	41,900	77,170	186,650	151,380	63,170
May	41,770	77,060	186,330	151,040	62,890
August	41,000	76,660	187,130	151,470	63,190
November	40,800	76,220	185,330	149,910	62,870

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

International Labour Organisation

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Ministers attended the International Labour Organisation's annual conference in each year since 2000. [141415]

Mrs. McGuire: The following Ministers have attended the International Labour Organisation's annual conference since 2000:

Right hon. Tessa Jowell 2000 and 2001;
Malcolm Wicks 2002;
Maria Eagle 2003;
Chris Pond 2004; and
James Plaskitt 2005, 2006, and 2007.

New Deal for Disabled People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in the new deal for disabled people left the scheme for sustainable employment in each month since it was initiated. [137922]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 May 2007]*: Up to the end of November 2006, new deal for disabled people (NDDP) had been successful in helping 134,160 people into work, including 101,720 people who had registered with, and received assistance from, an NDDP job broker.

Information on job sustainability is available to March 2006. Of the 78,970 people who had gained a job through a job broker to March 2006, 54,090 had gained a sustained job.

A new deal for disabled people (NDDP) job is regarded as sustained when a person who has been placed into work through an NDDP job broker remains in work for 13 out of 39 weeks. Prior to October 2003, an NDDP job was regarded as sustained when a person, placed into work through an NDDP job broker, remained in work for 26 out of 39 weeks.

Information on those who are recorded as leaving NDDP with an immediate destination of employment, which was also recorded as a sustained job, is in the following table.

New deal for disabled people (NDDP)

Month	Number of leavers with a recorded immediate destination of sustained employment
January 2002	20
February 2002	60
March 2002	130
April 2002	170
May 2002	210
June 2002	150
July 2002	140
August 2002	190
September 2002	250
October 2002	240
November 2002	350
December 2002	300
January 2003	470
February 2003	340
March 2003	460
April 2003	430
May 2003	800
June 2003	500
July 2003	400
August 2003	590
September 2003	520
October 2003	1,260

New deal for disabled people (NDDP)

Month	*Number of leavers with a recorded immediate destination of sustained employment*
November 2003	1,020
December 2003	850
January 2004	1,180
February 2004	1,170
March 2004	1,160
April 2004	1,090
May 2004	950
June 2004	1,140
July 2004	1,490
August 2004	1,350
September 2004	1,210
October 2004	2,030
November 2004	1,450
December 2004	1,610
January 2005	1,930
February 2005	1,960
March 2005	1,640
April 2005	1,610
May 2005	1,510
June 2005	1,750
July 2005	2,140
August 2005	1,670
September 2005	2,120
October 2005	1,680
November 2005	1,630
December 2005	1,880
January 2006	2,010
February 2006	2,100
March 2006	2,240

Notes:
1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Separate data on whether a job is sustained through NDDP are not collected centrally after March 2006.
3. The new deal for disabled people programme was introduced in July 2001.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Remploy: Closures

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria were used to determine whether a Remploy factory would be eligible for *(a)* closure and *(b)* merger. [139196]

Mrs. McGuire: In deciding eligibility for potential closure Remploy took into account several factors: the market for the product made at the factory, the likely ability to achieve acceptable losses per disabled employee in the future, the percentage of cost which is covered by income from customers and the local employment market.

For mergers the company not only took into account the above factors, but also considered the proximity to another factory which was not potentially closing.

We will consider the company's final proposals once they have been submitted later in the year following consultation. No decision by the Secretary of State on the future of the company will take place until then and the Government encourage participation in the consultation process by contacting Bob Warner on tel: 02476 515810 or writing to him at: Remploy, Stonecourt, Siskin Drive, Coventry, CV3 4FJ.

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what representations were made by *(a)* management and *(b)* staff regarding the possible closure of the Remploy factory in Hartlepool; [139197]

(2) what consideration was given to merging the Hartlepool and Stockton Remploy factories as an alternative to closure. [139199]

Mrs. McGuire: In drawing up the closure proposals Remploy took into account the market for the product made at their factories, their likely ability to achieve acceptable losses per disabled employee in the future, the percentage of its cost which is covered by income from its customers and the local employment market. The proximity to another factory which was not closing was considered.

The Remploy Board's proposals signal the next phase in the development of a five-year modernisation plan—a formal consultation with trade unions and employees and a disability impact assessment as part of Remploy's Disability Equality Duty obligations.

The Government will consider the company's final proposals once they have been submitted later in the year following consultation. No decisions by the Secretary of State on the future of the company will take place until then.

No representations have been made to Government on the proposed closure of the Hartlepool factory. If there are strong arguments against the proposed closure of the Hartlepool factory, the Board of Remploy would be happy to fully consider them.

The Government encourage participation in the consultation process by contacting Bob Warner Chief Executive of Remploy on tel: 02476 515810 or in writing at: Remploy, Stonecourt, Siskin Drive, Coventry, CV3 4FJ.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans his Department has for simplifying the benefits system for people with disabilities. [141474]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell) on 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1208W.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many days in advance of payment to claimants of *(a)* income support, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance, *(c)* disability living allowance and *(d)* pension credit his Department transfers funds to banks. [141422]

Mr. Plaskitt: Funds for the payment of DWP benefits and allowances are transferred to banks on day three of the BACS processing cycle. This is normally the same day that payment is credited to the claimant's bank account.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the implications of changes in energy prices for the level of the winter fuel allowance. [141261]

James Purnell: The winter fuel payment is a significant contribution to winter fuel bills which account for around 60 per cent. of the year's total fuel bill. It has risen from £20 to £200 from winter 2000-01 and to £300 for people aged 80 or over from winter 2003-04.

Fuel prices are volatile, and can fall as well as rise. Although fuel prices have risen since 2003 this follows a period of no change between 1997 and 2003, and following recent falls in wholesale gas prices, companies are now starting to announce reductions in retail prices. It would not be sensible for the rate of winter fuel payments to track the upward and downward movement of fuel prices.

DEFENCE

Air Force: Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is for ensuring that there are sufficient numbers of pilots qualified and able to serve as fast jet pilots; and if he will make a statement. [141932]

Mr. Ingram: There is a robust process to establish and sustain the requirement for pilots qualified and able to serve as fast jet pilots. The process for the RAF is undertaken by RAF manpower planners who compare the forecast requirement for fast jet pilots against the forecast strength. Any anticipated gap is then adjusted by modifying the forecast number of fast jet pilots required to graduate from the operational conversion unit as necessary. The RN process is very similar. The process helps to predict manning trends such as premature voluntary release, medical discharge, promotion and normal retirement.

Armed Conflict: Journalism

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions his Department has had with (i) European partners and (ii) others to seek the earliest possible compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738 on the protection of journalists reporting on armed conflict; and if he will make a statement [140892]

Mr. Ingram: Her Majesty's Government strongly support UNSCR 1738. We acknowledge the importance of ensuring that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel are provided with the protection they need.

The MOD already affords journalists the same protection rights as civilians in conflict areas, providing they do not take action adversely affecting their status, in accordance with article 79 of additional protocol 1 of the Geneva conventions. To assist the process of ensuring that international law is respected and enforced, and to raise awareness of violence directed against journalists in conflict zones, the UK tabled UNSCR 1738 jointly with our EU partners in December 2006. This called on parties involved in conflict to stop deliberate attacks against journalists and respect them as civilians under international law.

While we have had no recent correspondence with our EU partners about resolution 1738, we continue to work with them and others to support efforts to promote and strengthen respect for international law.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions his officials have had with (i) NATO partners and (ii) others (A) on respect for the professional independence and rights of journalists, media professionals and associated personnel during armed conflict and (B) to obtain universal compliance with obligations under international law to end impunity and prosecute those responsible for serious violations of international law against such persons; and if he will make a statement. [140895]

Mr. Ingram: Her Majesty's Government are committed to promoting freedom of expression worldwide and to defending and protecting the professional independence and right of journalists and media professionals to work without fear of reprisal during armed conflict. Although we have had no recent correspondence on these matters with NATO partners or others, we work with them and others to support efforts to promote and strengthen international law. An essential part of this is our strong support for the international criminal tribunals which are a key element of international efforts to combat the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures have been introduced by his Department to ensure the UK's compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738, on the protection of journalists in armed conflict; and if he will make a statement. [140896]

Mr. Ingram: UK armed forces protect journalists in the same way they protect civilians in theatre, provided they do not take action adversely affecting their status under international law. This is enshrined in our instructions on the practical arrangements for enabling correspondents to report from operational theatres and in the training provided to our personnel.

Armed Forces: Burma

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the British Government provide pensions to any Burmese soldiers who fought alongside the British in the second world war. [141984]

Derek Twigg: The British Government no longer provide pensions to Burmese soldiers who fought alongside the British forces in the second world war. Responsibility for the payment of these pensions was transferred to the Government of Burma in 1947, ahead of Burma gaining independence in January 1948.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval was for *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy, *(c)* Royal Air Force and *(d)* Royal Marine personnel in the latest period for which figures are available. [128238]

Mr. Ingram: The average tour interval for land units is 26.5 months.

Arms and services tour intervals—February 2007

	Infantry	*Royal Armoured Corps*	*Royal Artillery*	*Royal Engineers*	*Royal Signals*	*Royal Logistic Corps*
Tour interval (months)	24.7	39.1	22.4	19.7	25.4	28.0
Tour interval (average)	26.5 months					

For Royal Navy personnel, deployments are not to be longer than nine months. A ship's programme aims for 60 per cent. of the time on deployment and 40 per cent. of the time alongside at the base port over a two-year rolling period. Current activity for surface ships is approximately 53 per cent. away, 47 per cent. at home.

Tour intervals for the Royal Marines in 3 Commando Brigade RM varies between units but on average is 34 months, although this does not reflect individual company deployments which have been more frequent.

Data on RAF average tour intervals are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* longest, *(b)* shortest and *(c)* average period of time was taken to make repairs to a forces' accommodation property after a call out in the last period for which figures are available. [142100]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff were employed at the Modern Housing Solutions helpdesk in Speke, Liverpool in each month since it was established. [142103]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is set out in the following table:

	Number employed
2005	
July	1.0
August	2.0
September	2.0
October	2.0
November	2.0
December	19.0
2006	
January	63.0
February	68.5
March	63.0
April	85.0
May	85.0
June	98.5
July	100.5
August	113.0
September	122.0
October	114.0
November	102.5
December	113.0
2007	
January	108.0
February	106.0
March	99.0
April	101.0
May	86.5

There was no specific "go-live" date for the helpdesk. The contract was dated 14 November 2005 and was rolled out on a regional basis from January 2006. Modern Housing Solutions built up the helpdesk during that period. Staff were in place before the contract was signed as MHS knew from April 2005 that it was the preferred bidder.

When MHS began delivering services, the number of calls received was higher than anticipated, requiring additional staff to be employed on the helpdesk. Over time, however, the need has reduced for these additional staff, resulting in a reduction in staff between April and May 2007.

Armed Forces: Pay

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Army personnel were mispaid in the May pay run for the Army by Joint Personnel Administration; and if he will make a statement. [139858]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* 169 Army personnel were mispaid during May. All of these cases related to errors in the payment of allowances and will be corrected in the June pay run.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what amount the operational allowance will be increased for fiscal year 2007-08 to take account of the rate of inflation. [141616]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* For the financial year 2007-08, the operational allowance for Iraq and Afghanistan will increase by 3.6 per cent. and this will be backdated to 1 April 2007. The allowance is based on the tax and national insurance paid by a

private soldier, lower band pay range, level 5, on his/her income and longer separation allowance, while deployed on operations. Therefore, backdated to 1 April 2007, the daily rate of operational allowance will increase from £12.31 to £12.75. Consequently during a six month tour of duty it will increase from £2,240 to £2,320. However, due to the improved security situation in the Balkans, personnel serving in this area will no longer qualify for the operational allowance from 1 September 2007.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* awarding retrospectively armed service pensions to all those armed service personnel who do not receive pensions and *(b)* providing pensions on retirement to those service personnel who are currently not likely to be entitled to a pension. [138022]

Derek Twigg: No specific estimate has been produced regarding the cost of backdating armed forces preserved pensions before 1975. However, in view of the fact that this issue is common to other public service schemes not just the armed forces, the cost, whether to the armed forces or more widely, would be considerable and could run into billions of pounds.

The only individuals currently serving who will not be entitled to a pension are those who do not serve the two years necessary to qualify for an armed forces pension. However, they may transfer their notional benefits out of the armed forces pension scheme into another public sector scheme.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1289W, on the armed forces: pensions, how much it would cost to obtain the information. [141921]

Derek Twigg: There are currently in excess of 350,000 pensions in payment and, although the sums being paid can be accessed, it is not possible to tell whether the amount is in respect of a "full career pension" or a lesser period. The cost of scrutinising each file to check the length of each individual's reckonable service would be in excess of £900,000.

Armed Forces: Personal Records

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department records on *(a)* Service personnel and *(b)* Service families. [136411]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 10 May 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence records a wide range of information on Service personnel. This information is used to support effective administration of Service personnel and to inform policy on, for example, pay, allowances, accommodation, training, health care, health and safety management, and career management. Statistics on Defence personnel are published regularly by the Defence Analytical Services Agency, and these are available on their website and in the Library of the House.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his United States counterpart on the deployment of missile defence systems in Europe. [141588]

Des Browne: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations. The position on missile defence in Europe is as set out in my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's reply of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 237W, to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague).

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139431]

Derek Twigg: The only advertising undertaken by the Ministry of Defence is recruitment related.

Armed forces recruitment advertising is bought through the Central Office of Information (COI). Under the terms of the COI framework agreements advertising agencies are contracted to supply advertising services only and not to supply broader consultancy services.

The Royal Navy uses two advertising agencies for its recruit advertising activities, procured through the COI. These are Wright Collins Rutherford Scott, and Glue London. No additional external organisations are used to provide consultancy services.

The Army has not bought any advertising services outside of those procured through the COI. Currently, the Army is working with Zenith Optimedia to deliver advertising campaigns.

The Royal Air Force currently works with the advertising agency Delaney Lund Knox Warren to deliver its advertising campaigns. It has not procured any organisations to supply wider consultancy services for those campaigns.

Information on the recruitment of civilian staff is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ex-servicemen and women in Somerset *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were subsequently issued with (i) an HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge and (ii) a UK Merchant Seafarers Badge. [141504]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The information on Veterans Badges is not held in a format that identifies how many badges were applied for and subsequently issued; it is possible to give information only on how many are issued. I can confirm that 3,060 Veterans Badges have been issued to ex-servicemen and women in Somerset since 2004.

Information relating to the Merchant Seafarers Badge is not held in a format that allows counties to be readily identified. However, I can confirm a total of 5,634 badges have been issued since the scheme began on 27 June 2006.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to Question 127568, tabled by the hon. Member for North Durham on 12 March 2007. [138517]

Derek Twigg: I replied to my hon. Friend on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 752W.

Warships

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days the Sea Dart missile system was fully operational for each of the eight remaining Type 42 destroyers in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* 2006. [141002]

Mr. Ingram: The Sea Dart missile system has a good record for reliability and effectiveness. I am withholding the detailed information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

TREASURY

Departments: Drama

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much it cost to run the interactive drama training sessions in each year since their introduction. [139998]

John Healey: In common with most other public and private sector organisations, the Treasury occasionally uses role-playing techniques in its training programmes, for example on teaching interview and management skills, and on improving diversity awareness. However, the costs of these elements of training programmes are not separately recorded.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139101]

Mr. Timms: HM Treasury publishes a wide range of data on disability and diversity in its annual report and on its website (www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_disability_equality.cfm). The number of officials with epilepsy is not detailed as this could identify individual members of staff.

Departments: Meetings

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting he attended on 10 May. [140007]

John Healey: On 10 May the Chancellor attended Cabinet and then Treasury oral questions. It is not the practice of this or other administrations to release the minutes of Cabinet or other meetings.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims have been made against *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Sex Discrimination Act since 1997; and what the outcome was of each such case. [139997]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

Department	*Response*	*Outcome*
HMT	None	Not applicable
Royal Mint	One case	Settled out of court
DMO	None	Not applicable
HMRC	69 cases The above figure includes figures for Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise prior to the establishment of HMRC. However, the 'Customs and Excise' element of these figures is for the last five years only as earlier figures are not available.	Number of claims withdrawn: 26 Claims upheld: None Claims not upheld: 16 Claims settled out of court: 27
VOA	VOA is unable to provide any information earlier than 2001-02 without incurring disproportionate costs. Since 2001-02 there have been 34 cases.	Claims not upheld: Five Claims settled out of court: four One case remains pending an employment tribunal hearing, and 21 further cases remain pending on the outcome of an employment tribunal on a common issue. Two pending internal investigation One pending outcome of an employment tribunal claim
NS&I	None	Not applicable
OGC	None	Not applicable
ONS	Two cases	Cases not upheld: Two

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's employee surveys for *(a)* 1998 and *(b)* 1999. [142024]

John Healey: HM Treasury began employee surveys in 2002.

EC Budget: Contributions

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the United Kingdom's *(a)* gross and *(b)* net annual contributions to the European Union are expected to be in each of the next six years; and if he will make a statement. [142023]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 31 January 2006, *Official Report*, columns 398-400W.

Later calendar year estimates for the United Kingdom's contributions to the EC Budget will be published annually in the Government's "European Community Finances" White Paper. The 2007 edition of this White Paper (Cm 7090) was published on 22 May 2007.

Eligo International Limited

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* date, *(b)* value and *(c)* purpose was of each payment made by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies to Eligo International Limited since 1997. [141270]

John Healey: None of the Chancellor's departments or agencies has found any records of payments to Eligo International Limited within the last five years. Changes in accounting systems mean that a positive confirmation for all bodies over the whole period since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Goodison Review

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated cost of implementation of the Goodison Review is, broken down by main budget headings; [140766]

(2) what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations in the Goodison Review for which his Department has responsibility; which recommendations relating to direct taxation have been implemented; and which of the recommendations in the review have yet to be implemented. [140768]

Mr. Timms: The Government implemented a number of Sir Nicholas Goodison's recommendations and continue to keep those relating to direct taxation under review.

There are a variety of tax reliefs available to encourage private and corporate giving and the Government will, over the summer, consult with the sector on measures to increase the take up of Gift Aid, in addition to conducting an awareness raising campaign.

The information on costs requested is not available.

Government Departments: Buildings

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of commercial sector buildings in the UK were occupied by the central Government estate in each of the last five years. [141068]

John Healey: Figures based on floor space data are available centrally only for 2004, 2005, and 2006 and then only for England and Wales.

The percentage occupation from the commercial sector in each of those years is approximately as follows:

	Percentage occupation
2004	7
2005	9
2006	8

Colin Challen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of Government estate buildings were *(a)* leased and *(b)* owned in each of the last five years. [141069]

John Healey: Figures are available centrally only for 2004, 2005, and 2006.

The breakdown in percentages between freehold and leasehold Government buildings is approximately as follows:

	2004	*2005*	*2006*
Freehold	34	35	40
Leasehold	26	28	29

The remainder of Government buildings were occupied predominantly under PFI/PPP arrangements.

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the time taken by the HM Revenue and Customs office in Cardiff to reply to letters from members of the public; and if he will make a statement. [139192]

John Healey: There are a number of HMRC offices in Cardiff. In the main HMRC office, which deals with PAYE and self assessment customers, the vast majority of correspondence is dealt with within 20 days. The office does take longer to deal with some more complex or specialist correspondence but as of 18 May 2007 4 per cent. of correspondence only was more then 20 days old.

Lone Parents

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Office for National Statistics most recent estimate is of the number of lone parents; and how many lone parents claim tax credits. [142318]

Mr. Timms: The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) use different definitions of lone parents and the statistics they produce refer to different time periods and are therefore not comparable.

The tax and benefit system defines a couple as either a man and a woman who are either married or 'living together as husband and wife' or two people of the same sex who are either civil partners or living together as such. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) asks about the adults living in a household, and it counts an adult

as being single if they do not declare another adult in the household as being their partner.

ONS estimates that there are 1.9 million lone parents in the UK, based on the 2006 Labour Force Survey data. The HMRC 2005-06 Finalised Award data show that on average 2.1 million families claimed child tax credit, or the equivalent via benefits, as a single adult.

National Insurance Contributions

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the *(a)* level of revenue which would be foregone were national insurance contributions classes 1 and 4 to be abolished and *(b)* level to which the basic rate of income tax would need to be raised to recoup such revenue. [141945]

Ed Balls: The estimate of the total amount of class 1 (employee and employer) and class 4 (self-employed) NICs revenue that would be foregone is £95 billion for 2007-08. Individuals would have to pay basic rate income tax of 33 per cent. for 2007-08 to recoup the £40 billion of employee and self-employed NICs foregone. This estimate does not allow for any behavioural effects.

Pension Funds: Taxation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what projection he has made of how the changes to income tax and national insurance announced in the Budget will affect the value of tax relief on pension contributions in future years. [141540]

Ed Balls: No projections have been made of how the changes to income tax and national insurance announced in the Budget will affect the value of tax relief on pension contributions in future years. Estimates of the annual cost of tax relief on approved pension schemes are publicly available. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply given to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1513W.

Planning Gain Supplement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 189W, on Planning Gain Supplement, by what criteria consideration will be given as to whether Planning Gain Supplement should be deemed to be workable and effective. [142389]

John Healey: The Government stated in Budget 2006 that it would continue to assess PGS against the following objectives:

- to finance additional investment in the local and strategic infrastructure necessary to support growth, while preserving incentives to develop;
- to help local communities to better share the benefits of growth and manage its impacts;
- to provide a fairer, more efficient and more transparent means of capturing a modest portion of land value uplift; and
- to create a flexible value capture system that responds to market conditions and does not inappropriately distort decisions between different types of development.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria his Department uses to compare value for money in a private finance initiative proposal and financing the same scheme from taxation. [140978]

John Healey: Government Departments use the Treasury's value for money guidance in making assessments about the suitability of PFI as opposed to conventionally financed programmes, both at a project and programme level. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/additional_guidance/ppp_vfm_index.cfm

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's contingent liability is in the event that all private finance initiative and public-private partnership schemes fail. [140986]

John Healey: The Government constantly monitor risks and liabilities relating to PFI but do not undertake a central assessment of liabilities in the event that all PFI/PPP schemes fail, not least because any such figure would be dependent on a number of variables surrounding the specific circumstances of the termination.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance he has issued to Departments on the criteria to be used in deciding priorities for the type of projects to be supported using private finance initiative credits. [141370]

John Healey: The Project Review Group, which oversees the approval process for local authority PFI projects that receive Government support via PFI credits, has an established evaluation framework. This framework covers the criteria on which projects seeking approval will be assessed. Additionally, Departments are required to use the PFI value for money assessment guidance issued by HM Treasury. These documents are available through the Treasury PPP website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/ppp_projectreview_group.cfm

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/documents/public_private_partnerships/additional_guidance/ppp_vfm_index.cfm

Beyond this, Departments determine their own priorities reflecting public service agreements and wider Government objectives in deciding which projects are put forward for PFI credits.

Publications: Waste Disposal

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what guidance his Department has issued on the secure disposal of final review reports where a decision has been taken not to publish them; [141364]

(2) what guidance the Treasury has provided to the Office of Government Commerce on the retention of documents associated with Gateway reviews. [141387]

John Healey: None. The Treasury conforms to civil service guidelines on the retention and disposal of official information.

Social Security Benefits: Migrant Workers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many claims for *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit were (i) made by and (ii) paid to migrant workers for children (A) living in the UK and (B) living abroad in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement; [141091]

(2) how much *(a)* child benefit and *(b)* child tax credit was paid to migrant workers for children (i) living in the UK and (ii) living abroad in each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [141092]

Mr. Timms: The additional information requested is not available.

The Accession monitoring report, last published on 22 May 2007 on the Home Office Borders and Immigration Agency website

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report

provides detailed information including the total number of workers from the new member states of the EU which acceded on 1 May 2004 and who have made a claim for child benefit and tax credits.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the Government's policy is on payment of child tax credit to migrant workers in respect of children living outside the UK if such individuals receive child related benefits in the home country; and if he will make a statement; [141093]

(2) which social security benefits are payable to the *(a)* children and *(b)* spouses of EU migrant workers who are in the UK for dependants who are living abroad but in the EU; and if he will make a statement. [141090]

Mr. Timms: The main purpose of child tax credit (CTC) and child benefit (ChB) is to support families living in the United Kingdom. The general rules for these benefits do not provide for them to be paid in respect of children who reside outside the UK. However, these general rules are supplemented by the co-ordinating rules in EC Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72, which the United Kingdom has applied since it joined the European Economic Community in 1973. The Regulations protect the acquired social security rights of European Economic Area (EEA) workers and their families moving within the Community.

The Regulations have detailed rules that determine which scheme a worker should contribute to, and which state has responsibility for the payment of family benefits. In general, it provides that the worker pays into the social security scheme of the member state where the work takes place and that state is responsible for the payment of family benefits. If entitlement to family benefits arises in more than one member state, the Regulations contain priority rules to determine who has responsibility for paying. More detailed information relating to these Community rules can be found in leaflet SA29 "Your social security insurance, benefits and healthcare rights in the European Economic Area", published by the Department of Work and Pensions and available on their website.

Tax Allowances: Rented Housing

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of how much would be raised if tax relief was withdrawn for *(a)* buy-to-let mortgage owners, *(b)* corporate landlords and *(c)* homeowners renting out their own homes. [141943]

John Healey: Reliable estimates of the yield from withdrawing tax relief for *(a)* buy-to-let mortgage owners *(b)* corporate landlords and *(c)* homeowners renting out their own homes are not available.

Tax Credits

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 303WH, on tax credits, when he expects to publish the results of the pilot into payments of tax credits at the time of relationship breakdown. [141985]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 11 June 2007]*: HMRC are currently assessing the outcome of the pilot into the payment of tax credits at the time of a relationship breakdown. They will publish their findings and how they intend to take those findings forward in due course.

Tax Revenue: Health Foods

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the taxation revenues generated from the specialist natural health product manufacturing and retailing sectors in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [142114]

John Healey: It is not possible to estimate the taxation revenues generated from the specialist natural health product manufacturing and retail sectors in the last 12 months.

Taxation: Charitable Donations

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gross cost of gifts and shares given to charities was in each year since the implementation of the current regime for such giving. [140762]

Mr. Timms: Relief from income tax is available to individuals making qualifying gifts of shares to charities. The value of such gifts where tax relief was claimed is as follows:

Year of donation	Value of gifts of shares (£ million)
2000-01	220
2001-02	160
2002-03	90
2003-04	210
2004-05	200

A corresponding figure for 2005-06 will be published in Table 10.2 on the HMRC website at the end of June 2007.

Figures for donations of shares to charities from companies are not available.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent studies he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on private philanthropy. [140764]

Mr. Timms: The Government are committed to encouraging philanthropy and published a report on 4 May this year entitled "Charitable Giving By Wealthy People". The report was commissioned to identify the incentives for wealthy people to engage in charitable giving as well as the barriers that may prevent them from doing so. The report can be found on the HM Revenue and Customs website: www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what tax incentives relating to giving to charities are in place; and what the cost of each was to the public purse in each of the last five years. [140765]

Mr. Timms: There are several tax incentives available to individuals wishing to make financial donations to charity. These include gift aid, payroll giving, relief on gifts of shares and securities and land and buildings. Gifts of assets to charities are also exempt from capital gains tax and the value of outright gifts and bequests by individuals to UK charities are completely free of inheritance tax, subject to certain provisions preventing donors retaining some degree of interest. Full details are available on the HMRC website at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/charities/donors/tax-efficient.htm.

Estimates of the costs of reliefs on donations to charities by individuals are also published on the HMRC website.

Figures for the basic rate relief on gift aid donations can be found at table 10.1 http://www.hmrc. gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-1.xls

Table 10.2 http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/charities/table10-2.xls contains the costs of the following reliefs to individuals:

Higher rate income tax relief on gift aid donations;

Income tax relief on payroll giving donations;

Income tax relief on gifts of shares, securities and real property;

Inheritance tax relief on bequests to charities.

Figures for relief from capital gains tax and corporation tax on charitable donations are not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overseas Residence

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people who continued to be UK taxpayers ceased to be eligible for *(a)* tax credits and *(b)* child benefit as a result of working outside the EU in each year since 2003-04; [140671]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of paying *(a)* tax credits and *(b)* child benefit to those working outside the EU who continue to be UK taxpayers in the latest period for which figures are available. [140672]

Mr. Timms: This information is not available.

Written Questions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to question number 135531, on child benefit, tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil on 30 April 2007. [141088]

Mr. Timms: I have done so.

JUSTICE

Absent Voting

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate her Department has made of the proportion of postal vote identifiers which were checked in the 2007 local elections. [141722]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have asked the Electoral Commission to review and report on the introduction of personal identifiers for absent voting in England and Wales and, in particular, the use of the personal identifiers at the 3 May 2007 elections in England and Wales. We expect to have a clearer picture of the proportion of postal vote personal identifiers which were checked when the Electoral Commission produces its report, which it has been asked to do by 31 July 2007. A copy of the report will be made publicly available when it is produced.

Returning officers were required to check the personal identifiers on at least 20 per cent. of returned postal votes at the local elections on 3 May 2007. From discussions we have had with electoral administrators, we understand that the level of checking at these elections varied across local authorities.

Administration of Justice: Reviews

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when the review of the oral hearing process ordered by Mr. Justice Sullivan will be completed. [138710]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We are not aware of any order made by Mr. Justice Sullivan that requires a review of the oral hearings process to be carried out. He is, however, reviewing the case of a prisoner serving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection who has brought a judicial review in respect of his parole board hearing. The case is due to be reviewed on 22 June.

Constituencies

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the timetable is for the new Parliamentary boundaries in England *(a)* to be fully ratified and *(b)* to come into operation. [141711]

Bridget Prentice: Following approval by both Houses of Parliament, the draft Parliamentary Constituencies (England) Order was submitted to Her Majesty in Council for approval and making. The draft Order appears on the agenda for the meeting of the Privy Council of 13 June 2007.

The terms of the draft Order provide that it comes into force on the fourteenth day after it is made. The new constituencies will be used at the next general election on or after the date on which the Order comes into force, in accordance with section 4(6) of the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986.

Court of Appeal

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what discussions have been held with the Criminal Cases Review Commission on its judgment of the likely success rate of references to the court of appeal; how many cases were reviewed in each of the last five years; and how many were referred to the Court of Appeal. [141505]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The rate of convictions quashed by the Court of Appeal following referral from the Criminal Cases Review Commission is around 70 per cent. We understand that the Court of Appeal regard this rate as broadly satisfactory and we have noted that position in discussions with the Commission. The answer to the second part of the question is contained in the following table.

31 March to 1 April each year	*Number of cases completed*	*Number of cases referred*
2002-03	1,012	38
2003-04	931	35
2004-05	825	45
2005-06	1,012	47
2006-07	968	38

Courts: Small Claims

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation regulates small claims courts; what changes have been made to each since their enactment; what further amendments are planned; and if she will make a statement. [141457]

Vera Baird: The Civil Procedure Act 1997 and the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) regulate the small claims procedure, specifically Part 26 of the CPR which deals with the allocation to the small claims track and Part 27 which sets out the procedures. Other parts of the CPR may apply to small claims cases in certain circumstances. The CPR also regulates other types of civil court proceedings. There have been a number of changes made to the CPR since their introduction in April 1999 which can be viewed on http://www.justice.gov.uk/civil/procrules_fin/update.htm.

There are no current plans to make changes to the rules in relation to small claims.

eConveyancing Programme

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the *(a)* original planned completion date, *(b)* original estimated cost, *(c)* current planned completion date and *(d)* current estimated cost of all IT projects associated with the eConveyancing Programme is; and if she will make a statement. [141464]

Vera Baird: The original approved Business Case for the Electronic Conveyancing Programme (2005) estimated that full implementation would occur by 2013-14 with whole life costs to that date in the range of £270 to £310 million. Land Registry's latest estimate of completion is 2014-15 with a revised estimated cost of about £227 million.

The introduction of Electronic Conveyancing in England and Wales is one of this Government's priority programmes of work that will make the conveyancing process simpler and more transparent for both conveyancers and their clients. The Programme's implementation plan is constantly reviewed and updated by Land Registry to ensure that each new service and product is fully tested and that customer feedback is taken on board. This has led to some slippage in the overall programme with a consequent reduction in the running costs contained in the original costing.

An early prototype of the Chain Matrix ™ has already been launched and is being tested by a number of conveyancers in the Southwest of England. A pilot of electronic conveyancing will follow once the necessary legislation is in place.

Elections: Standards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether any manual counts have taken place in local election pilot areas which used electronic counting *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* in previous pilots to verify the accuracy of the counting machines. [141704]

Bridget Prentice: Since 2000, no manual counts have taken place in electoral pilot schemes to verify the accuracy of electronic counting machines. However, pre-election quality assurance audit and acceptance tests have been conducted to verify the accuracy of machinery and software before the systems are used to count in an electoral pilot scheme.

Electoral Register

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate her Department has made of the cost implications of linking the electoral registration process to the National Identity Register. [142069]

Bridget Prentice: The Government have not made an estimate of the cost implications of linking the electoral registration process to the National Identity Register.

Electronic Tagging

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether her Department is undertaking a review of the electronic tagging operations of Group 4 Securicor. [141442]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following the allegations against Group4Securicor (G4S) in the BBC Programme "Inside Out" in March 2007, the National Offender Management Service required G4S to investigate the allegations. G4S

undertook an internal and external audit of its electronic monitoring operations in all three contract areas. The National Offender Management Service undertook its own investigation. Following consideration of both investigations, a rectification notice was issued on the East Midlands Region of G4S at the end of April, requiring the remedy of the defaults within 60 days.

Feltham Young Offender Institution and Remand Centre

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether she has received the official report into the so-called Muslim Olympics racist incident at HM Young Offenders Institution Feltham; what action she has taken to address the management issues leading to the incident; if she will place a copy of the report in the Library; and if she will make a statement. [141674]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The hon. Member is referring to allegations of inappropriate racist behaviour. An investigation took place leading to a disciplinary hearing and the dismissal of two members of staff. No management issues lead to this incident. It is not Prison Service policy to publish investigation reports.

Group 4 Securicor

Anne Moffat: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations her Department and its predecessors have received on Group 4 Securicor. [141443]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Following the allegations about the electronic monitoring service provided by Group4Securicor (G4S) in the BBC Programme "Inside Out" in March 2007, the National Offender Management Service fully investigated the matters raised and issued a rectification notice requiring the remedy of the defaults within 60 days. No representations have been received from Members of Parliament or national organisations relating specifically to these allegations. G4S is contracted to provide other services to the Ministry of Justice and Home Office, including contracts to run Parc prison and Oak Hill Secure Training Centre. Such representations have not been received regarding these or other contracts.

Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice on which dates the Joint Ministerial Committee has met in plenary form in the last two years; and if she will make a statement. [141556]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member for Aylesbury to my written answer of 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 688W. The Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) exists in both plenary and functional formats, where the latter focuses on specific areas such as health, poverty, the knowledge economy and Europe. There have been no plenary meetings of the JMC over the last two years, but there have been at least 11 meetings of the JMC in its functional format over this same period.

Parole: Waiting Lists

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many oral hearings are waiting to be considered by the Parole Board; what the *(a)* average waiting time is and *(b)* longest waiting time is; and what the corresponding figures were in May 2006. [138711]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 2,138 oral hearings are currently waiting to be considered by the Parole Board. Figures for the average waiting time and longest waiting time are not recorded centrally. The time taken to arrange hearings depends on the circumstances of the case.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for delays in Parole Board hearings; and what steps she is taking to reduce such delays. [138713]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Parole Board hearings to review whether offenders should continue to be held in custody require information to be collected from a variety of sources within the criminal justice system. There are also large numbers of hearings to be conducted any one time. Sometimes, therefore, delays regrettably occur. I am assured by the Parole Board, however, that every effort is continuing to be made to ensure that all hearings are conducted as expeditiously as possible.

Prison Service: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people are employed by HM prisons in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [141806]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On 31 May 2007, the number of people employed in prisons and young offender institutions was 48,822 in England and 1,485 in Wales. It was not possible to provide data in the timescale available for answering this question for the contracted establishments of Bronzefield, Forest Bank and Peterborough.

Prison Service: Professional Standards Unit

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the functions are of the Professional Standards Unit at HM Prison Service in the *(a)* gathering and *(b)* evaluation of intelligence about misconduct among (i) staff and (ii) inmates at prison establishments; and if she will make a statement. [141272]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service Professional Standards Unit receives, develops and analyses intelligence on staff misconduct. The gathering and evaluation of this intelligence is carried out by area and local professional standard managers.

It is not within the remit of the Professional Standards Unit to be involved in prisoner-related intelligence unless there is a staff misconduct element.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what *(a)* mechanisms and *(b)* resources exist within the Professional Standards Unit Investigation Support Section at HM Prison Service to conduct investigations into alleged staff misconduct; and if she will make a statement; [141273]

(2) how many investigations were conducted by the Professional Standards Unit Investigation Support

Section at HM Prison Service into alleged staff misconduct in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [141274]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Investigation Support Section is an administrative function set up to register, track and store all formal investigations commissioned in the Prison Service. It also monitors the progress of investigations, maintains a register of trained investigators and provides advice and statistical reports. The section does not conduct investigations. Instead, conducting investigations is the responsibility of the management line.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many staff are employed in the Professional Standards Directorate at HM Prison Service; and if she will make a statement; [141275]

(2) how many staff are employed in the intelligence section of the Professional Standards Unit at HM Prison Service; and if she will make a statement. [141277]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Professional Standards Unit currently employs 14 staff. Of those 14, eight are allocated to the Intelligence Support Section.

Prisoners: Contraception

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much has been spent on condoms and lubricants for distribution to prisoners by the Prison Service in the latest year for which figures are available. [141156]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not held centrally.

Prisoners: Repatriation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1257W, on prisoners: repatriation, when she expects discussions with other Governments regarding prisoner transfers to commence. [141925]

Mr. Hanson: The United Kingdom has prisoner transfer arrangements with 96 countries and territories. The majority of these countries are signatories to the Council of Europe Convention on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. On 3 and 4 of May 2007 preliminary discussions were held in Strasbourg to discuss a Greek proposal for a second additional protocol to the Convention. This would extend the circumstances under which a prisoner can be transferred without his or her consent. The United Kingdom is supporting this proposal.

The UK has concluded 20 bilateral prisoner transfer agreements from which we hold about 400 sentenced prisoners. While this number is not insignificant, resources are at present dedicated towards negotiating agreements that are likely to deliver significant benefits such as the EU prisoner transfer agreement and the second additional protocol to the Council of Europe Convention.

Prisons

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans her Department has to increase the capacity of prisons in England and Wales. [141805]

Mr. Hanson: A new capacity-building programme which will deliver 8,000 new prison places by 2012 was announced as part of the Criminal Justice Review in July 2006.

The 8,000-place programme comes on top of already planned expansions at existing prisons.

Overall, in 2007, capacity will increase by around 2,200 places.

Prisons: Sex Offender Treatment Programme

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on the effectiveness of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) for *(a)* high, *(b)* medium and *(c)* low risk offenders; and what the subsequent reconviction rates are for offenders from each of these categories who took part in the SOTP since its inception. [141289]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The most robust evaluation of the Sex Offender Treatment Programme (SOTP) in England and Wales (Home Office, 2003) examined the impact of the prison-based programme. This compared two-year reconviction rates for prisoners who participated in the programme with those who did not.

Findings indicated that the SOTP had an impact on reconvictions for sexual and/or violent offences (as a combined measure). An explanation for this effect could be that a proportion of violent reconvictions were sexually motivated offences. Sexual reconvictions were combined with those for violent offences because sexual offenders (in the absence of intervention) are reconvicted for sexual offences at a very low rate—less than 5 per cent. over two years. Any decrease in this rate as a result of treatment is therefore unlikely to be statistically significant.

For combined sexual and violent reconviction, the treatment group showed a statistically significantly lower rate of reconviction overall than the comparison group (4.6 per cent. and 8.1 per cent. respectively, see Table 4 in Home Office Research Findings No. 205). Treatment participants in the medium-low and medium-high risk groups showed a statistically significantly lower rate of reconviction than respective risk groups in the comparison sample (see Table 4 in HORF 205).

For general and sexual reconviction rates, the treatment group showed lower rates of reconviction than the comparison group although differences were not statistically significant (see Tables 5 and 3 respectively in HORF 205). No statistically significant differences were found among risk groups.

These findings relate to offenders who completed the SOTP between 1992 and 1994. A programme of research is planned to examine the impact of the

prison-based SOTP delivered to offenders post-1994 in terms of both short-term change in relation to treatment targets (e.g. victim empathy) and longer-term change in terms of future re-offending.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to increase resources for the Sex Offender Treatment Programme at each prison where the number of prisoners exceeds the programme capacity; and if she will make a statement. [142456]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The National Offender Management Service has set up a standing group to take forward work on a treatment strategy for sex offenders to ensure that effective treatment is delivered to sex offenders in custody and the community as part of a broader package of interventions and management controls to reduce the risk of re-offending. As part of this work provision for sex offenders in custody will be considered.

Victim Support Schemes: Counselling

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many victims of miscarriages of justice and their families have been offered post-traumatic stress counselling in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement; [141507]

(2) how many prisoners were released after the quashing of their convictions by the Court of Appeal following a reference from the Criminal Cases Review Commission in each of the last five years; what support and after care they were offered; and if she will make a statement. [141508]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not collect data on the number of prisoners released after the quashing of their convictions by the Court of Appeal.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) an executive NDPB which was set up under the Criminal Appeal Act 1995 and which became operational in January 1997 aims to review alleged and suspected miscarriages of justice, and to refer them to the Court of Appeal, whenever they consider that there is a real possibility that a conviction, verdict, finding or sentence would not be upheld.

Support and after care is offered to victims of miscarriages of justice from the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service, operated by the Citizens Advice Bureau at the Royal Courts of Justice, by the Ministry of Justice. It is funded under a three-year contract. It aims to ensure that victims of miscarriages of justice receive appropriate advice, guidance and support. Advice and support is offered at every stage of the process. This includes: finding accommodation; establishing income; applying for national insurance credits; registering with a GP and accessing appropriate healthcare and counselling; opening a bank account and budgeting; family/relationship issues; employment and training needs; finding a solicitor to deal with compensation claims.

All clients of the Miscarriages of Justice Support Service are offered counselling as part of their initial assessment interview with an adviser. In the past 12 months, 25 new cases have been taken on by the service, and seven clients have received an assessment by a consultant forensic psychiatrist. Following assessment, the psychiatrist refers the client for appropriate ongoing counselling. Families are not part of this assessment, but the psychiatrist may recommend that they are involved in family therapy if appropriate.

Weare Prison

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1584W, on Weare Prison, if she will place in the Library a copy of the investment appraisal on HMP Weare. [141924]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no plans to disclose the detailed appraisal.

Young Offender Institutions: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* assaults by prisoners on staff and *(b)* assaults by prisoners on other prisoners there were in each young offender institution in each year since 2003. [141559]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the following table. The data are taken from the Prison Service Incident Reporting System and the figures therefore relate to incidents reported.

YOI	*Assault type*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*[1]2007*
Ashfield	Prisoner on officer	62	71	152	127	21
	Prisoner on other	8	19	28	9	4
	Prisoner on prisoner	271	304	500	625	130
Aylesbury	Prisoner on officer	15	5	15	18	2
	Prisoner on other		1	2		
	Prisoner on prisoner	26	21	78	80	18
Brinsford	Prisoner on officer	31	26	17	8	2
	Prisoner on other	8	8	2	2	
	Prisoner on prisoner	304	326	344	187	28

YOI	Assault type	2003	2004	2005	2006	[1]2007
Castington	Prisoner on officer	52	53	50	42	10
	Prisoner on other	4	4		4	1
	Prisoner on prisoner	312	384	361	360	88
Deerbolt	Prisoner on officer	5	25	32	21	8
	Prisoner on other	1	3	1	1	
	Prisoner on prisoner	167	205	164	152	31
Feltham	Prisoner on officer	102	169	129	115	24
	Prisoner on other	1	4	9	3	1
	Prisoner on prisoner	569	576	549	476	105
Glen Parva	Prisoner on officer	27	39	31	40	12
	Prisoner on other	2			5	1
	Prisoner on prisoner	241	230	269	341	75
Hindley	Prisoner on officer	23	13	30	55	9
	Prisoner on other	4	1	2	3	1
	Prisoner on prisoner	111	63	112	348	98
Huntercombe	Prisoner on officer	18	15	14	32	6
	Prisoner on other	1		1	1	
	Prisoner on prisoner	77	79	95	184	53
Lancaster Farms	Prisoner on officer	9	27	46	51	13
	Prisoner on other		1	1	5	2
	Prisoner on prisoner	17	185	435	363	96
Northallerton	Prisoner on officer	11	13	10	6	
	Prisoner on other	8	9	4	3	2
	Prisoner on prisoner	82	84	104	82	20
Portland	Prisoner on officer	15	39	37	41	9
	Prisoner on other	1		3	1	
	Prisoner on prisoner	61	125	154	127	36
Rochester	Prisoner on officer	15	16	23	13	1
	Prisoner on other	1	2			
	Prisoner on prisoner	51	102	78	100	22
Stoke Heath	Prisoner on officer	20	37	52	63	14
	Prisoner on other		2	4	6	2
	Prisoner on prisoner	137	239	438	506	108
Swinfen Hall	Prisoner on officer	8	4	10	9	1
	Prisoner on other	1			1	
	Prisoner on prisoner	110	96	104	89	18
Thorn Cross	Prisoner on officer	3	1	1	3	
	Prisoner on other	1			1	
	Prisoner on prisoner	39	7	19	143	17
Wellington	Prisoner on officer	21	18	19	19	1
	Prisoner on other	3	1		3	
	Prisoner on prisoner	129	104	139	143	18

YOI	Assault type	2003	2004	2005	2006	[1]2007
Wetherby	Prisoner on officer	11	70	66	56	10
	Prisoner on other	3	7	6	4	1
	Prisoner on prisoner	175	414	492	401	86

[1] Year to 28 March 2007.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alexander Litvinenko

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent discussions his Department had with the Crown Prosecution Service on the case of Alexander Litvinenko; [139194]

(2) what discussions his Department has had with the Russian authorities on the case of Alexander Litvinenko in the last three months. [139195]

Joan Ryan: Discussions have taken place between the Home Office and the CPS about mutual legal assistance issues including mutual legal assistance requests that were made, via the UK Central Authority at the Home Office, to a number of other countries during the course of the domestic police investigation into the death of Alexander Litvinenko. Home Office officials also spoke with the Crown Prosecution Service concerning the transmission of the extradition request for the person alleged to have murdered Mr. Litvinenko.

Home Office officials have also been in contact with the Russian Prosecutor General's office, by both letter and telephone to provide updates on progress being made with the Russian request for assistance in their investigation into the case, and concerning the documentation of the extradition request.

Animal Experiments: EC Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that all British animal research and breeding establishments will be compliant with the new Europe-wide guidelines on laboratory animal housing and care as set out in the revised Appendix A to the Council of Europe Convention ETS 123 which will come into force on 15 June; [141326]

(2) by what date he estimates that all British animal research and breeding establishments will be compliant with the revised Appendix A to the Council of Europe Convention ETS 123. [141327]

Joan Ryan: Council of Europe Convention ETS 123 makes provision for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes. The UK Government have signed and ratified the Convention.

In implementing the Convention, parties are required to have regard to the guidelines for the accommodation and care of protected animals set out in Appendix A to the Convention. A revised Appendix A, to which the UK Government made a significant contribution, was adopted in June 2006.

The Home Office has actively advised those seeking to commission, refurbish, operate and equip animal facilities to have regard to the revised Appendix A guidelines in their planning, policies and practices both as the new provisions emerged during the revision process and following their formal adoption. In addition, we have widely circulated a note for users, prepared by the Animal Procedures Committee, explaining the key features of the revised Appendix. Work has also begun on amending the current Home Office Codes of Practice to take account of its revised provisions.

As a result of the actions we have taken so far, we are already seeing the revised guidelines reflected in United Kingdom practice. However, it is not possible to estimate by what precise date all animal research and breeding establishments will be fully compliant. Further information on the relevant transitional arrangements and timescales will be set out in the revised Codes of Practice which we aim to publish in 2008 after the requirements for consultation and Parliamentary scrutiny, set out in sections 21(3) and 21(5), respectively, of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, have been met.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* Gloucestershire in each year since the introduction of the penalty; and if he will make a statement. [125680]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 March 2007]:* Antisocial behaviour order (ASBO) breach data are currently available up to 31 December 2005 for ASBOs issued since 1 June 2000. The available information is given in the following table.

Number of persons proven in court to have breached their ASBO in England and Wales and in the Gloucestershire criminal justice system (CJS) area[1] in each year

Area	2000[2]	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
England and Wales	13	124	254	715	1,864	3,390
Gloucestershire	—	1	1	5	13	36

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. In this table ASBOs breached in Gloucestershire are counted irrespective of whether issued in Gloucestershire or not.

[2] From 1 June 2000. No ASBO breach data are available prior to this date.

Notes:

1. It is possible for an individual to breach their ASBO in more than one year, so persons may be counted more than once in this table.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 23 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 985W, on antisocial behaviour orders, how many and what percentage of antisocial behaviour orders included *(a)* an individual support order and *(b)* an intervention order in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [133347]

Mr. Coaker: Information is given in the table on the number of individual support orders given in 2005 (latest available). This pre-dates the joint campaign by the Home Office, Youth Justice Board and her Majesty's Court Service to increase take up which began early in 2006 and is continuing. Data for subsequent periods will be published in due course.

Number of individual support orders[1] given at the magistrates court, in addition to an antisocial behaviour order, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, 2005—England and Wales

	Number/percentage
Individual support orders	42
ASBOs issued on application (age 10-17)	633
Percentage of ASBOs with an ISO attached	7

[1] Available at the magistrates courts only with ASBOs issued, on application, to juveniles (age 10-17).

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were *(a)* issued and *(b)* breached in each month of the last five years in (i) each region and (ii) each London borough. [132639]

Mr. Coaker: Data collected centrally on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued are compiled on a quarterly basis. Data, up to 31 December 2005 (latest available), broken down by Criminal Justice System (CJS) area are given in table A.

Information on the number of ASBOs issued by the local authority area within which prohibitions have been imposed is published annually. It can be found on the crime reduction website at: http://www.crimereduction.gov.uk/asbos/asbos2.htm and is given in table B.

ASBO breach data are available annually by CJS area only. Information is given in table C.

Table A: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by Criminal Justice System area, year and quarter, 2001 to 2005, England and Wales

		2001					2002				
CJS area	Total issued	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Avon and Somerset	210	3	8	3	5	19	1	4	2	3	10
Bedfordshire	82	2	0	0	2	4	0	3	1	0	4
Cambridgeshire	95	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	1	2
Cheshire	208	0	0	0	2	2	0	5	7	1	13
Cleveland	111	0	2	2	0	4	0	1	1	3	5
Cumbria	114	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	5	5	13
Derbyshire	118	1	1	0	4	6	2	0	0	0	2
Devon and Cornwall	177	3	4	3	0	10	0	1	0	2	3
Dorset	75	0	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	91	3	2	1	3	9	2	2	1	3	8
Essex	149	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Gloucestershire	66	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	1
Greater London	1,144	4	4	4	3	15	5	2	2	12	21
Greater Manchester	1,225	3	1	7	14	25	8	15	23	32	78
Hampshire	270	1	1	1	3	6	1	2	3	4	10
Hertfordshire	144	4	1	2	2	9	1	1	2	2	6
Humberside	227	1	0	1	2	4	1	2	1	0	4
Kent	156	10	1	1	5	17	1	0	0	15	16
Lancashire	352	4	3	1	3	11	4	6	2	1	13
Leicestershire	116	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lincolnshire	43	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	2
Merseyside	297	2	4	0	1	7	3	6	4	9	22
Norfolk	117	7	0	4	1	12	9	0	0	0	9
Northamptonshire	82	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	1	0	1
Northumbria	297	0	2	0	7	9	9	1	3	3	16

Table A: Number of antisocial behaviour orders issued at all courts as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, by Criminal Justice System area, year and quarter, 2001 to 2005, England and Wales

		2001					2002				
CJS area	*Total issued*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Total*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Total*
North Yorkshire	91	0	1	6	0	7	0	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	251	0	8	3	0	11	1	0	1	0	2
South Yorkshire	244	1	0	4	2	7	2	4	6	7	19
Staffordshire	166	2	2	2	0	6	2	9	1	0	12
Suffolk	165	0	2	0	2	4	1	0	0	4	5
Surrey	108	0	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
Sussex	241	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	10	6	16
Thames Valley	161	2	3	0	2	7	2	1	3	0	6
Warwickshire	86	1	0	1	0	2	3	3	4	5	15
West Mercia	223	10	21	4	4	39	13	4	5	8	30
West Midlands	748	10	22	12	14	58	2	10	5	13	30
West Yorkshire	690	4	1	5	4	14	2	6	1	5	14
Wiltshire	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
England	9,192	80	97	71	96	344	78	93	97	146	414
Dyfed Powys	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gwent	72	1	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	0	2
North Wales	167	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	7
South Wales	146	0	0	1	3	4	0	3	0	0	3
Wales	420	1	0	1	4	6	4	3	3	2	12
Total E and W	9,612	81	97	72	100	350	82	96	100	148	426

	2003					2004				
CJS area	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Total*	*Jan-Mar*	*Apr-Jun*	*Jul-Sep*	*Oct-Dec*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	1	8	14	8	31	16	20	32	21	89
Bedfordshire	5	3	2	6	16	1	4	9	4	18
Cambridgeshire	5	6	2	2	15	8	6	9	3	26
Cheshire	6	6	10	11	33	8	20	14	20	62
Cleveland	0	2	8	4	14	4	3	7	14	28
Cumbria	6	8	5	1	20	4	8	9	10	31
Derbyshire	4	3	0	3	10	9	17	12	8	46
Devon and Cornwall	2	3	6	1	12	3	22	31	24	80
Dorset	2	4	7	4	17	6	6	18	6	36
Durham	3	0	8	5	16	9	8	4	10	31
Essex	0	2	2	12	16	11	9	15	24	59
Gloucestershire	1	2	4	0	7	3	5	8	10	26
Greater London	10	31	41	57	139	84	94	133	130	441
Greater Manchester	14	60	74	88	236	101	100	114	115	430
Hampshire	4	6	16	17	43	17	27	28	27	99
Hertfordshire	7	1	1	8	17	13	11	12	4	40
Humberside	0	2	5	3	10	4	14	27	27	72
Kent	3	7	1	14	25	6	19	11	18	54
Lancashire	15	13	10	16	54	27	25	38	36	126
Leicestershire	1	2	3	9	15	6	4	10	21	41
Lincolnshire	0	3	1	3	7	5	1	4	2	12
Merseyside	7	6	15	16	44	24	20	25	27	96
Norfolk	5	1	1	0	7	7	8	17	11	43
Northamptonshire	2	1	1	2	6	3	12	8	16	39
Northumbria	5	10	7	3	25	10	16	16	32	74
North Yorkshire	2	0	0	7	9	8	9	11	13	41
Nottinghamshire	1	6	6	8	21	14	18	22	37	91
South Yorkshire	3	10	10	11	34	9	20	25	26	80
Staffordshire	8	7	7	8	30	13	8	25	13	59

CJS area	2003 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total	2004 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Suffolk	7	4	6	8	25	11	16	25	26	78
Surrey	1	2	2	2	7	7	13	13	15	48
Sussex	1	8	9	13	31	6	34	25	32	97
Thames Valley	4	4	2	6	16	12	18	31	16	77
Warwickshire	3	0	5	3	11	9	5	6	8	28
West Mercia	11	5	6	6	28	8	13	15	20	56
West Midlands	24	26	38	31	119	36	51	63	88	238
West Yorkshire	17	17	26	37	97	86	80	69	70	305
Wiltshire	0	1	2	6	9	6	6	4	4	20
England	190	280	363	439	1,272	614	770	945	988	3,317
Dyfed Powys	1	2	8	1	12	4	2	2	0	8
Gwent	1	1	4	2	8	4	5	9	9	27
North Wales	0	6	4	5	15	9	6	12	15	42
South Wales	13	2	3	11	29	4	12	18	12	46
Wales	15	11	19	19	64	21	25	41	36	123
Total England and Wales	205	291	382	458	1,336	635	795	986	1,024	3,440

CJS area	2005 Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Total
Avon and Somerset	27	12	11	11	61
Bedfordshire	5	19	6	10	40
Cambridgeshire	14	15	11	10	50
Cheshire	27	30	29	12	98
Cleveland	15	13	17	15	60
Cumbria	11	15	14	9	49
Derbyshire	16	13	11	14	54
Devon and Cornwall	30	16	18	8	72
Dorset	3	6	6	4	19
Durham	4	10	6	7	27
Essex	26	25	15	6	72
Gloucestershire	14	12	3	1	30
Greater London	154	143	118	113	528
Greater Manchester	124	133	115	84	456
Hampshire	32	34	27	19	112
Hertfordshire	21	17	20	14	72
Humberside	36	36	36	29	137
Kent	14	12	10	8	44
Lancashire	33	38	44	33	148
Leicestershire	28	16	4	11	59
Lincolnshire	5	5	5	5	20
Merseyside	39	41	21	27	128
Norfolk	13	13	12	8	46
Northamptonshire	13	8	9	1	31
Northumbria	51	53	42	27	173
North Yorkshire	10	3	11	10	34
Nottinghamshire	41	28	34	23	126
South Yorkshire	34	25	17	28	104
Staffordshire	14	21	16	8	59
Suffolk	11	18	10	14	53
Surrey	14	13	12	10	49
Sussex	22	29	22	21	94
Thames Valley	16	12	12	15	55
Warwickshire	6	9	11	4	30
West Mercia	10	24	18	18	70
West Midlands	92	81	83	47	303
West Yorkshire	58	61	65	76	260
Wiltshire	7	8	5	2	22
England	1,090	1,067	926	762	3,845
Dyfed Powys	1	2	5	7	15
Gwent	7	14	7	5	33
North Wales	23	31	29	20	103
South Wales	15	15	18	16	64
Wales	46	62	59	48	215
Total England and Wales	1,136	1,129	985	810	4,060

Note: Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B : Number of ASBOs issued annually at all courts, where prohibitions have been imposed in local government authority areas in Greater London, 2001-05

Greater London boroughs	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total issued
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	2	4	19	25
Barnet	2	—	1	10	9	22
Bexley	—	6	4	4	6	20
Brent	—	—	8	6	11	25
Bromley	—	—	5	3	5	13
Camden	1	10	30	57	69	167
City of London Corp	—	—	—	10	6	16
Croydon	—	—	7	8	10	25
Ealing	—	—	1	14	9	24
Enfield	—	—	2	4	15	21
Greenwich	3	1	3	8	11	26
Hackney	1	1	1	15	14	32
Hammersmith and Fulham	2	—	4	12	16	34
Haringey	—	—	5	34	25	64
Harrow	—	—	1	12	2	15
Havering	—	—	1	9	19	29
Hillingdon	—	—	—	18	36	54

Table B: Number of ASBOs issued annually at all courts, where prohibitions have been imposed in local government authority areas in Greater London, 2001-05

Greater London boroughs	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total issued
Hounslow	—	—	7	23	22	52
Islington	—	—	10	6	10	26
Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough	—	—	1	9	7	17
Kingston-on-Thames	—	—	4	4	5	13
Lambeth	2	1	2	20	20	45
Lewisham	2	—	5	16	12	35
Merton	—	1	2	13	10	26
Newham	2	—	—	5	11	18
Redbridge	—	—	1	8	9	18
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	3	10	13	26
Southwark	—	—	8	11	18	37
Sutton	—	—	7	7	19	33
Tower Hamlets	—	1	3	16	36	56
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	15	11	26
Wandsworth	—	—	6	12	12	30
Westminster	—	—	6	38	35	79
Total	15	21	140	441	532	1,149

Notes:
1. This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system (CJS) area tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the restrictions have been imposed.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table C: Number of persons proven in court to have breached their ASBO in each Criminal Justice System (CJS) area[1], in each year, from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005

CJS area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Avon and Somerset	5	6	15	52	67
Bedfordshire	—	5	9	9	22
Cambridgeshire	3	2	8	14	22
Cheshire	—	6	13	43	67
Cleveland	2	5	12	28	58
Cumbria	2	2	17	35	55
Derbyshire	4	5	5	17	36
Devon and Cornwall	3	1	8	18	39
Dorset	1	1	8	25	37
Durham	9	13	20	31	44
Essex	—	1	2	29	70
Gloucestershire	1	1	5	13	36
Greater London	9	13	45	182	372
Greater Manchester	9	23	134	308	531
Hampshire	—	4	25	66	95
Hertfordshire	—	4	7	24	37
Humberside	1	5	7	26	86
Kent	1	2	5	3	6
Lancashire	7	12	35	76	131
Leicestershire	3	—	4	23	47

Table C: Number of persons proven in court to have breached their ASBO in each Criminal Justice System (CJS) area[1], in each year, from 1 January 2001 to 31 December 2005

CJS area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Lincolnshire	—	1	5	9	18
Merseyside	5	4	18	49	96
Norfolk	2	8	5	14	31
North Yorkshire	—	5	2	15	25
Northamptonshire	—	1	3	3	3
Northumbria	—	10	16	36	110
Nottinghamshire	5	6	10	39	80
South Yorkshire	2	8	26	46	82
Staffordshire	1	5	13	25	43
Suffolk	1	1	9	24	50
Surrey	1	2	3	19	41
Sussex	1	4	17	43	87
Thames Valley	—	2	8	31	50
Warwickshire	—	8	12	18	30
West Mercia	11	18	27	41	67
West Midlands	25	40	84	163	250
West Yorkshire	7	9	38	190	303
Wiltshire	—	1	5	12	19
England	121	244	685	1,799	3,243
Dyfed Powys	—	—	5	5	7
Gwent	2	2	2	18	35
North Wales	1	4	9	20	65
South Wales	—	4	14	22	40
Wales	3	10	30	65	147
England and Wales	124	254	715	1,864	3,390

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. Breaches are counted in this table on area of BREACH.

Notes:
1. It is possible for an individual to breach their ASBO in more than one year, so persons may be counted more than once in this table.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached in Lancashire in each of the last five years; [125048]

(2) how many antisocial behaviour orders were breached in Lancashire in each of the last five years. [126602]

Mr. Coaker: The available information (up to 31 December 2005, latest available) is given in the following table.

Number[1] of persons proven in court to have breached their ASBO in the Lancashire criminal justice system (CJS) area in each of the last five years

CJS area	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Lancashire	7	12	35	76	131

[1] ASBOs may be issued in one area and breached in another. In this table ASBOs breached in Lancashire are counted irrespective of whether issued in Lancashire or not.

Notes:

1. It is possible for an individual to breach their ASBO in more than one year, so persons may be counted more than once in this table.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

OCJR Court Proceedings Database.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been issued in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland; what percentage have been breached in each case; and what percentage of recipients went on to re-offend. [134763]

Mr. Coaker: The number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued at all courts in the north-east region (comprising the Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria Criminal Justice System (CJS) areas) from 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005 (latest available) is 513. ASBO data are not available at parliamentary constituency level. The number of ASBOs issued at all courts, by the local government authority area in which prohibitions have been imposed in the Cleveland CJS area, is given in the table.

Information on the number of ASBOs breached is available at CJS area level only. From 1 June 2000 to 31 December 2005 54 per cent. of ASBOs issued in the north-east region were subsequently proven in court to have been breached at least once and 37 per cent. on more than one occasion. The corresponding figures for the Cleveland CJS area are 64 per cent. and 43 per cent. respectively.

Number of ASBOs issued at all courts, as reported to the Home Office by the Court Service, where restrictions are imposed within local authority areas in the Cleveland Criminal Justice System (CJS) area, 1 June 2000[1] to 31 December 2005

CJS area	Total issued
Cleveland	114
Of which:	
Hartlepool borough council	14
Middlesbrough borough council	65
Redcar and Cleveland council	18
Stockton-on-Tees borough council	17

[1] From 1 April 1999 to 31 May 2000 data were collected on aggregate numbers only by police force area (pfa). During this period one ASBO was reported issued in the Cleveland pfa.

Notes:

1. This local authority area table differs from criminal justice system (CJS) area tables in that an issuing court can be outside the area in which the restrictions have been imposed.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Anti-Terrorism Control Orders

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the impact of the current level of police resources on the ability of law enforcement agencies adequately to monitor individuals subject to control orders; and if he will make a statement. [141510]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office undertakes a regular assessment of resources allocated to the police. Funding allocated to the police has increased significantly. Between 2005-06 and 2007-08 we have increased overall police funding by £978 million and within this, counter-terrorism specific funding by over £144 million. Responsibility for monitoring and enforcement of control orders lies with the police and is managed from within their overall budget.

Arrests

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested for non-recordable offences in each of the last five years. [141356]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Information is not collected centrally on persons arrested for non-recordable offences. The main arrests collection, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences), by age group, gender, ethnicity, and main offence group only within the 43 police force areas in England and Wales.

Assets Recovery Agency: Northern Ireland

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will place in the Library figures to show how much of *(a)* the total resource budget, *(b)* the total capital budget and *(c)* total public spending by the Assets Recovery Agency in each year since 2003-04 relates to the work of the agency in Northern Ireland. [141574]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The information available is set out in the tables. The information in the tables on the operating costs of the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA) in Northern

Ireland in 2005-06 varies slightly from that provided in my written answer of 24 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1823W, to the hon. Member for East Londonderry (Mr. Campbell). The revised figures are the result of a more appropriate reapportionment of associated overhead costs between the London and Belfast offices.

I am placing this information in the Library of the House.

Table 1: ARA breakdown of Northern Ireland costs

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total resource budget—ARA[1]	11,007,634.40	14,017,940.12	22,686,313.43
Asset recoveries applied against receivers' fees—ARA	0.00	0.00	-6,190,696.56
Net operating costs—ARA	11,007,634.40	14,017,940.12	16,495,616.87
Total of resource budget—NI	2,438,693.22	3,667,630.56	7,745,789.72
Asset recoveries applied against receivers' fees—NI	0.00	0.00	-3,020,370.94
Net operating costs—NI	2,438,693.22	3,667,630.56	4,725,418.78
Total of resource budget—GB	8,568,941.18	10,350,309.56	14,940,523.70
Asset recoveries applied against receivers' fees—GB	0.00	0.00	-3,170,325.62
Net operating costs—GB	8,568,941.18	10,350,309.56	11,770,198.08

[1] the total resource budget figure excludes recovered assets applied against receivers' fees, as this funding does not come from the public purse. All other income is netted off against total resource budget, including training income despite not being obtained from public purse. This latter amount is not included due to its relative immateriality.

Table 2

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total capital budget—ARA	1,073,729.67	100,826.34	473,068.65
Total of capital budget—NI	393,853.70	81,883.49	325,815.53
Total capital budget—GB	679,875.97	18,942.85	147,253.12

Note:
The proportion of capital expensed in the relevant year (depreciation) has already been included in the net operating costs figures. Therefore, the capital figures should only be used as memorandum figures to the net operating costs.

Table 3

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Total public spending per year, including capital—NI only	2,832,546.91	3,749,514.05	5,051,234.31

Note:
Total public spending includes net operating costs and capital. The net operating costs include certain non-cash costs, such as depreciation.

Avon and Somerset Police: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in *(a)* Avon and Somerset and *(b)* Northumbria constabularies in each of the last 10 years. [142133]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are given in the table as follows.

Police force As at 31 March:	*Avon and Somerset*	*Northumbria*
1996	2,981	3,668
1997	2,989	3,677
1998	2,976	3,769
1999	2,999	3,840
2000	2,934	3,788
2001	2,994	3,857
2002	3,096	3,929
2003	3,149	3,943
2004	3,401	4,040
2005	3,384	4,048
2006	3,389	3,983

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items

[2] Full-time equivalent excludes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave

Citizenship

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* taken and *(b)* passed the Life in the UK test since November 2005; and how many in each category have been refused citizenship. [138875]

Mr. Byrne: The number of Life in the UK tests taken between 1 November 2005 and 30 April 2007 is 270,149. Of those, 184,798 were passed (68.4 per cent.). Information relating to the number of people who took the test and then were refused citizenship could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost. The Life in the UK test is only one of the ways of satisfying the knowledge of language and life in the UK requirement and applications may be refused for other reasons.

Counterfeit Manufacturing: Documents

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies have been *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by his Department into the prevalence of companies that advertise and sell false official documents and employment records via the internet; and if he will make a statement. [141399]

John Reid: There have been no studies undertaken or commissioned by the Home Office into the advertisement or sale of such documents on the internet.

Crime: Databases

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the potential effect on costs in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector of the introduction of data-sharing measures under part 3 of the Serious Crime Bill. [141509]

Mr. Coaker: A public sector cost/benefit analysis of the data sharing measures under part 3 of the Serious Crime Bill can be found in the regulatory impact assessment published on the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Serious-Crime-Bill-RIA.pdf

We do not envisage the powers leading to additional costs or burdens on the private sector. Our expectation

is that where the powers are taken up they will help to lead to reductions in the cost of fraud in both the public and private sector.

Demonstrations: Parliament Square

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what has happened to the *(a)* signed poster designed by Banksy and *(b)* other materials seized from Brian Haw by the Metropolitan police on his removal from Parliament Square. [141299]

Mr. Coaker: Following a police operation on 23 May 2006 a quantity of property, including banners and posters, was taken by the Metropolitan Police Service from the site of Mr. Haw's demonstration in Parliament Square. Mr. Haw has subsequently collected some of his property.

Mr. Haw has been advised by the Metropolitan Police Service that he may take possession of the remainder of his property at any time provided it is not used to breach the conditions currently imposed upon his demonstration.

Driving Offences

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to tackle drivers avoiding prosecution through being untraceable to an address. [141300]

Mr. Coaker: Difficulties with drivers avoiding prosecution do not come primarily from their being untraceable to an address. In 97.5 per cent. of cases, it is possible to trace a vehicle from the database maintained by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). The DVLA has firm measures in place to guard against the inclusion of false details. Of those it is not possible to trace, not all will be deliberately seeking to avoid detection.

Any problem is rather with the difficulty of identifying the person driving a vehicle at the time of an alleged offence. The Road Safety Act 2006 increases the penalty for a vehicle keeper's failure to identify the driver to six penalty points.

The key to tackling offending driver behaviour is effective police enforcement, including targeting suspect vehicles, individuals and sites and the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Technology to detect vehicles of interest.

The police can then take immediate action using the existing powers we have given them. These include the power to seize vehicles being driven antisocially, or without appropriate licence or insurance and the powers to arrest for any offence if necessary to confirm name and address or to prevent hindrance of a prosecution by the disappearance of the suspected offender.

Drug Interventions Programme

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 803W, on the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP), what the DIP budget allocation was for each intensive DIP area in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06. [140107]

Mr. Coaker: My reply of 16 May referred to the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) Main Grant allocations for 2007-08. As the DIP has evolved, there have been changes to the funding mechanisms each year. These changes have reflected some short-term funding streams and also some integration of separate funding streams to make administration easier at local level.

Similarly, unlike the constituency of my hon. Friend, not all the areas named in my reply have been part of the programme since 2003. It is accordingly not possible, except at disproportionate cost, to provide DIP budget allocations for each intensive area for *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06 comparable to that in my reply of 16 May.

But allocations to areas such as the constituency of my hon. Friend have been based on the same criteria and I shall be writing to her with a more detailed explanation of the processes and to see if my officials are able to assist her with the purpose of her inquiry.

DNA Database

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in Solihull have their DNA stored on a database; and how many of those have been charged with committing a criminal offence. [141196]

Joan Ryan: As of 6 June 2007, there were an estimated 229,389 individuals with a DNA profile on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) taken by West Midlands police, of which 19,380 were under 18 years of age at that date. Information held on the NDNAD is available on a police force area basis only. Although the DNA sample in these cases was taken by West Midlands police, the individuals to whom the sample relates will not necessarily be resident in the West Midlands police area.

The purpose of the National DNA Database is to hold a record of a person's DNA which can be matched against DNA taken from crime scenes. It does not hold data on arrests, charges and convictions—that is held on the Police National Computer. Information on whether under 18s whose DNA has been sampled by the West Midlands police have been charged could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by cross-searching the NDNAD profiles against records held on the Police National Computer.

Human Trafficking: Females

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what progress Project Reflex has made in combating the trafficking of women to the UK to work as prostitutes; [140746]

(2) what schemes are in operation to assist women who have escaped prostitution and who were originally trafficked into the UK; [140748]

(3) what steps he is taking to prevent human trafficking in the UK; and what progress is being made in prosecuting those who participate in the trade. [140749]

Mr. Coaker: Reflex, the multi-agency Government taskforce on organised immigration crime was set up in March 2000 and has been successful at disrupting organised immigration crime gangs leading to a large number of arrests and seizure of criminal assets. The co-ordination of enforcement work on human trafficking has now moved on with the establishment of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the UK Human Trafficking Centre in 2006.

Reflex under SOCA continues to result in the disruption of organised crime gangs involved in trafficking women for sexual exploitation and has a number of multi-agency programmes of activity in this area. These programmes build on the strategies developed under Reflex. Organised Immigration Crime is SOCA's second priority after drug trafficking.

The Government have funded the POPPY project since March 2003 to provide safe shelter and support to assist in the recovery of adult female victims who have been trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

The Government's strategy to prevent human trafficking has a number of different elements. These include research and intelligence gathering to improve our knowledge and understanding of the scale and nature of human trafficking in the UK; awareness raising and capacity building in source and transit countries; and measures designed to address the demand for trafficked persons.

The Government are also working with source countries to tackle the problem of trafficking at its root. We have provided funds for various anti-trafficking projects in the Western Balkans region, West Africa (including Benin, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana, Niger and Togo) and in the Greater Mekong region (parts of Cambodia, China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam).

The UK Action on tackling human trafficking published on 23 March 2007 provides further details of the work being undertaken across Government to tackle human trafficking.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate the Government have made of the number of women trafficked into the UK in 2006 for the purpose of sexual exploitation. [141472]

Mr. Coaker: The majority of our knowledge regarding the extent of human trafficking in the UK relates to trafficking for sexual exploitation. It remains difficult to make an accurate assessment of the extent of the problem although intelligence suggests there has been an increase in the trafficking problem over the last two or three years. The findings from a Home Office research paper suggests that at any one time in 2003 there were in the region of 4,000 victims of trafficking for prostitution in the UK. In 2006, a police led multi agency operation on trafficking for sexual exploitation led to the identification of 87 victims from 22 different countries, predominantly from Eastern Europe, China/ South-East Asia, Africa or Brazil.

Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employers have been prosecuted for illegally employing irregular migrants during the last 12 months. [134817]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics are not available for the period requested; the latest 12 month period for which information can be provided is 2005. In 2005, 23 employers were proceeded against under section 8 of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 (employing a person aged 16 or above subject to immigration control and who is not entitled to work in the UK or to undertake the employment in question) in the magistrates courts. No persons were tried for the same offence at the Crown court in 2005.

We recognise that the number of prosecutions under section 8 is low, and that is why we have committed to bring forward the introduction of measures contained in the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006 to tackle illegal migrant working, which will provide the Border and Immigration Agency with a range of tools with which to tackle non-compliance. The 2006 Act introduces a system of civil penalties for employers who through negligence employ illegal migrant workers, alongside a tough new offence for those knowingly employing illegal workers, which will carry a maximum two year prison sentence and/or an unlimited fine. These new measures will come into force in late 2007.

On 15 May 2007 the Border and Immigration Agency published 'Prevention of illegal working: Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006; Consultation on the implementation of new powers to prevent illegal migrant working in the UK'. This document contains our action plan for tackling illegal working. Copies have been placed in the House Library and can be downloaded from the Border and Immigration Agency website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/lawandpolicy/consultationdocuments/currentconsultations

Immigration: Appeals

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time a Home Office presenting officer spent on *(a)* a deportation appeal, *(b)* an asylum appeal and *(c)* an immigration appeal, excluding the time spent travelling and waiting for, and presenting, an appeal hearing, over the last 12 months. [141409]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

According to the records kept by the Treasury Solicitor's Department, the average time spent when instructed in Asylum and Immigration Tribunal appeals for the financial year 2006-07 was 21.6 hours per case. The Treasury Solicitor's Department does not keep records that differentiate between the time spent on different types of appeals heard before the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal and therefore cannot state the average time spent on each of the categories of appeal set out in the question.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the administration of police investigations. [141471]

Mr. McNulty: Since 2003, crime has fallen by 10 per cent; since 2002, the rate of offences brought to justice has increased by 39.6 per cent.; and sanction detection rates have increased from 19 per cent. in 2003-04 to 24 per cent. in 2005-06.

In 2004-05 and 2005-06 the effectiveness of volume crime investigation has been assessed as one of 23 frameworks in Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's baseline assessment of police forces.

Over the past three years, the Home Office has commissioned Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) to audit the quality of police detection data recording, and the results are used to improve administration and record-keeping.

Intimidation: Pupils

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers are involved in tackling bullying in schools as part of their duties. [141294]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally as part of the police personnel statistics.

Police: Labour Turnover

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officer recruits left the police force within two years of joining in each of the last 10 years. [140775]

Mr. McNulty: The available data on the length of service on leaving the force are available from 2002-03 onwards, and are given in the following table.

Number of police officers leaving[1] within 2 years of joining the service, from 2002-03 to 2005-06

Headcount

	Number of officers leaving within two years	*Percentage of officers leaving within two years from total number of leavers*
2002-03	1,273	15.1
2003-04	1,250	16.7
2004-05	1,164	15.0
2005-06	861	9.8

[1] Includes transfers to other England and Wales forces but does not include officers leaving after a period of secondment.

Police: Manpower

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there are *(a)* in the North East, *(b)* on Teesside and *(c)* in the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland; and how many there were in 1997. [139813]

Mr. McNulty: The corresponding data for the requested areas are: *(a)* the North East Government Region (encompassing Cleveland, Durham and Northumbria police force areas); *(b)* the Cleveland police force area; and *(c)* the Basic Command Units (BCUs) within the Cleveland police force area, namely Hartlepool, Langbaurgh, Middlesbrough and Stockton.

Data are not available at the BCU level for 1997; and the available data are given in the following tables.

1. Police officer strength (FTE)[1] in the North East Government region as at 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006

	31 March 1997	*31 March 2006*
North East Government office region	6,597	7,359

[1] Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. All officers excluding those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures). Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

2. Police officer strength (FTE)[1] in Cleveland police force area as at 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006

	31 March 1997	*31 March 2006*
Cleveland police force	1,459	1,677

1. Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. All officers excluding those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave (comparable with previously published figures). Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

3. Police officer strength (FTE)[1] in the Basic Command Units within Cleveland police force area as at 31 March 1997 and 31 March 2006[2]

	31 March 2006
Hartlepool BCU	187
Langbaurgh BCU (Redcar and Cleveland)	232
Middlesbrough BCU	287
Stockton BCU	277
Central Services BCU	720

[1] Full-time equivalent figures rounded to the nearest whole number. All officers excluding those staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Basic Command Unit data are not available for 1997.

Prisoners: Correspondence

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether correspondence between hon. and right hon. Members and inmates is routinely opened by HM Prison staff before it reaches recipients; and if he will make a statement. [141263]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have been asked to reply.

Correspondence between Members of Parliament (acting in their constituency capacity) and prisoners is not routinely opened by prison staff. Under confidential access arrangements operated by the Prison Service such letters are not opened, read or stopped unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 110-11W, on speed limits: cameras, what additional duties have been given to traffic police officers since 1997 in addition to their basic function as traffic regulators. [141418]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The Roads Policing Strategy Statement, agreed in January 2005 between the Home Office, Department for Transport and the Association of Chief Police Officers

sets five main objectives for roads policing, whether undertaken by dedicated traffic police officers or others. These are: to deny criminals the use of the roads, to reduce road casualties, to tackle thee threat of terrorism, to reduce antisocial use of the roads and to enhance public confidence and reassurance by patrolling the roads. Within this framework, the allocation of resources and use of officers for different functions is an operational matter for individual chief officers.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 110-1W, on speed limits: cameras, what *(a)* average and *(b)* total overtime was worked by dedicated traffic patrol police officers in each year between 1997 and 2006; what the (i) average and (ii) total mileage per annum of police traffic patrol vehicles was in each year; and how many dedicated police traffic patrol vehicles were in operation in each year. [141419]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* This information is not collected centrally.

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and searches were carried out by police under Section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since the Act's introduction; and how many and what percentage of those searches resulted in an arrest. [140774]

John Reid: Information on stop and searches and resultant arrests under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 from 2001-02 to 2004-05 (latest available) is given in the following table.

2005-06 data[4] will be available later this year.

Searches of vehicles[1] and occupants, and pedestrians under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000[2] and resultant arrests[3], England and Wales, 2001-02 to 2004-05

	Stop and searches in order to prevent acts of terrorism		
	Total searches	*Resultant arrests[3]*	*Percentage of arrests*
2001-02	10,200	189	2
2002-03	32,100	380	1
2003-04	33,800	491	1
2004-05	35,800	455	1

[1] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously, the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants.

[2] The Terrorism Act 2000 came into force on 19 February 2001.

[3] Includes arrests under the Terrorism Act, arrests for terrorist related matters and other serious crimes.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police officers. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Surveillance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many intrusive surveillance warrants were issued in each of the last five years. [141785]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The number of authorisations granted, under section 32 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, for the carrying out of intrusive surveillance is included in the Annual Report of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner to the Prime Minister and to Scottish Ministers which is laid before each House of Parliament and published. For the last five reports, the numbers have been:

	Number
2001-02	493
2002-03	475
2003-04	447
2004-05	461
2005-06	435

Terrorism

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the recent tracer gas trials in the Westminster area as part of the Department's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Science and Technology Programme; what discussions he has held on further such trials; and if he will make a statement. [141700]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* It is not clear what type of assessment the question refers to. The trial is ongoing and the results will be assessed in due course to improve our understanding of the movement of material in the urban environment.

Further discussions have taken place in respect of the planned second phase of the trial which will be undertaken in early 2008 following analysis of the first phase results.

We encourage the publication of research results but this may be restricted for reasons of national security.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the statement of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 46WS, on Westminster tracer gas trials, what non-toxic gases were used in the Westminster area as part of the Department's Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Science and Technology Programme. [141788]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The non-toxic gases used in the trial belong to the family of chemicals known as cyclic perfluorocarbons. The actual gases released are: perfluoro methyl cyclohexane; meta perfluoro dimethyl cyclohexane; and para perfluoro dimethyl cyclohexane.

Terrorism: Crime Prevention

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what consideration he has given to the compatibility of proposed changes to counter-terrorism legislation with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights; [141216]

(2) what representations he has received on the conformity with Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights of the changes he is preparing to propose to anti-terrorism legislation. [141318]

Mr. McNulty: The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is a binding international agreement that enshrines fundamental civil and political rights. The Human Rights Act 1998 incorporates ECHR into UK law.

My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 421, the Government's intention to bring forward a Bill later this year. We are currently embarking on a wide ranging consultation to determine what measures should go into the Bill. Development of the new Counter Terrorism Bill therefore remains at an early stage.

Consideration of the impact of legislation on the European Convention on Human Rights will be considered as part of the consultation process. Prior to introduction of any Bill into Parliament a memorandum will be produced setting out the Bill's compatibility with the Convention rights, and a written statement on compatibility will be made to each House.

Terrorism: Detainees

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions since 25 July 2006 the police have been obliged by the 28-day pre-charge detention period to release terrorist suspects whom they still wished to detain beyond that period; and what the *(a)* date and *(b)* circumstances were of each case in which no legal proceedings are active. [141259]

John Reid *[holding answer 11 June 2007]*: The police do not centrally hold information on the circumstances of each terrorist case where a suspect is not charged within the 28 day pre-charge detention period.

Terrorism: Stop and Search

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he had with Cabinet colleagues prior to announcing to the media the proposals to extend counter-terrorism stop and search powers to the police. [141067]

Mr. McNulty: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary did not announce any such proposals to the media—the news reports were the result of a leaked document. All Bill proposals that are intended for inclusion in legislation are subject to Cabinet agreement before they can be discussed during a consultation.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in her Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141961]

Hilary Armstrong: No Ministers in the Cabinet Office are allocated a ministerial residence.

Slade Green

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what the itinerary was for her visit to Slade Green in the Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency on 5 June. [142292]

The Minister without Portfolio: This visit was not made in my ministerial capacity.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Cyprus

Mr. O'Hara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the implementation of the proposal of the UN Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari to start discussions on the technical committees and working groups as delineated in the agreement between President Papadopoulos of Cyprus and the Turkish Cypriot leader of 8 July 2006; for what reasons the process has not yet started; and what steps the Government are taking to make progress on the process. [142117]

Mr. Hoon: The Government welcomed the 8 July 2006 agreement brokered by former UN Under Secretary-General Ibrahim Gambari, and remains fully supportive of the efforts of the UN Secretary-General's Representative in Cyprus, Michael Moller, to launch the technical committees and working groups. The recent report of the UN Secretary-General on Cyprus (accessible at: http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep07.htm) outlines in detail the reasons why this process has not yet started. The key obstacle is disagreement between the two sides on what constitutes a day-to-day matter, and the mechanisms for resolving disagreements.

We are disappointed at the lack of progress to date and have raised our concerns at the highest levels. We consider that the status quo is unacceptable and that negotiations on a final political solution have been at an impasse for too long. Time is not on the side of a settlement. We will continue to urge both sides to show the political will and flexibility to bridge the gap between words and deeds, and to engage constructively with the UN's efforts to broker a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Departments: Eligo International Ltd

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the *(a)* date, *(b)* value and *(c)* purpose was of each payment made by her Department or its agencies to Eligo International Ltd since 1997. [141915]

Mr. Hoon: There is no record of payments made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the UK to Eligo International Ltd in this time frame. To establish whether FCO missions overseas have made payments to the company would require each post to check accounts for each of the last 10 years. This would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent by her Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139424]

Mr. Hoon: The following totals have been identified as having been spent on public relations by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO):

Financial year (FY)	£
2001-02	1,700
2002-03	18,825
2003-04	9,503
2004-05	8,534
2005-06	13,104

The figures for FY 2006-07 are not available as the 2006-07 resource accounts are currently being audited by the National Audit Office.

The aforementioned figures are for expenditure explicitly identified, according to the FCO's accounting systems, as public relations expenditure. Invoices charged to account codes for specific events or projects in these years are likely to have included public relations activities, but it is not possible to identify the public relations elements of this expenditure without incurring disproportionate cost.

In addition, the FCO Communication's Directorate (including Press Office, Stakeholder Management and Public Diplomacy departments, for example) undertakes public relations work. It is not possible to identify this expenditure.

Iran: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment her Department has made of the role of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in the funding and support of terrorism in the Middle East; in which countries IRGC members are known to be active in this way; and if she will make a statement. [136493]

Margaret Beckett: The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is an official organisation of the Iranian Government. We remain deeply concerned that Iran is undermining the prospects for stability, peace and democracy in the region. Iran continues to support those engaged in acts of terrorism, including arming and financing groups which have no regard for securing a peaceful Middle East. We firmly believe that Iran should co-operate fully with the rest of the international community against international terrorism, as required by UN Security Council Resolution 1373 and subsequent Resolutions, including 1701 and 1747. Iran has underlined its commitment to counter terrorism. We look to it to turn words into deeds.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the security threat facing Iraqis who have worked in a civilian capacity for UK and multi-national forces in Iraq; what measures the Government are taking to improve the safety of such individuals; and if she will make a statement. [140496]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* Violence in Iraq continues at appallingly high levels, affecting all Iraqis. We continue to do what we can to try to help those Iraqis who face a particular threat as a result of having worked for us. Any applications for assistance we receive from current or former staff are considered on a case-by-case basis, taking account of the particular circumstances of the individuals concerned.

Ultimately, only a reduction in the overall level of violence in Iraq will address this problem at source. This is what we are working hard with the Government of Iraq, our coalition allies and others to try to bring about.

Lancaster House: Official Hospitality

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the projected cost is of the valedictory function at Lancaster House honouring the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Middle East; and from which budget the cost will be met. [142116]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, is hosting a farewell reception for my noble Friend Lord Levy, in recognition of his nine years of service as my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Middle East, at Lancaster House on 19 June. The estimated cost of this event is £6,000, which will be met by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's entertainment budget.

Russia: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Russian diplomats have been asked to leave London for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status in the last 12 months. [141244]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* No Russian diplomat has been asked to leave London for activities incompatible with their diplomatic status in the past 12 months.

Russia: Nuclear Weapons

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make a statement on President Putin's threat to acquire new targets in Europe for Russian nuclear missiles. [141417]

Mr. Hoon: The UK supports US plans to deploy missile defence assets in Europe. These limited deployments can not undermine a Russian deterrent with missiles still numbered in the hundreds and warheads in the thousands. President Putin since said, in the margins of the G8 Summit, that Russia is proposing co-operation with the US on Ballistic Missile Defence which

"will allow Russia not to change our position on not targeting our missiles".

Sri Lanka: Peace Negotiations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have been held with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, other Tamil groups and the Government of Sri Lanka on a possible ceasefire agreement; and if she will make a statement. [141506]

Dr. Howells: I visited Sri Lanka on 11 June and held discussions with President Rajapakse, senior Government Ministers, the Leader of the Opposition, a senior Tamil National Alliance parliamentarian and representatives of non-governmental organisations. UK Government officials also have occasional contact with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in pursuit of the peace process. We urge all the parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka to stop using violence. There can be no military solution.

Turkey: Religious Freedom

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the murders of Tilman Geske, Necati Aydin and Ugur Yuksel on 18 April 2007 in Malatya, Turkey; what representations she has made to the Government of Turkey on violence against Christian minorities; and if she will make a statement. [140923]

Mr. Hoon: The Government condemn the recent attack in Malatya and welcome the Turkish Government's determination to bring the perpetrators to justice. We note the detention of 10 suspects and continue to follow developments closely.

Our embassy in Ankara reports regularly on human rights issues in Turkey, including freedom of religion. We also receive reports from the European Commission and other international organisations.

Through regular bilateral discussions, we continue to urge Turkey to keep up the momentum of its human rights reform and to ensure that implementation of EU standards is full and consistent.

USA: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with *(a)* the United States Administration and *(b)* her European Union counterparts on the effects on European security of the placing of anti-ballistic missile systems in eastern European Union countries; and what representations she has made to the Russian Government on President Putin's criticisms of anti-ballistic missile systems deployment. [141622]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary gave to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 237W, and the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for the Middle East to the hon. Member for Mid-Norfolk (Mr. Simpson) on 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1375W. I have had no additional discussions with the US Government or EU Foreign Ministers. The UK is engaged in discussion of this issue through NATO (including the NATO-Russia Council) and other forums.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Extremism

21. **Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has had on tackling extremism. [141608]

Ruth Kelly: As part of my Department's work to tackle all forms of extremism, I have undertaken a range of meetings with stakeholders both inside Government and in local communities and from overseas.

Faith Schools: Admission Policies

22. **Dr. Evan Harris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on community cohesion and the integration of young people from different religious and racial backgrounds of the practice of discrimination on religious grounds in the admission policies of faith schools. [141609]

Mr. Woolas: All school governing bodies now have a duty to promote community cohesion and this element of what they do will be inspected by Ofsted from September this year.

Road Markings and Signs: Advertising

23. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1813W, on road signs and markings: advertising, what further progress has been made on the removal of unauthorised roadside advertisements. [141610]

Angela E. Smith: The recent introduction of the unlawful advertisements and fly-posting database has given local planning authorities a better opportunity to work together to secure prosecution of persistent offenders. Local planning authorities have enthusiastically welcomed

the database. There are 162 local planning authorities using the database and 185 records of successful prosecution cases on it.

Affordable Housing

24. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the contribution of the social rented sector in providing affordable homes; and if she will make a statement. [141611]

Yvette Cooper: We are on course to deliver 30,000 social rented homes by the end of 2007-08, and we expect 160,000 households to enter into home ownership through public and private shared equity schemes in the five years to 2010.

We are also supporting local authorities to take a lead role in developing more social housing, using surplus land.

Future delivery will be subject to the outcome of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The delivery of affordable housing will be a key priority for CSR07.

28. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on increasing spending on affordable housing via the next comprehensive spending review process. [141615]

Yvette Cooper: I have had wide-ranging and regular discussions with ministerial colleagues in Treasury about preparations for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, as a matter of key importance to the Department for Communities and Local Government's medium and long term planning.

Home Information Packs

25. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what compensation is available to *(a)* business and *(b)* individual providers who have undertaken preparation and training for the introduction of home information packs. [141612]

Yvette Cooper: The proposals we set out on 22 May will mean assessors will be able to begin work shortly. From 1 August, assessors will also start work with four-bedroom properties and larger. We are inviting councils and registered social landlords to work with us to pilot the introduction of Energy Performance Certificates on a voluntary basis in social housing.

Lyons Inquiry

26. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for implementing the recommendations of the Lyons inquiry. [141613]

Mr. Woolas: Sir Michael Lyons' work played a major contribution in the development of the Local Government White Paper, which is being implemented through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. His report and recommendations will continue to inform the development of Government policy.

Digital Challenge

27. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the digital challenge. [141614]

Angela E. Smith: The digital challenge is a cross-Government initiative to address social exclusion and community deprivation through the use of digital technology. The winner Sunderland is hosting a major conference in July to showcase its progress, and all 10 regional finalists continue to work with my Department as regional champions. They are developing key projects including community support for digital inclusion, the 'Homeshoring' call centre model to create jobs in deprived areas and work to explore the environmental impact of technology.

Green Belt

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 119W, on green belt, what the net change in the area of designated green belt over the period 2003 to 2006 was, broken down by region of the UK. [136888]

Yvette Cooper: The net changes, by region, in the areas of designated green belt are set out in the following table. The 2003 figures for London and south-east include 47,300 hectares of green belt in New Forest district council and Test Valley borough council which were re-designated as New Forest National Park in 2005. Leaving aside the New Forest there was an overall national increase in green belt land of about 7,500 hectares between 2003 and 2006. It is the responsibility of planning authorities to establish or review green belt boundaries through the plan making process.

Areas of designated green belt land by region

Region	*2003 area*	*2006 area*	*Change*	*Percentage change*
North-east	66,300	71,910	5,580	8.41
North-west	260,610	260,310	-300	-0.12
Yorkshire and the Humber	262,640	264,930	2,290	0.87
East Midlands	79,520	78,900	-620	-0.78
West Midlands	269,140	269,256	116	0.04
East Anglia	26,690	26,302	-388	-1.45
London/wider south-east (excluding New Forest)	553,170	553,886	716	0.12
South-west	106,180	106,330	150	0.14
England[1] (excluding New Forest)	1,624,280	1,631,824	7,544	0.45

[1] In 2005, the green belt land in New Forest DC and Test Valley, BC (47,300 hectares) was designated as part of New Forest National Park. The 2003 figure excludes this figure for true comparison.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made in the Government's policy on the protection of the greenbelt surrounding conurbations in the south-east of England over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [132075]

Yvette Cooper: National planning policies on green belts, as set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2 (PPG2), are essentially unchanged from those published in 1995.

Green belt boundaries are determined in plans drawn up by local planning authorities. Government policy in PPG2 states that changes to boundaries should be made only in exceptional circumstances when those plans are being reviewed.

The Government are committed to the principles of the green belt and will make no fundamental change to planning policy as set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2.

Regional Planning and Development: Blackpool

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who is represented on the Blackpool task force she announced on 28 March 2007; what progress has been made in the work of the task force; what additional support has been provided through the task force *(a)* by her Department and *(b)* other Departments; and what the nature is of such support. [142324]

Mr. Woolas: The Blackpool task force comprises representatives from: the North West Development Agency; Government Office for the North West; Blackpool Urban Regeneration Company; North West Business Link, English Partnerships and Blackpool borough council.

The work is progressing well, with a report expected to be presented to Ministers by 28 June. The recommendations within the report will reflect the needs of Blackpool and the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. The task force has significant support from Communities and Local Government through the regional agencies.

The task force was set up to reflect regional and local knowledge with staff being drawn from relevant agencies and organisations. Government Ministers will respond to the recommendations within the report as appropriate to their own Departments.

Communities and Local Government has committed £1 million to the task force and has also made up to £2 million available in the current year through English Partnerships, subject to the quality of the proposals made, to enable an early start on housing and other work to regenerate the inner area.

Unitary Councils

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether parish councils are included as partners and stakeholders to be consulted on any proposed unitary structure. [140544]

Mr. Woolas: Yes.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to discourage binge-drinking. [140463]

Caroline Flint: In the Government's "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy", published in 2004, binge drinkers were a key target audience for new messages to be targeted by Government in their communications. This supported a wider programme of action by the Home Office to bear down on alcohol-related antisocial behaviour involving young people.

As a result, the Department launched "Know Your Limits", the Government's first national campaign regarding alcohol. It focuses on young people who binge drink because research shows that 18 to 24-year-olds are most likely to drink irresponsibly and cause harm to themselves and others. Evaluation of the campaign demonstrated that it has been highly effective in raising awareness and has had a high level of recall among young people.

The Government's renewed alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy" was published on 5 June 2007, and contains a detailed programme of work to minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

To help deliver this commitment, the Government are committed to continuing its investment in the "Know Your Limits" campaign and will run activity before peak drinking times, such as Christmas and new year. We will also seek ways to broaden and widen the audience reach.

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government are taking to address alcohol abuse among *(a)* children and *(b)* adults. [140465]

Caroline Flint: We are preventing the sale of alcohol to children by cracking down on irresponsible retailers and working with the alcohol industry to reduce underage sales of alcohol—while continuing to educate youngsters about the harms, both physical and social, of alcohol abuse.

The Government's renewed alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy" was published on 5 June 2007, and contains a detailed programme of work to minimise the health harms, violence and antisocial behaviour associated with alcohol, while ensuring that people are able to enjoy alcohol safely and responsibly.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what advice her Department has given to clinicians asked to give evidence assurances to the inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement. [141005]

Caroline Flint: None.

Mrs. Dean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will ensure that the revised drug strategy includes a strong commitment to reducing the transmission of blood borne viruses including *(a)* improved access to testing and treatment and *(b)* setting clear targets to ensure delivery. [139726]

Caroline Flint: A consultation document on the new Drug Strategy will be launched shortly. A commitment to harm reduction will certainly be an important part of the Strategy. On 22 May this year, I launched the Department's action plan, Reducing Drug-related Harm, signalling the Government's continuing commitment to prioritise treatment in tackling the harms of drug misuse.

The action plan sets out the broad stream of action to be taken in England to enhance harm reduction activities within the drug treatment sector, with the aim of progressively reducing the number of drug misusers either dying through a drug-related death or contracting blood-borne virus infections.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many of the documents rediscovered by her Department as referred to in the Review of Documentation relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985 *(a)* have yet to be made publicly available and *(b)* relate to AIDS/HIV; if she will release all such documents to Lord Archer's inquiry into this matter; and if she will make a statement; [140980]

(2) how many of the documents that were rediscovered by her Department as referred to in the Review of Documentation relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970 to 1985 relate to Non A Non B Hepatitis; and if she will make a statement. [141007]

Caroline Flint: "The Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985 (Non A-Non B Hepatitis)" (NANBH) identified 56 previously unpublished documents that relate to NANBH. These were released with the review on the 22 May 2007.

The review identifies just over 4,600 documents that have yet to be made publicly available, and approximately 42 per cent. of these have been identified as relating to HIV/AIDS. Lord Archer has been advised that we propose to release these documents in line with the Freedom of Information Act.

Blood Transfusions

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to provide *(a)* ethryropoietins and *(b)* other alternatives to blood transfusions to appropriate patients. [141103]

Caroline Flint: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1771-72W.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1772W, on blood transfusions, what steps she is taking to provide treatment to patients who cannot have blood transfusions who are suffering from chemotherapy-induced anaemia. [141104]

Caroline Flint: The treatment of individual patients remains a matter for their clinical team who will base the treatment on the most appropriate clinical evidence, and the wishes of the patient.

Bone Diseases: Medical Treatments

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance she has issued to trusts on whether they should continue to fund anti-TNF treatments for ankylosing spondylitis prior to the results of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's appraisal of anti-TNFs being made available; [140401]

(2) for what reasons the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's appraisal of anti-TNFs treatment for ankylosing spondylitis has been delayed. [140402]

Caroline Flint: Funding for licensed treatments should not be withheld because guidance from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is unavailable. In December 2006, we issued good practice guidance which asks national health service bodies to continue with local arrangements for the managed introduction of new technologies where guidance from NICE is not available at the time the treatment or technology first became available.

In February 2007, NICE's appraisal committee commissioned further analysis to inform its appraisal of adalimumab, etanercept and infliximab for the treatment of ankylosing spondylitis. NICE are now expecting to publish final guidance to the NHS in June 2007.

Care Homes: Drinking Water

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps have been taken since October 2005 to ensure that fresh drinking water is available free of charge to care home residents throughout the day; [141209]

(2) what steps have been taken since October 2006 to ensure that care standards require that fresh drinking water is *(a)* available and *(b)* regularly offered to care home residents throughout the day; and if she will make a statement. [141210]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Regulation 16 of the Care Homes Regulations requires care homes to provide, in adequate quantities, suitable, wholesome and nutritious food which is varied and properly prepared and available at such time as may reasonably be required by service users. Food, in the regulations, includes drink.

Standard 15 of the National Minimum Standards (NMS) for Care Homes for Older People includes the requirements that:

service users receive a varied, appealing, wholesome and nutritious diet, which is suited to individual assessed and recorded requirements, and that meals are taken in a congenial setting and at flexible times; and

hot and cold drinks and snacks are available at all times and offered regularly.

The NMS for Care Homes for Older People were originally issued in 2002; no changes have been made to them since October 2005.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) published nutrient and food based advice for those providing food in care homes in October 2006. Copies are available in the Library. The advice includes guidance on appropriate nutrient intakes, healthy eating, allergy and food hygiene tips. There is also an example menu

plan, to help caterers for care homes follow the guidance, with a technical report showing how the menus follow FSA advice.

The example menus include recommendations to make water available at all eating occasions. Government advice is that we need to drink six to eight glasses of fluid every day. It is therefore implicit that care homes should be making water freely available throughout the day.

The advice documents, "Nutrient and food based Guidelines for UK Institutions" (October 2006), "Food served to Older People in Residential Care" (October 2006) and "Example Menus for Care Homes" (August 2006) are also available on the FSA's website at www.food.gov.uk/healthiereating/nutritioncommunity/care.

Community Care: Fees and Charges

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made since the introduction of "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and non-residential Social Services—Guidance for Councils with Social Services Responsibilities" of the impact on home care service users in England of the ability of local authorities with social services responsibilities to set their own charging schemes for home care services. [141435]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made any assessment. It is for councils to decide on how to set charges for non-residential social services. The legal basis is that charges generally should be reasonable, and that no one should be asked to pay more than they reasonably can.

Until the guidance on home care charges, "Fairer Charging Policies for Home Care and other non-residential Social Services", was implemented, councils with social services responsibilities operated under few constraints or guidelines on how to charge for home care and practice varied widely. "Fairer Charging Policies" is statutory guidance, issued under section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970; councils must have regard to it.

The guidance, which was issued in 2001 and amended in 2003 to reflect the introduction of pension credit, does not seek to change councils' power to charge, or not, for services. It seeks to ensure that, where councils do charge, this will be based on fairer, well designed charging policies. In particular, it aims to ensure that service users on low incomes are protected from charging and that any charges levied on disability benefits are subject to an assessment of disability costs, to ensure their reasonableness.

Local authorities have discretion as to whether they charge people receiving benefits for domiciliary care or not. However, if they do decide to do so, the guidance states very clearly that service users should not have their incomes reduced below basic levels of income support or the guarantee credit of pension credit, plus a buffer of 25 per cent., as a result of charges.

Community Hospitals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community hospitals *(a)* closed and *(b)* opened in (i) rural and (ii) non-rural areas in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [135508]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally. The Government are committed to ensuring more health services are delivered in community settings and are making an additional £750 million worth of capital funding available to support the development of community hospitals and services.

Dental Services: Cornwall

Mr. Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1504W, on dental services: Cornwall, what assessment she has made of the likely effect on dental services should Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust decide not to comply with the NHS Litigation Authority for the determination of contract activity for dental practices in Cornwall; and what preparations she has made. [141747]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Determinations of the National Health Service Litigation Authority are binding on primary care trusts (PCTs). We understand that Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT is discussing with its local dental providers how to give effect to a recent NHS Litigation Authority decision. PCTs are responsible locally for assessing dental service needs and developing services to reflect these needs.

Haemophilia

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Service Level Agreement is for the provision of Recombinant Factor VIII in each strategic health authority in England. [142045]

Caroline Flint: Funding for the provision of Recombinant Factor VIII for each strategic health authority (SHA) is in the SHA bundle, that incorporates a number of budgets formerly managed directly by the Department. The value of the SHA bundle for 2007-08 is £6,945.78 million, and was announced in the NHS Operating Framework that was published on 11 December to the NHS. Allocations are made direct to SHAs, and they manage the distribution of funds among the different programmes, including for Recombinant Factor VIII, taking account of local circumstances.

Health Hazards: Lighting

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of *(a)* the nature of the medical conditions and *(b)* the number of people suffering from such medical conditions which can be exacerbated by light emitted from energy saving light bulbs. [140905]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is known that some people living with lupus and epilepsy, and other long-term conditions, may be affected by energy saving light bulbs. We have made no assessment of the number of such people affected.

Health Hazards: Mobile Phones

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent studies her Department has *(a)*

commissioned and *(b)* received on the potential health hazards from (i) mobile phone masts and (ii) handheld mobile phones; and if she will make a statement. [141319]

Caroline Flint: The Stewart Report in 2000 comprehensively reviewed the scientific literature and concluded that

"the balance of evidence to date suggests that exposures below international guidelines do not cause health effects to the general population"

(www.iegmp.org.uk). Handheld mobile phones and base station installations in the United Kingdom are designed to comply with international exposure guidelines. The Stewart Report, however, also recommended further research as part of an overall precautionary approach to the use of mobile phone technology pending the availability of more robust scientific research results.

The independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and industry, was set up in 2001 in response to the Stewart Report recommendations. It is currently supporting a number of studies into the possible health effects of technology relating to masts (base stations) and handheld mobile phones. These studies, some in progress and some already published, are described on the MTHR website at

www.mthr.org.uk.

Research on the potential health effects from mobile phone technology is evaluated periodically by the Health Protection Agency's Radiation Protection Division. The report entitled "Mobile Phones and Health 2004" (Documents of the NRPB, Volume 15, No. 5) is available in the Library and at

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation.

Health Hazards: Radiation

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when 140 Osier Crescent, London N10 was last tested for polonium; and with what result. [133039]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

This is now a matter for the local authority, but we understand Haringey council has indicated that 140 Osier Crescent was last tested for polonium on 25 May 2007.

They are currently awaiting the results, which will be placed in the public domain when they are available.

Human Embryo Experiments

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) for what reasons she proposes to exclude pure hybrids from the licensing regime proposed in Clause 17 and Schedule 2 of the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill; [142320]

(2) on what basis she proposes that the mixing of human and animal gametes will be allowed for the purpose of testing fertility and normality of human sperm under Schedule 2, paragraph 6 of the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill. [142322]

Caroline Flint: Under the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, the mixing of human sperm and animal eggs is only permitted, for assessment of the fertility of normality of sperm, or research aiming to improve the assessment of the fertility or normality of sperm. Such testing and research involves analysis of the cellular processes which take place between the point of sperm penetration, and first cell division of the embryo. The Act thus states that any embryo created using this technique must be destroyed no later than at the two cell stage.

The Government believe there is, at present, a lack of merit in relaxing the current limitation the development of true hybrids.

The Government indicated in the introduction to the draft Bill that they intend to accept the principle that legislation should provide for certain inter-species embryos—cybrids, human-animal transgenic embryos and human-animal chimeras—to be authorised by research licence.

The Bill will have the flexibility for affirmative regulations to allow the creation both of new types of inter-species embryos and of true hybrids to be authorised by research licence if necessary in the light of evidence of the need for it.

Hyperactivity: Drugs

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* England and *(b)* Maidenhead were prescribed methylphenidate drugs in each year between 1997 and 2006. [139193]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not hold data on the number of patients prescribed methylphenidate hydrochloride drugs. In terms of the number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England, I refer the right hon. Lady to the answer given on 9 May, *Official Report*, column 279W.

Data on the number of prescription items prescribed in the community and then dispensed are collected at primary care trust (PCT) level. The equivalent PCTs to the constituency of Maidenhead are the combination of Berkshire East PCT (formerly Bracknell Forest, Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead and Slough) and Berkshire West PCT (formerly Newbury and Community, Reading and Wokingham) created in October 2006.

Data for these combined PCTs are provided in the following table.

	Thousand
	Number of prescription items dispensed
2003	4.9
2004	5.6
2005	5.7
2006	6.9

Note:
Local data are from the prescription pricing division's (PPD's) prescribing analysis and cost tool (PACT) system. This is held for a maximum of 60 months only, therefore data areprovided from 2003 onwards.
Source:
Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (PACT) system

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on incontinence and stoma

appliances, when she expects the evaluation of the responses to the consultation to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [140089]

Caroline Flint: It has been announced that due to the volume and complexity of responses received to the consultations that closed on 2 April 2007, the Department has decided that it needs more time to analyse the information provided. Consequently, no changes will be implemented in July 2007 as proposed in the consultation documents. Moreover, we do not expect that the review will be completed before the end of the year.

Insulin

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the draft proposal for submission to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence asking the institute to consider including a comparison of the different types of insulin in its future work programme, as referred to in the letter of 19 December 2006 to the hon. Member for Torbay from the Minister for quality and delivery. [136750]

Caroline Flint: The National Clinical Director for Diabetes, Dr. Sue Roberts, has convened a liaison group to inform the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) work programme on a range of diabetes issues. This approach has been taken to support NICE in addressing and reflecting the needs of the diabetes community.

The group is due to meet shortly, and will discuss a range of diabetes issues, including the therapeutic use of insulins.

Internet: Health Hazards

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the health effects of wireless internet networks, with particular reference to those in schools. [141102]

Caroline Flint: The independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR) undertook a comprehensive assessment of radio waves and health in 2003. Its report, entitled "Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields", was published by the then National Radiological Protection Board (now the Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency (HPA)). Copies are available in the Library and on the HPA website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpb/abstracts/abs d14-2.htm

All devices that emit radio waves (such as wireless internet) should be used in compliance with the exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as specified in the European Recommendation on limiting public exposure to electromagnetic fields (EC/519/1999).

Information about wireless devices and health is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmentLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/Features/FeaturesArchive/Browsable/DH_5369553

In response to recent media and public concern about the use of wireless computer networks in schools the HPA has provided further advice at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/wifi.htm

IVF

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts provide in vitro fertilisation on the NHS. [140983]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally as a matter of routine. We are aware that most primary care trusts (PCT) are providing at least one cycle of in vitro fertilisation (IVF). Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust is now restarting the provision of IVF following a temporary period of suspension. We are working with the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK to help PCTs share best practice in the provision of fertility services and engage with fertility patients in the planning and prioritisation of services.

Medical Equipment

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the extent of implementation of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency guidelines on managing medical devices by NHS trusts; [135636]

(2) what responsibility the Healthcare Commission has to report *(a)* on and *(b)* to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency on the compliance of NHS trusts with guidelines on managing medical devices; [135641]

(3) whether the Healthcare Commission has powers to enforce Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency guidelines on managing medical devices. [135662]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) published its updated Device Bulletin on the management of medical devices in November 2006. The MHRA does not have powers to enforce its advice, which is for guidance only; the Healthcare Commission does not have powers to enforce MHRA advice either. It is the responsibility of each NHS organisation to ensure that appropriate governance systems are in place to ensure that medical devices are managed and used correctly.

The Healthcare Commission assesses the performance of the NHS against the standards set out in Standards for Better Health (Department of Health 2004). In carrying out its assessments, the Commission looks specifically at, among other aspects of safety, the management of risks associated with the acquisition, use, and proper decontamination of medical devices in accordance with guidance issued by the MHRA.

If an organisation is found not to be complying with a core standard, it is the responsibility of the relevant strategic health authority (SHA) in the first instance to support it to achieve the necessary improvement. In exceptional individual cases where an organisation's failure to comply with a compulsory core standard is of significant and sufficient concern, and where the

Department and the SHA agree that departmental engagement can add value, the Department would work with the SHA to ensure that improvement was made.

The Healthcare Commission reports to the Secretary of State. The Commission publishes its assessment of NHS performance in its annual health check; performance ratings for 2005-06 were published in October 2006 and are publicly available on the Commission's website at www.healthcarecommission.org.uk.

Medical Records: EC Countries

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has *(a)* to permit and *(b)* to implement the transfer of patient information between member states of the European Union, as referred to in paragraph 3.1.1. of the European Commission's Consultation on Community Action on Health Services, published on 26 September 2006. [131858]

Caroline Flint: In collaboration with the European Commission and other European health administrations we are exploring ways in which citizens could, if they so choose, make key health data available when seeking treatment in other European states, subject to stringent confidentiality safeguards. This work is at a very early stage and complex technical and information governance issues have yet to be resolved. In particular, any transfer of patient information would need to be in line with the undertakings given in the NHS Care Record Guarantee, and subject to compliance with the European Union Data Protection Directive.

The consultation acknowledges work that is already under way in some member states in developing interoperability standards for electronic medical records. The Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency is in fact the global leader in healthcare interoperability. NHS Connecting for Health have developed the message implementation manual which uses the international standard HL7V3 to define a standards-based approach to clinical message interchange. These messages are used by the systems which have been through the NHS Connecting for Health national integration centre, to create the largest range of heterogeneous interoperable systems in healthcare globally, with in excess of 100 certified systems. This interoperability framework is underpinned by a robust and resilient messaging infrastructure, known as the spine, which already supports the transfer of many millions of messages every week across the national health service.

Another key aspect of healthcare system interoperability is the consistent use of a clinical terminology. NHS Connecting for Health have been instrumental in the establishment, and are a founding member of the Standards Development Organisation, which has acquired the intellectual property rights for SNOMED-CT, an international standard for codifying clinical data.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department will respond to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 16 May 2007 on the proposed Independent Sector Treatment Centre for Basildon. [142450]

Andy Burnham: The reply to the hon. Gentleman's letter of 14 March, which was the subject of his further letter, was sent on 16 May.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps were taken by her Department in response to the letter from the Head of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre at the Public Health Laboratory Service dated 9 May 1983; and if she will make a statement. [140981]

Caroline Flint: The "Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985 (Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis)" was released on 22 May, together with the references identified in the review. An additional 4,600 documents were identified during the review, including those relating to HIV/AIDS, and it has been agreed that these documents will be released in line with the Freedom of Information Act. Numerous documents are already in the public domain.

The issue of AIDS and licensed blood products was discussed at the Committee on Safety of Medicines Sub-Committee on Biological Products at a meeting on 13 July 1983, at which the Head of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre at the Public Health Laboratory Service was present. A copy of these minutes, together with a paper considered by the Committee on Safety of Medicines, are in the public domain.

Any further documents relevant to action in relation to the letter from the Head of the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre will be released with the documents currently being prepared for release.

NHS: Databases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which data set change notices were issued under her authority to NHS organisations in each year since 1997-98. [135891]

Caroline Flint: The NHS Information Standards Board has responsibility for assuring and signing off information standards for use in the national health service in England. The Board has had direct responsibility for the publication of approved information standards—Data Set Change Notices (DSCNs)—since October 2005. The accountability of the Board's chairman, Professor Martin Severs, is to the NHS chief executive.

A table of all DSCNs published since 1997 has been placed in the Library. The number of DSCNs published in each year is shown in the table.

DSCNs

	Yearly totals
1997	47
1998	37
1999	36
2000	19
2001	45
2002	55

DSCNs

	Yearly totals
2003	37
2004	30
2005	19
2006	21
2007[1]	12
Total	358

[1] To date.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 792W, on NHS: databases, how often each set of data required for collection at an other frequency is required to be supplied. [139581]

Andy Burnham: The available information is given in the following table.

Code (where available)	*Collection title*	*Source*	*Frequency*
SITREP	Sitreps weekly and daily	National health service trust (NHST)	Daily counts and weekly summary
	Healthcare Commission Assessment of Existing Targets	Primary care trust (PCT)	Daily counts and weekly summary
	National Renal Dataset	NHST	Ongoing collection based on extraction from clinical records
SABS	Safety Alert Broadcast System	NHST, strategic health authority (SHA)	When a safety alert occurs
HCAI	Surveillance of healthcare associated infections	NHST	Ongoing online data entry
	National Joint Registry	NHST	As required following hip and knee operations
	Fire Incidents and Unwanted Fire Signal Data	NHST	When an incident occurs
	Non-medical Device Defects and Failures Reporting System	NHST	When a defect or failure occurs
	Adults and Older People: Mental Health Data Collections—Streamlining	PCT	Ongoing online data entry
	Weekly Access (inc PTLs)	NHST	Weekly
MHMDS	Mental Health Minimum Dataset (MHMDS)	NHST	Quarterly
	National Cancer Dataset Waiting times subset	NHST	Quarterly
LDPR-P and PDPR-C	Local Delivery Plans Return	NHST	Quarterly
	NHS Stop Smoking Services Quarterly Monitoring Return	PCT, SHA	Quarterly
	Mandatory Enhanced Surveillance System (MESS) renal surveillance voluntary data	NHST	Quarterly
KC65	Colposcopy clinics, referrals, treatments and outcomes	NHST	Quarterly
	Quarterly Inpatient waiting times return (Stock) (day case admissions) Commissioner and Provider	NHST, PCT, SHA	Quarterly
	Quarterly Outpatient waiting times return (Stock) Commissioner and Provider	NHST, PCT, SHA	Quarterly
	Quarterly In-patient waiting times return (Stock) (ordinary admissions)—Commissioner and Provider	NHST	Quarterly
	Quarterly Inpatient Activity (Flow)—Commissioner and Provider	NHST, PCT, SHA	Quarterly
	Quarterly Outpatient Flow return—Provider	NHST	Quarterly
	Monitoring Revisions to new GP Contract—FIMS(FHS)4 and PFR1A-D data collection from PCTs 2006-07	PCT	Quarterly

Code (where available)	Collection title	Source	Frequency
	Radiotherapy Contract Data Set (RT CDS)	NHST	Quarterly
FIS(FHS) 2	General Dental Services	NHST, PCT, SHA	Quarterly
	Integrated Drug Treatment System for prisons Clinical Activity	NHST	Quarterly
	Prison Healthcare Performance Monitoring: Star Ratings	PCT	Quarterly
PCT06	PCT Capital Expenditure	NHST, PCT, SHA	Quarterly
COVER	Childhood Immunisation Data	NHST, PCT	Quarterly
QMAE	Quarterly Monitoring of Accident and Emergency	NHST, PCT	Quarterly
	Junior Doctors' Hours	NHST, PCT	Biannual
	Monitoring PPF Cancer Targets (T10 and T11)	SHA	Biannual
	National Programme for IT—Baseline NHS Tracker	NHST, SHA	Biannual
	NHS staff engagement and attitudes towards the NHS	NHST	Biannual
KH03a	Open and Staffed Adult Critical Care Beds	NHST	Biannual
	National Capabilities Survey	NHST, PCT, SHA	Biennial
	Earnings Survey	PCT	Biennial

NHS: Drugs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the infrastructure payment for services proposed in her Department's consultation, "Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff", is proposed to apply to dispensing appliance contractors differently dependent on their output; and if she will make a statement. [140411]

Caroline Flint: In reviewing the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff, it has always been one of the Department's stated objectives to ensure fair remuneration of valued services provided by the pharmacy and appliance contractors.

In the consultation document entitled "Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff", it was proposed that dispensing appliance contractors would receive a banded infrastructure payment depending on the volume of prescription items dispensed in one particular month. The purpose of this payment is to cover elements of service that are less volume-related compared to dispensing, such as operating within a clinical governance framework, requirements relating to dispensing repeatable prescriptions and provision of clinical information.

Views were sought on this proposal and the consultation closed on 2 April 2007. The Department is still evaluating the responses and it is not anticipated that the overall review will be completed until the end of the year.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to trial the drug PTC124; [140823]

(2) what plans she has for fast tracking new drugs and therapies for Duchenne muscular dystrophy. [140824]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: PTC124 is a drug currently undergoing clinical trials in the United States for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. PTC Therapeutics, the company behind this drug, has not currently organised clinical trials in the United Kingdom.

We have no specific plans to fast track new drugs or therapies for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has not received an application to licence PTC124.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how has been spent on IT systems in the NHS since 1997. [138616]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the form requested.

Such information as is available derives from revenue expenditure reported each year since 2002-03 through a national survey of information technology investment; and from capital expenditure, including software licences, identified in national health service accounts, and as reported by foundation trusts. The figures do not include expenditure by special health authorities or central expenditure funded by the Department.

Summary figures for the latest year for which information is available (2005-06) is contained in the reply given to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1693-94W.

Detailed information for 2005-06, including summary information for years since 2002-03, is available on the Department's NHS Connecting for Health agency website at www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/resources/funding and has been placed in the Library.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of implementing the NHS IT programme has been in *(a)* Surrey Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England; what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the NHS IT programme; and if she will make a statement. [138993]

Caroline Flint: Expenditure under the contracts let for the core components of the national programme for information technology in the national health service in England, as at 31 March 2007, was £1,001.5 million.

Information about local NHS spending by primary care trusts (PCTs), NHS trusts and other NHS organisations on the national programme for information technology, to complement the investment from central funding, is not collected centrally. However, any such spending is very significantly outweighed by the savings accrued locally from participation in the programme. Most notably, some £4.5 billion has been saved by central rather than local procurement, a figure confirmed by independent industry analysts. In addition, savings have been achieved in the prices paid by the NHS for information technology goods and services due to the central buying power of NHS Connecting for Health, as well as in NHS staff time saved through using the programme's systems and services. For example, the National Audit Office have acknowledged savings of £860 million achieved through centrally negotiated enterprise wide arrangements.

In addition, PCTs have been specifically reimbursed for funds spent on upgrading existing general practitioner practice systems to make them choose and book compliant, and funding support has also been made available to support NHS trusts deploying a choose and book compliant patient administration system.

The successes of the national programme are visible every day of the week in hospitals, general practices and pharmacies across the NHS, and the benefits are being experienced by doctors, nurses and, most importantly, by patients. On any typical day the national programme currently enables some 120,000 prescriptions to be transmitted electronically, reducing errors and inefficiencies; 17,000 choose and book electronic bookings to be made, putting patients in charge of their care and reducing significantly the numbers not attending out-patient appointments; almost one-and-a-half million queries to be processed on the patient demographic system, ensuring receipt of around three-quarters of a million letters a year that would otherwise be posted to the wrong address and enabling patient information to be handled more efficiently; over a hundred thousand NHSMail users, each of whom has an e-mail address for life, to send one million secure e-mails, one-third of which contain confidential patient information; five new secure broadband connections to be installed; and some 30,000 general practitioners (GPs) to use the quality management analysis system (QMAS) to deliver better care to patients under the new GP contract.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make available the gateway reviews undertaken by the Office of Government Commerce on the national programme for IT. [139004]

Caroline Flint: I have no plans to do so.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she has taken in response to each of the recommendations of Section 9 of the National Audit Office report on the national programme for IT in the NHS. [139005]

Caroline Flint: Where the National Audit Office recommendations called for specific or new action to be taken by the Department, its NHS Connecting for Health agency, or by national health service bodies, action plans have been put in place. Progress towards the various deliverables is being routinely monitored against their respective timescales, some of which have already been achieved.

In relation to individual recommendations, a national programme catalogue has been created and made available to all NHS organisations and staff. The purpose of the catalogue is to demonstrate how the NHS Connecting for Health products currently available support wider NHS policies and initiatives by detailing their functionality and the benefits they can deliver to patients, clinicians and organisations. Regular updates will ensure its continuing relevance and value. Work is ongoing with suppliers and the NHS to agree engineering-based timetables for delivery and to ensure that these timetables take NHS requirements into account. Governance arrangements are in place to consider any changes which impact upon local service providers in order to ensure that suppliers can achieve what is planned.

The national programme communications strategy has been reviewed and updated. Ways of working with strategic health authority (SHA) communications leads have been agreed and implemented. A plan of key milestones for delivery of the programme is being developed for communication with NHS organisations and staff.

NHS Connecting for Health continues its strong management of suppliers and their performance.

The first annual benefits report, for 2006-07, will be produced in autumn 2007 to coincide with the publication of planning materials for NHS organisations. Future annual benefits reports will be produced in partnership with the strategic health authorities.

The annual survey of NHS information management and technology expenditure is being complemented by studies of the impact of national programme deployments on local NHS IT expenditure.

Post-implementation reviews are being carried out to identify and quantify the service and efficiency improvements of new IT systems. The Department and NHS Connecting for Health, in partnership with the SHAs, are supporting a series of benefits demonstrators at local sites that will evaluate experiences and compile evidence of benefits achieved.

Analysis of current areas for improvement is taking place in order to produce evidence-based development plans to create sustainable capability in the NHS. A range of projects, and training and development elements, are being grouped together under a capability and capacity work stream, and the education, training and development work stream is being strengthened.

Relevant and appropriate clinicians continue to contribute to the effective identification of requirements, design and testing of systems being delivered under the programme. NHS Connecting for Health has appointed a Chief

Clinical Officer to lead the clinical engagement and clinical contribution the programme. A national clinical lead for patient safety has been appointed. Further national clinical leads are to be recruited for pharmacy, physiotherapy, mental health and midwifery. Consideration is being given to how to take on other national clinical leads to cover important areas of engagement.

NHS: Personal Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients can opt out of having their demographic details held on the NHS national data spine. [139003]

Caroline Flint: Patients registered with the national health service will not be able to prevent their basic demographic and contact details from being held within the NHS care records service (NHS CRS). The NHS has maintained registers of its service users from the earliest days of its existence to support the delivery of healthcare. A record is also kept of which general practice each patient is registered with, and reasons of efficiency and probity require this to be held centrally, for example to prevent multiple general practitioners from being paid for the same patient, and to ensure that the correct commissioning body meets the cost of care provided. A register is also needed to enable the Secretary of State to meet the obligation to provide healthcare, free at the point of contact, for those patients who are ordinarily resident in England.

While for these reasons it is not practicable to give patients choice about whether their demographic details will be held in the system, safeguards have been built into the NHS CRS personal demographics service (PDS) which allow an individual's contact details to be hidden from NHS staff if patients request this level of protection. Access to the PDS is controlled by a member of staff's relationship with the patient, and by what they need to see to do their jobs, and is dependent on their having a current secure smartcard and a valid pass code.

NHS: Training

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to establish an Academic Health Science Centre; and if she will make a statement. [141627]

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State has given approval for Hammersmith Hospitals national health service trust and St. Mary's NHS trust to consult on a merger of the two organisations. This consultation would be the first stage of a process to create the first Academic Health Science Centre in the United Kingdom. The consultation began on 1 May 2007 and will run for three months.

Ovarian Cancer

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in England were diagnosed with Stage *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2, *(c)* 3 and *(d)* 4 ovarian cancer in (i) the latest year for which figures are available and (ii) each of the previous five years. [140642]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 12 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many women in England have been diagnosed with (a) Stage 1, (b) Stage 2, (c) Stage 3 and (d) Stage 4 ovarian cancer in (i) the latest year for which figures are available and (ii) each of the previous five years. (140642)

The data item, stage, was introduced in 1993 when the cancer registration minimum data set was established by the Department of Health. There remains much variation between the eight regional cancer registries in England in the recording of stage that is likely to reflect differences in what is meant by "stage", rather than real differences across England in what clinicians use to classify the patients. It is not therefore, possible to provide nationally comparable data on cancer incidence broken down by stage.

The United Kingdom Association of Cancer Registries (UKACR) is investigating what should be counted as a complete stage in an attempt to agree on an interpretation in future. In the future, the new Cancer Registration Data Set will include stage recorded at multiple points along the patient pathway.

Oxygen: Sandwell Hospital

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from where the oxygen cylinders at Sandwell hospital are sourced. [140537]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency reports that BOC Medical supplies Sandwell and West Birmingham hospitals national health service trust (which is responsible for services at Sandwell hospital) with cylinders of oxygen.

Patients: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on hospital charges for headphones for bedside entertainment systems; and if she will make a statement. [140643]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not received any representations on hospital charges for headphones for bedside entertainment systems.

The three major service providers advise that they do not currently charge for headphones for use with their systems.

If headphones were to become chargeable, it would be as a result of a commercial decision made by the service provider.

Pharmacy

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date her Department agreed plans to encourage pharmacists to carry out basic procedures like blood pressure checks and issue prescriptions. [140008]

Caroline Flint: The commissioning of national health service services such as pharmacist prescribing and routine blood pressure checks are matters for primary care trusts (PCTs) to determine. These services are local enhanced services which PCTs can commission according to their assessment of local priorities and needs, under the new community pharmacy contractual framework introduced from

April 2005. Pharmacies may, in addition, offer these services privately to the public.

The Secretary of State for Health agreed on 8 November 2005 to accept the then Committee on Safety of Medicines' recommendation that pharmacists could train to become independent prescribers. Only those pharmacists who have successfully completed a prescribing training course and been registered with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain as a prescriber can be commissioned by the PCT to provide this service.

Prescription Drugs: Internet

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 320W, on prescription drugs: internet, how many prosecutions for the sale of prescription only medicines over the internet *(a)* not under the supervision of a pharmacist and *(b)* without a prescription from a prescriber have been brought in each of the last three years. [142449]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is responsible for the regulation and control of medicines on the United Kingdom market.

The MHRA investigates the sale and supply of medicines available through the internet as part of its statutory enforcement role. Since April 2005 there have been eight prosecutions involving prescription only and unlicensed medicines being offered for sale via the internet.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will *(a)* reduce prescription costs and *(b)* abolish charges completely; and if she will make a statement. [140053]

Caroline Flint: The Government said in their response to the Health Committee's report on national health service charges, that the Department would undertake a review of the current exemptions for prescription charges and put forward options that would be expenditure neutral for the NHS. We have undertaken to report to Parliament before the summer recess 2007.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 422W, on prescriptions: fees and charges, what mechanisms are in place for checking a patient's entitlement to exemption when it is declared. [140462]

Caroline Flint: When a patient claims exemption from payment of national health service prescription charges, mechanisms are in place for the pharmacist or dispensing doctor to request proof of this exemption and for the patient to produce relevant evidence to support their claim, depending on the grounds of the exemption. Where this is not possible, the prescription is marked "evidence not seen" and dispensed for free.

It is for the relevant primary care trust to establish whether a claim is valid. Anyone found to have wrongly claimed help with health costs will face a penalty charge and, in some cases, prosecution.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role the Government expects the Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS) to play in public policy following the establishment of the General Pharmaceutical Council; what funding will be made available for the RPS; and if she will make a statement. [139283]

Caroline Flint: The Government consider it essential that an authoritative leadership body for the pharmacy profession continues to contribute to all relevant aspects of public policy development. The Pharmacy Regulation and Leadership Oversight Group will consider the financial aspects of establishing the General Pharmaceutical Council and advise Ministers accordingly.

Stem Cells: Research

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what grants were made by the Government for research into the development of treatment using *(a)* embryonic stem cells and *(b)* stem cells from umbilical cords and other adult stem cells in each of the last five years. [138553]

Caroline Flint: The funding for stem cell research from the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Department of Trade and Industry's technology programme for the past five years is shown in the following table:

	MRC	*Department of Trade and Industry technology programme*
2002-03	£4.5 million	£0.00
2003-04	£14.5 million	£0.00
2004-05	£14.2 million	£5 million
2005-06	Not yet available	£500,000
2006-07	Not yet available	£3.6 million

Information on the type of stem cells used in such research is not held centrally and some projects include stem cells from a variety of sources. However, the MRC advised that, in the year 2004-05, 40 per cent. of its research funding was for research on adult stem cells.

vCJD

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* tests and *(b)* prototype tests for the presence of vCJD in blood are (i) available and (ii) the subject of research; and if she will make a statement. [140982]

Caroline Flint: There is currently no licensed blood screening test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD). The performance of a number of prototype vCJD assays is being evaluated, and the results of this process will be available later in the year.

vCJD: Blood Transfusion Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for blood specimens held by the Blood Transfusion Service to be used in research to test for vCJD; and if she will make a statement. [141008]

Caroline Flint: Access to blood samples held by the National Blood Service is subject to the approval of the service and where necessary the approval of an appropriate Research Ethics Committee.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many requests her Department has received for blood specimens held by the Blood Transfusion Service to be used in research to test for vCJD; and if she will make a statement. [141009]

Caroline Flint: No record of requests are held by the Department, any such requests received would be referred to the National Blood Service for their consideration.

Waste Management: Health Hazards

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been conducted by the NHS into the potential impacts on health of moving to fortnightly collections of household rubbish. [142380]

Caroline Flint: None.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan Economic Situation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to promote economic regeneration in Afghanistan. [141268]

Hilary Benn: DFID is contributing £9 million to the Government of Afghanistan to help boost legal private sector activity. This includes support to reduce red tape, improve the business environment, support the mining sector and encourage foreign investment. Of this, £1 million has been channelled through a Wold Bank-managed trust fund which provides risk guarantees to attract foreign investors. In the past year, this trust fund has supported three projects. These are expected to trigger over £13 million of investment, stimulate the cotton and pharmaceuticals sector and expand access to credit. This will help to further enhance private sector opportunities and regenerate the Afghan economy.

In 2003, the agriculture sector accounted for over half of Afghanistan's GDP and, since the majority of Afghans are based in rural areas, agricultural performance is central to economic growth. Rural development is one of DFID's top three priority areas for investment. We are contributing £7 million to the Government of Afghanistan's national horticulture and livestock programme, which will improve incentives for private investment in these important sectors. We are also funding Government programmes to construct rural roads (£18 million), and providing access to credit (£20 million).

Burundi: Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide a breakdown of how the £6 million funding for education in Burundi announced on 5 April is proposed to be spent; and what the timescale is for the release of the funding. [141062]

Hilary Benn: The £6 million I announced as part of a package of support for education initiatives in post-conflict and fragile states will be spent over the next three years in support of the Government of Burundi's action plan to implement the initial priorities of their 10-year education strategy.

The plan will meet Burundi's immediate needs in rebuilding an education system severely affected by the more than 12 years of devastating civil war, and lay the foundations for the development of an education system that can deliver equitable, high-quality education and professional training, and meet the target of primary education for all.

The plan is expected to be finalised by September, and once endorsed by donors, submitted along with the sector strategy to the fast-track initiative (FTI) for additional financing. If fully financed, it is anticipated that almost 10,000 extra primary school classrooms will be built, over 4,000 extra primary school teachers will be trained and recruited, and that total spending on education will be more than doubled.

The UK's funds will be pooled with those of other donors to minimise the administrative burden on the government, facilitate a strengthening of the government's capacity to deliver education services and encourage others to contribute to the reconstruction of Burundi's education system.

Crop Post Harvest

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what date his Department commenced funding for the Crop Post Harvest programme; what his Department's total expenditure has been on the programme; which projects have been funded by the programme; which institutions are funded to carry out each project in the programme and what amounts have been allocated by his Department to each and over what period in each case; in which country each project was based; what the outcome has been of each project; what assessment he has made of the impact on host harvest crop losses and other gains; and what the closing date is for his Department's funding for the programme. [140874]

Mr. Thomas: DFID started funding the crop post harvest programme (CPHP) in April 1995. The programme was designed to run for 10 years, until March 2005. However an additional year was added from April 2005 to March 2006 to allow for greater dissemination of findings. Total expenditure was £28,529,870.

A total of 170 projects were completed up until 2005 and a full list with details of each project is available at:

http://www.cphp.uk.com/projects/default.asp?step=11

or through DFID's searchable research database at:

http://www.research4development.info/index.asp.

CPHP was evaluated as part of the overall evaluation of the renewable natural resources research strategy (RNRRS 1995-2006) by an external independent team which found the outputs of the CPHP to be:

"...impressive and demonstrate well-planned and conducted studies." (annex 10, page 355).

The full report is available at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/performance/files/ev659.asp.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139313]

Mr. Thomas: The following amounts were raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five financial years:

	£
2006-07	0
2005-06	176,205
2004-05	0
2003-04	0
2002-03	0

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139332]

Mr. Thomas: The following amounts were received by the Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five financial years:

	£
2006-07	4,459,797
2005-06	4,351,023
2004-05	4,246,796
2003-04	4,144,926
2002-03	4,046,023

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what properties his Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139352]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has owned the following properties in each of the last five years (all of the properties were owned for the entire period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2007 unless otherwise stated):

Within the UK:

Abercrombie House, East Kilbride, G75 SEA.

Overseas:

20 Epping road, Harare, Zimbabwe;

11 Hendrikz Way, Harare, Zimbabwe;

11 Brentford road, Harare, Zimbabwe;

seven residential properties in Lilongwe, Malawi, purchased November 2002;

one residential property in Lilongwe, Malawi, purchased March 2004;

TCO House, Honiara, Solomon Islands, sold January 2006.

The Department has rented the following properties in the UK in each of the last five years (all of the properties were rented for the entire period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2007 unless otherwise stated):

Within the UK:

1 Palace street, London, SW1 5HE;

20 Victoria street, London, SW1H 0NF. The lease on 20 Victoria street was not renewed by DFID on its expiry on 25 December 2006;

Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4TB;

43 Fairfield Place, East Kilbride, G74 5LP.

Overseas:

We cannot provide a list of overseas properties rented without incurring disproportionate costs.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139374]

Mr. Thomas: Abercrombie House was most recently valued on 31 March 2006. Total valuation was £9.250,000, including land valued at £1,575,000.

Overseas properties were most recently valued at 31 March 2007. Three properties in Zimbabwe were valued at £252,000. Eight properties in Malawi were valued at £475,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139471]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The cost of leasing buildings and office space for the Department, both in the UK and overseas, in each of the last five financial years was as follows:

	£
2006-07	19,947,000
2005-06	20,459,000
2004-05	21,031,000
2003-04	16,700,000
2002-03	17,857,000

(b) The Department did not have any agency bodies in the last five financial years.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking ahead of the forthcoming G8 meeting to ensure that consideration of the effect of climate

change on the world's poorest nations is integrated into the World Bank energy policy. [140628]

Hilary Benn: Climate change is likely to have the greatest impact on the poor, with Africa being particularly vulnerable, even though it has not caused the problem. A high priority for DFID is to work with our international partners, including the World Bank, to help reduce man-made climate change as well as help developing countries adapt to some of the inevitable impacts.

At the Gleneagles summit in 2005, the UK secured G8 agreement that the World Bank should lead on establishing a new Clean Energy for Development Investment Framework (CEIF) that would operate across the international financing system. The aim of this framework is to accelerate and catalyse public and private sector investments in cleaner energy in developing countries.

The CEIF has three main parts: improving access to energy, especially in Africa; promoting transitions to low-carbon energy, especially in large emerging economies; and helping countries adapt to climate variability and change.

The first phase of this work is under way with the World Bank and regional development banks, like the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Inter-American and Asian Development Banks. They are developing work programmes to help their borrowers tackle climate change. Each bank is tailoring its approaches and initiatives to the conditions and challenges of its region and its specific experience and comparative advantage. The World Bank is continuing to work on exploring financial options to support clean energy investments.

The second phase in implementing the World Bank Action Plan for the CEIF will be reported at the G8 Summit in 2008, to be hosted by Japan. The World Bank has already increased its commitments and resources for clean energy investments. A recent World Bank report shows that in 2006 the Bank increased the financing of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects by 45 per cent., to a total of $668 million, exceeding the 20 per cent. annual increase target set in 2004.

We are also working with the World Bank on the adaptation part of the CEIF. For instance, future climate change may affect rainfall patterns, which in turn could directly affect electricity generation from hydropower schemes, so the work involves climate change risk screening. The aim is to make sure that investments, including those in the energy sector, take full account of the potential future impact of climate change and establish what it will cost to adapt.

We are looking for a range of G8 outcomes on energy and climate change this year. This includes an invitation to the World Bank to undertake pilot schemes to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries. On this, the World Bank is developing a proposal for a Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to provide support for pilot schemes in developing countries. This follows on from pilot studies to determine low-carbon opportunities in middle-income countries.

Both the 2005 Gleneagles Plan of Action and the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit endorsed the need to improve energy efficiency. We would like to see faster implementation of energy-efficiency options and are working towards agreement on this at the G8 in Germany this year.

Developing Countries: Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made to ensure that support is delivered effectively and flexibly to conflict and post-conflict states through the Fast Track Initiative since the Education Beyond Borders initiative was announced on 5 April 2007. [140883]

Mr. Thomas: The Education for All Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) is an international partnership currently supported by 15 contributing donors.

The UK has been leading an FTI Fragile States Task Team to explore how the FTI might better support education in fragile states. The Task Team met on 21 May and subsequently reported to the FTI's Technical Meeting, in Bonn on 24-25 May.

The issue of fragile states and fragility was also considered at meetings of the Expanded Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee, the Education Programme Development Fund (EPDF) Task Force and the Capacity Development Task Team. Donors acknowledged that countries with weak capacity but strong political will need support to access funds to deliver education services while developing their sector plans.

The Technical Meeting agreed broad endorsement for extraordinary support for such countries and that an interim means of support is needed beyond the existing FTI architecture. The Fragile States Task Team is developing a framework that could be used by governments and donors to measure a country's progress towards FTI endorsement and whether interim financing could be used effectively. It will be piloted in Somalia by UNICEF Somalia.

As there is no internationally agreed list of conflict and post-conflict countries, the FTI Fragile States Task Team has agreed to use the definition of fragile states from the World Bank's 2007 Global Monitoring Report.[1] The FTI Partnership is already providing direct support to a number of countries regarded as fragile states. The FTI has endorsed eight such countries (Cambodia, Djibouti, The Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste), of which six have benefited from the FTI's Catalytic Fund. 11 countries (Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Timor-Leste) have benefitted from the EPDF. On 23 May the Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee approved an allocation of US $13.9 million for Sierra Leone for 2007-09.

Sixteen countries regarded as fragile states (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nigeria, Papua New

Guinea, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands, Togo, Vanuatu) are working towards FTI endorsement during 2007-08.

[1]http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTGLOBALMONITOR/EXTGLOMONREP2007

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the Make A Teacher campaign. [141085]

Mr. Thomas: The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) hold an annual Week of Action aimed at raising awareness of the importance of Education for All. The 2006 Week of Action (24-30 April 2006) included a focus on the global shortage of teachers. Following the Week of Action many schools across the United Kingdom discussed the issues and subsequently raised their concerns with their local Members of Parliament or through direct correspondence. My Department received about 80 letters from schools. Most of the letters asked the Government to help provide more teachers for those children living in poorer parts of the world.

It is estimated that 18 million extra teachers will be needed globally to provide every child with a quality primary education. Teachers are vital to quality education and are important if we are to achieve the millennium development goal of universal primary education by 2015.

Last year, the UK Government committed £8.5 billion to be spent over the next 10 years in support of education in developing countries. This long-term commitment will help to recruit and train more teachers, get more pupils into and completing school and improve the quality of education being provided.

The GCE's 2007 Week of Action took place on 23-29 April. The theme was Education as a Human Right. I look forward to receiving further letters from school children concerned about education for children in poor countries.

Developing Countries: Poverty

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on meeting the 2005 G8 commitments on poverty relief; and if he will make a statement. [141166]

Hilary Benn: There has been some good progress in delivering the commitments made at Gleneagles and elsewhere in July 2005. DFID submits a regular report to Parliament detailing the UK's progress against agreed milestones. Globally there has been a significant rise in global aid. It has increased by 25 per cent. to just over $100 billion since 2004.

At this year's summit there was important progress especially on education and HIV/AIDS. Yet there is still much more to do, particularly on trade, and we are working closely with donors and African Governments to make sure that the commitments are fully implemented.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what body is responsible for the oversight of UK-funded reconstruction projects in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [141656]

Hilary Benn *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* In close co-ordination with the FCO and MOD, DFID is responsible for the oversight of reconstruction projects in Iraq under the auspices of the International Development Act 2002. Our programme is managed from London with support from our offices in Baghdad and Basra.

Our priority is to build the capacity of the Iraqi Government to manage and spend their own resources effectively to deliver improved public services. We are also looking at options for supporting reconciliation and ways to reduce the level of violence. Finally, we are supporting humanitarian agencies to provide assistance to the four million displaced people in Iraq and neighbouring countries.

The UK has pledged £744 million for reconstruction and development in Iraq since 2003. So far £610 million has been disbursed, of which £488 million has been spent by DFID (including EC contributions). This includes over £125 million to support humanitarian agencies since 2003 (£12 million of which has been spent in 2007).

DFID has reporting arrangements in place for each of our own projects. All of DFID's funds are subject to rigorous internal controls and the National Audit Office audits DFID's accounts on an annual basis. Our 2005-06 audited resource accounts are available at http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/resource-accounts.asp. In addition our work is regularly scrutinised by the International Development Select Committee.

Liberia: Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how his Department will support education in Liberia following the refusal by the Education for All Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund to fund the endorsed Liberia Education Plan. [140882]

Hilary Benn: At the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee in Bonn on 23 May 2007, development partners were very encouraged by the positive steps that Liberia is taking to rebuild its education system. Liberia has been admitted to the FTI partnership on the understanding that its education recovery plan is not yet ready for funding through this channel. It will continue to be supported with planning through the FTI's education programme development fund and with additional funding support through UNICEF.

The UK intends to support education in Liberia through the FTI's Catalytic Fund when there is consensus among all FTI partners that Liberia is eligible. The UK is contributing £150 million to the FTI.

Oversees Aid: Sri Lanka

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide a breakdown of how the £1 million funding announced on 24 May 2007 for Sri Lanka will be spent; and

whether any of this will be provided for education programmes. [140884]

Mr. Thomas: Of the £1 million that DFID has allocated to humanitarian activities in Sri Lanka:

£800,000 will be given to ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) to contribute towards protection and assistance, including providing essential household items, hygiene kits and baby supplies.

£100,000 will be given to OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) contributing to more effective and coordinated delivery of humanitarian assistance.

£100,000 will be given to UNDSS (UN Department of Safety and Security) to contribute to safer delivery of humanitarian assistance through improved security information management, analysis and dissemination.

No funds have been allocated for education programmes.

Palestinians: EC Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* UK Government and *(b)* EU studies have been undertaken into the effectiveness of the temporary international mechanism in delivering aid to the Palestinians; and if he will make a statement. [141200]

Hilary Benn: The European Commission and the World Bank are working on an assessment of the effectiveness of the Temporary International Mechanism. A report is expected at the end of this month. The UK is not carrying out a separate assessment.

Sierra Leone: Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide a breakdown of how the £9 million funding for education in Sierra Leone announced on 5 April is proposed to be spent; and what the timescale is for the release of the funding. [141063]

Hilary Benn: The £9 million funding for education in Sierra Leone is the proportion of our budget support over the next four years that can be attributed to the education sector, based on continued budget support to Sierra Leone at current levels. The amount is calculated based on the proportion of overall government of Sierra Leone expenditure that goes to the education sector. In 2006 the Government expenditure was divided up as follows:

	Percentage
Teachers' salaries	61
Ministry Wages	1
Grants in aid, library board, planning and development services	5
Pre-primary non-wage	6
Secondary non-wage	6
Tertiary and teachers' education	19
Technical/vocational	1
Capital costs	1

The Government of Sierra Leone have recently approved a 10-year education sector plan, which the Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund Strategy Committee agreed to partly fund, in Bonn on 23 May 2007. DFID stands ready to support this plan, along with other donors, and to help ensure that any financing gap is filled.

Somalia: Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide a breakdown of how the £9 million funding for education in Somalia announced on 5 April is proposed to be spent; and what the timescale is for the release of the funding. [141064]

Hilary Benn: The £9 million funding for education in Somalia will mainly build on our existing support to UNICEF/UNESCO education programmes in Puntland, Somaliland and, security conditions permitting, south central Somalia.

We will also support the development of education sector strategies (jointly with the EC and other development partners); and continue to support international non-governmental organisations in education service delivery, including humanitarian education programmes, in all parts of Somalia.

Due to the unstable situation in Somalia, it is at present difficult to give a precise breakdown as to when and how the funds will be allocated.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Somalia; what steps have been taken by the *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU to improve the situation; and if he will make a statement. [141567]

Hilary Benn: While the UK has not made any direct assessment, we are kept informed by the regular assessments made by relief agencies on the ground. Fighting in and around Mogadishu in the first three months of 2007 resulted in large numbers of deaths and injuries, and has led to the largest displacement of civilians in the world this year, with an estimated 390,000 people newly displaced since the beginning of February. Most of these are additional to the existing 400,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Somalia. Without access to food, clean water and shelter these people need humanitarian assistance, as do many of those that were not displaced but lost access to services and livelihoods that were disrupted in the fighting. Prior to the fighting, the UN had estimated that 1 million people required humanitarian assistance, and had launched an appeal for $237 million to address these needs. In April this was revised upwards to $262 million in response to the newly emerging needs.

The UK is committed to addressing urgent humanitarian needs in Somalia. In 2006 DFID allocated £16 million and so far in 2007 we have committed £3.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Medical Corps (IMC) and to Solidarities, who are establishing a rapid response mechanism to improve living conditions for IDPs in Southern Somalia. Together these programmes

will contribute to delivering water and sanitation, nutrition, medical and other relief supplies to those people most in need. DFID is also considering further contributions to ICRC, United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

The EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has committed €18 million for humanitarian operations in Somalia this year, including €4 million approved on 1 June in response to the additional needs that have emerged as a result of the fighting in Mogadishu at the beginning of 2007.

The UK hosted the Somalia International Contact Group meeting in London on 6 June. This focused on how the international community could help restart the peace process. Real progress towards an end to the humanitarian crisis depends critically on progress being made towards a just and peaceful political solution in Somalia.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of the political situation in Sri Lanka on the distribution of development aid. [139557]

Mr. Thomas: Sri Lanka is a middle-income country and therefore does not receive UK bilateral development aid. As part of its commitment for reconstruction the UK has given £500,000 of post-tsunami funding during 2007-08 to support good governance and small businesses in the North and East. DFID is supporting a programme to strengthen local capacity to plan, implement and monitor tsunami recovery in the north east of the country, to ensure that tsunami relief and development assistance is efficiently and equitably delivered. This programme is in partnership with the Governments of Germany and Sri Lanka.

Through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, the UK gives £2 million to support a series of programmes aimed at tackling the underlying causes of conflict. Humanitarian assistance and access remains our top priority in Sri Lanka. In light of the recent displacements, UK will be giving £1 million in humanitarian assistance for the estimated 300,000 currently internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka made homeless as a result of the upsurge in violence in the last year.

The ongoing conflict in Sri Lanka hampers the efforts of the humanitarian and development agencies to deliver aid effectively. Careful assessments of the political situation and its impact on our aid are regularly made by the joint DFID/FCO office in Sri Lanka. Part of this includes an assessment of humanitarian access, which is sometimes restricted in conflict areas. The UK has signed up with other key donors to the Guiding Principles for Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Sri Lanka. These principles are derived from the International Code of Conduct of Red Cross. One of the basic requirements is to ensure unrestricted access to all people in need of assistance.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate has been made of the numbers of *(a)* internally displaced people, *(b)* Sudanese refugees and *(c)* civilian casualties caused by the fighting in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [141217]

Hilary Benn: The UN estimates there are 2.1 million people displaced in Darfur and a further 234,000 Darfuris who have sought refuge in neighbouring Chad. No reliable figures exist for civilian casualties. Given the impracticalities of gathering accurate current and past data, it is likely no firm figure will ever be known.

The humanitarian situation in Darfur is extremely fragile. Through the admirable work of aid agencies, the 4 million people dependent on aid in the region have had access to vital assistance and services. The deterioration of the security situation, however, has made this increasingly difficult to sustain. Attacks on humanitarian workers are having a particularly severe impact on getting help to those most in need.

I condemn the continuing violence targeting civilians and humanitarian workers in Darfur and I call on all sides to cease the violence immediately, renew the ceasefire and political process and accept the AU/UN peacekeeping force for Darfur.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 13 June 2007

TRANSPORT

Airports: Noise

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the potential change in the number of people living within the 57dB Leq noise contour of each major UK airport arising as a result of the aviation expansion set out in the Aviation White Paper. [141855]

Gillian Merron: Detailed estimates were set out in "The Future Development of Air Transport" White Paper published in December 2003. These estimates were largely based on the modelling undertaken in a number of earlier detailed studies—SERAS (The South East and East of England Regional Air Services Study), RAS (The Regional Air Services Study), RASCO (The Regional Air Services Coordination Study) and the Part 3 Runway Studies.

Last December's progress report reiterated the Government's aim that the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise should be limited and, where possible, reduced. The White Paper and the progress report, and documents relating to the main studies and the consultation can be viewed on the Department for Transport's website:

www.dft.gov.uk.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the likely change in the levels of emissions as a result of expansion of aviation outlined in the Government's Air Transport Strategy; and what provisions will be made to ensure that such emissions do not prevent the UK meeting its 2050 emissions targets. [141307]

Gillian Merron: The "Future of Air Transport" White Paper set out forecasts for carbon dioxide emissions. The technical paper underpinning these, "Aviation and Global Warming", was published in January 2004 and is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/strategy/whitepapers/air/docs/aviationandglobalwarmingreport

We announced in the "Future of Air Transport Progress Report" (December 2006) that updated emissions forecasts would be published in 2007.

The Government have made clear the importance it attaches to addressing the environmental impacts of air travel. However, international aviation is not included in the UK's targets as there is no internationally agreed method for allocating such emissions between states.

Aviation: Ministers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* the original and *(b)* the current estimated costs are for the royal and ministerial air travel project; and from what budgets resources are being drawn. [141860]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 908W. The service will be funded from existing travel budgets at no extra cost to the taxpayer.

Bus Lanes

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many bus lanes are in operation in England. [142213]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not hold a comprehensive register or inventory of how many bus lanes are in operation in England.

English local authorities (outside London) do report the numbers and lengths of new bus lane schemes to the Department. They reported that a total of 953 schemes (bus lanes, showcase bus routes and high occupancy vehicle lanes), with a total length of just over 5,000km, had been implemented in the five years up to March 2006.

Bus Services: Concessions

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many students over 16-years-old in Warrington are eligible for concessionary bus travel; and what percentage of those students live in each of the parliamentary constituencies within the borough. [141015]

Gillian Merron: Information on take-up of the concession in Warrington is not held centrally. Local authorities hold details of their residents who applied for concessionary travel.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the rate of take-up of free bus fares for the over 60s has been in each local authority or metropolitan area since the introduction of the scheme. [142475]

Gillian Merron: Information on the take-up of bus passes for each travel concession authority is not held centrally. This information can be obtained from the individual authorities.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140784]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport uses DEFRA conversion factors when measuring, and reporting on, its carbon emissions. These may be accessed at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/gas/envrpgas-annexes.pdf

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139346]

Gillian Merron: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139365]

Gillian Merron: The most recent estimate (as at 31 March 2007) valued the Department's property portfolio at £558,082,556.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139459]

Gillian Merron: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its non-departmental agencies in each of the last five years. [139527]

Gillian Merron: The majority of advertising investment by the central Department is in support of the THINK! Road Safety and Act on C02 campaigns. DVLA's main advertising expenditure has been to support the introduction of continuous registration.

	Total (£)
2002-03	18,801,068
2003-04	20,862,013
2004-05	18,883,318
2005-06	21,235,914
2006-07	23,966,258

Figures for non-departmental agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fares Technology

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 24 May, *Official Report*, column 1459W, on fares technology, whether the proposed timetable would allow for smartcards to be used in time for the start of the national concessionary fares scheme in April 2008. [142072]

Gillian Merron: The Department is currently consulting on the proposed concessionary bus travel pass specification. The consultation paper considers all options such as whether the pass should be specified in ITSO smartcard form.

Our discussions to date with potential suppliers suggests that smartcards can be produced in time for the start of the national concessionary travel scheme. Passes would be used as smartcards in areas which had smart-readers on buses, and used as flash passes (i.e. shown to bus drivers) in other areas. We would not require all buses to install smart-readers by April 2008.

A final decision on whether we will require smartcards from April 2008 will be made in light of consultation responses and our further discussions with potential suppliers.

Parking: Accidents

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents occurred in car parks in each of the last five years in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK; and how many (i) deaths and (ii) injuries resulted from those accidents in each category. [142725]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Public Transport: Concessions

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether passes for the new national concessionary fares scheme in England will be valid in Wales and Scotland. [142080]

Gillian Merron: The Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, currently before Parliament, contains a power to allow, via future regulations, for mutual recognition of bus passes across the UK. The Department has had initial discussions with the devolved administrations about the proposal and all indicated support for including the power in the Bill. However they also acknowledged that we would need to discuss it further and work together to resolve the various technical and resource issues before mutual recognition could be pursued in practice.

In the mean time, local authorities in England already have the flexibility—which the Bill does not change—to offer more than the statutory concession to their residents, taking into account local circumstances, for example, free travel in the vicinity of the local authority, which could include, across borders.

Railways: Death

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities there were in the last *(a)* five years and *(b)* six months on the Norwich to London 'One' Railway. [142778]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railways: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average travel times were by rail between Eastbourne and London stations in each year since 1997. [141894]

Mr. Tom Harris: The average travel time between Eastbourne and London is outlined in the following table.

Journey time in minutes

	From London to Eastbourne	*From Eastbourne to London*
1997	89	92
1998	87	92
1999	87	89
2000	87	89
2001	87	89
2002	87	90
2003	87	90
2004	88	90
2005	88	91
2006	89	90
2007	89	90

Railways: Noise

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the recent rules changes on train horn noise which mean that train drivers should no longer routinely sound their horns at night and use a lower tone during the day when able to will apply to the operations of London Underground and their contractors. [141650]

Gillian Merron: The whistles on London Underground trains are quite different from the horns on over-ground trains, as are the regulations for their use. The use of whistles on London Underground is an operational matter for them.

Shipping: Foreign Workers

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what checks are made on *(a)* the qualifications and *(b)* the on-the-job experience of applicants prior to the award of certificates of equivalent competency to foreign officers on UK-flagged ships. [142343]

Dr. Ladyman: In all cases an applicant's certificate of competency is verified prior to the issue of a certificate of equivalent competency. A seafarer is required to spend a prescribed amount of time at sea in order to qualify for a certificate of competency.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of certificates of equivalent competence which will be awarded to foreign officers on UK-flagged ships in the next two years. [142345]

Dr. Ladyman: As a demand led activity it is not possible to forecast how many certificates of equivalent competency will be issued in the next two years.

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons the Certificate of Equivalent Competence was introduced for foreign officers on UK-flagged ships. [142346]

Dr. Ladyman: Under the 1978 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping Convention (STCW) (as amended), flag states are required to endorse third party Certificates of Competency (CoC) of officers serving onboard their ships.

The United Kingdom does this by issuing Certificates of Equivalent Competency (CEC) to those officers whose certificates are issued by administrations that have been inspected and approved by the UK.

Transport: Disabled

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on improving access to the transport system for people with *(a)* learning and *(b)* physical disabilities in the most recent year for which information is available. [142335]

Gillian Merron: Under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, it is a legal requirement that all new buses, coaches and rail vehicles comply with relevant accessibility regulations. Access to transport infrastructure is also covered by the Act.

The Government have made a commitment that access for disabled people will be a condition of new public investment in transport. It is not possible to disaggregate spending which improves access as all departmental expenditure invested in these transport systems will benefit disabled people.

The Department has a specific programme, Access for All, to improve access to railway stations for disabled passengers. The Department spent £24.3 million in financial year 2006-07 on the programme and this funding will provide benefits for people with all types of disability.

Travel: Concessions

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pensioners claimed concessionary travel passes in Warrington in each of the last five years; and how many claimed *(a)* bus passes and *(b)* rail passes. [141016]

Gillian Merron: There is no statutory bus travel concession for students. Local authorities can offer such concessions on a discretionary based on their assessment of local need and their overall financial priorities. Details on local discretionary concessions are not held centrally and should be obtained from the relevant local authority.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which operators are in discussions with his Department on local authority re-imbursement of concessionary fares; what the *(a)* amount involved and *(b)* local authority is in each case; when he expects to issue further guidance on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [141167]

Gillian Merron: Bus operators who consider the level of local authority reimbursement for concessionary fares as inadequate may appeal to the Secretary of State. To date, 88 appeals have been lodged for the 2007-08 financial year.

A list of the schemes appealed against, and the applicants for each, are listed in the table which has been placed in the Libraries of the House. It would not be appropriate to give further details of the appeals whilst they are being determined.

The appeals will be determined by an independent adjudicator, acting on behalf of the Secretary of State, in due course.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Cetaceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cetaceans he estimates died in *(a)* UK waters, *(b)* EU waters and *(c)* worldwide because of (i) ship strikes, (ii) bycatch and (iii) pollution in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [141019]

Mr. Bradshaw: For nearly 15 years the Government have funded studies by the Natural History Museum Institute of Zoology (IoZ) on trends in cetacean strandings and causes of death around the UK coastline. Post-mortems are carried out on a selected number of the stranded carcasses each year. The following estimates regarding likely causes of cetacean deaths are drawn from these studies.

	Number examined in UK	*(i) Number boat strike*	*(ii) Number bycatch*
1997	107	0	22
1998	115	0	19
1999	109	0	17
2000	118	0	19
2001	183	0	34
2002	185	0	54
2003	180	1	39
2004	226	2	70
2005	172	0	39
2006	147	4	25
Total	1,542	7	338

Estimates of how many cetaceans die as a direct result of pollution are not available since it is difficult to clearly establish a cause and effect relationship between pollution and the deaths investigated in the above studies.

Data relating to cetacean deaths in EU waters are available in the following report, copies of which I have arranged to be placed in the Library of the House:

Anonymous, 2002. Incidental Catches of Small Cetaceans. Report of the Second Meeting of the Subgroup on Fishery and Environment (SGFEN) of the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF), Brussels 11-14 June 2002. Commission Staff Working Paper. SEC(2002):1134.

Few other countries outside Europe, the USA and Australasia have published estimates regarding cetacean deaths. However the report, 'Bycatch of Marine Mammals in U.S. and Global Fisheries', published in Conservation Biology, Volume 20, No. 1, February 2006, which relies heavily on extrapolations from data in the USA, provides some estimates. I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Library of the House. The authors recognise any efforts to provide estimates are hindered by the fact that very few countries have reporting systems in place to provide accurate data. The UK is one of the few countries that have established such systems.

Departments: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139457]

Barry Gardiner: From the DEFRA resource accounts the property holding cost for the Department for the last four years are declared as £19.28 million (2002-03), £21.43 million (2003-04), £22.69 million (2004-05) and £22.14 million (2005-06). The declared holding costs for the executive agencies for the same period were £5.3 million (2002-03), £5.76 million (2003-04), £6.06 million (2004-05) and £6.76 million (2005-06).

The consolidated accounts figures for 2006-07 are not currently available however departmental records indicate holding costs of £21.84 million, excluding the executive agencies.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139211]

Barry Gardiner: The definition of 'found to have been in breach' can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches of the Data Protection Act 1998 by Government Departments can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the Courts or Departments at an informal, local level. The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in the Veterinary Laboratories Agency are classified as people without posts. [141639]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no staff funded by the public purse in the Veterinary Laboratories Agency who are classified as people without posts.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139317]

Barry Gardiner: The gross sales receipts contained within the Departments financial records indicate that sales of property raised £7.35 million (2002-03), £16.03

million (2003-04), £1.32 million (2004-05), £7.2 million (2005-06) and £12.63 million (2006-07) for each of the years in question.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139336]

Barry Gardiner: The Department's accounting records identify the following rental receipts for the five years in question; £25.85 million (2002-03), £44.42 million (2003-04), £49.45 million (2004-05), £54 million (2005-06) and £54.24 million (2006-07). The figures provided include all recoverable accommodation cost recorded as received from Crown bodies, sponsored bodies and third party tenants.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what properties his Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139357]

Barry Gardiner: The attached list sets out the departmental property holdings for the last five years based upon the available ownership information. The tenure type of each property is identified.

Romeo	*Name*	*Town*	*Leasehold/ freehold*
54	Sowerby buffer depot, Victoria Avenue	Sowerby	FH
61	Rhydymwyn buffer depot, PSA supply depot	Rhydymwyn	FH
63	Almondbank Bd, Site No 5	Perth	FH
67	Polwhele, Workshop	Truro	FH
68	North Pier, The Harbour	Newlyn	LH
72	Fish Lab Stores, units 7-12	Lowestoft	LH
76	Unit 161/4b, Willowtree industrial estate	Alnwick	LH
79	Vic Kendal road, Harlescott	Harlescott	FH
80	Vic The Elms, College road	Loughborough	LH
81	Vic Barton Hall, Barton Hall	Preston	FH
82	The Nothe, Barrack road	Weymouth,	FH
83	Vic Langford House, Langford road	Langford	LH
84	Badger Research unit, 1 Easter Park Cottage	Nympsfield	LH
85	Staplake Mount, Starcross	Exeter	FH
86	Vic Truro, Truro road	Truro	FH
87	Cvl Woodham Lane, Woodham Lane	Addlestone	FH
93	Fish Laboratories, Remembrance Avenue	Burnham on Crouch	FH
94	Fisheries Laboratory, Pakefield road	Lowestoft	FH
95	North Quay, Lowestoft Docks	Lowestoft	LH
96	Fish Quay Portakabin, Fish Quay	Lowestoft	LH
101	Vic Thirsk, West House	Thirsk	FH
102	Radiobiological Laboratory, The Harbour	Whitehaven	LH
103	VLA Merrythought, Penrith	Penrith	LH
108	New Fish Quay, The Quay	Whitby	LH
113	The Custom House, 3rd floor (rooms 10-13)	Amble	LH
114	Harbour Commis Office, Warkworth Harbour	Nottingham	LH
122	Blocks 6 and 7, Government buildings	Nottingham	LH
124	Government buildings, Cop Lane	Shrewsbury	LH
125	Whitehall, Monkmoor road	Wolverhampton	LH
127	Woodthorne, Wergs road	Wolverhampton	LH
129	Government buildings, Whittington road	Worcester	FH
131	Burghill road, Government buildings	Bristol	LH
133	Prince of Wales road	Dorchester	LH
138	Quantock House, Paul street	Quantock	FH
141	Pydar House, Pydar street	Truro	FH
146	Goverment buildings Guildford, 98-122 Epsom road	Guildford	FH
147	Medwyn House, Mountfield road	Lewes	LH
153	Block A Reading RSC, Government buildings	Reading	FH
155	Cromwell House, 15 Andover road	Bury St. Edmunds	LH
158	100 Southgate street, Government buildings	Bury St. Edmunds	LH
161	Beeches road, Government buildings	Huntingdon	LH
166	Vancouver House, County Court road	Kings Lynn	LH
167	Middlecott House, 22-24 Willington road	Boston	LH
168	Ceres House, 2 Searby road	Lincoln	LH
171	122A Thorpe road	Norwich	LH
172	Wrest park, Mechanical and Farm Waste unit	Crewe	LH
174	Lion House, Willowburn trading estate	Newcastle	FH
175	Crosskill House, Mill Lane	Beverley	FH
177	Edenbridge House, Lowther street	Carlisle	FH
180	Windsor House, Cornwall road	Harrogate	LH
182	Government buildings Leeds, Otley road	Leeds	LH
186	Agricola House, Gilwilly trading estate	Penrith	LH
189	Foundry House, Carleton road	Skipton	LH
191	3-8 Whitehall Place WPW, (west block)	London	LH
193	55 Whitehall	London	LH
195	Eastbury House, 30/34 Albert Embankment	London	LH

Romeo	Name	Town	Leasehold/ freehola
196	Nobel House, 17 Smith square	London	LH
197	Ergon House, 17 Smith square	London	LH
202	Smithfield Market, units D1 and D2	Manchester	LH
203	Stanley Market, Edge Lane	Liverpool	LH
205	26 London street, Bradley Chambers	Fleetwood	LH
206	Wyre Dock Portakabin	Fleetwood	LH
215	SVS Poole, Inspectors Office	Poole	LH
216	SVS Wildlife unit, Aston Down	Stroud	FH
218	Bristol Fruit Centre, admin block	Bristol	LH
227	46 Fore street, Newlyn	Penzance	FH
230	Longacre House, Frome road	Trowbridge	FH
231	Allen House, 14/19 Allen House	Leyton	LH
232	Western International Market, unit 1c Market Centre	London	LH
237	Vic Itchen Abbas, Itchen Abbas	Winchester	FH
238	Building 333, Timberham House (room 121)	Crawley	LH
239	Merevale House, 42-46 London road	Tunbridge Wells	LH
247	Baltic Chambers, 2 Waveney road	Lowestoft	LH
251	Whitehouse Lane, Huntingdon road	Cambridge	LH
258	The Portakabin, St. James Market	Bradford	LH
262	103 Northgate, The Headland	Hartlepool	LH
264	19/20/28 West Pier	Scarborough	LH
265	NE WH Fruit Vegetable Market, admin block	Gateshead	LH
268	Rhydymwyn, building No 2	Rhydymwyn	FH
272	Vic Longbenton, Whitley road	Newcastle	FH
274	Tamar business park, Pennygillam industrial estate	Launceston	LH
278	Vic Rougham Hill	Bury St Edmunds	FH
281	Central Science Lab, Sand Hutton	York	FH
282	Building 104, second floor	Sheerness	LH
287	7 New Walk, Warehouse	Bridlington	LH
294	Elvet House, Halgarth street	Durham	LH
295	Room 11, building 305	Manchester	LH
296	The Elms, (Cat 111 unit)	Loughborough	LH
321	HRI East Malling, Ditton Laboratory	West Malling	FH
402	3rd floor, Trinity Court, Trinity Court	Exeter	LH
504	Fish Market, Rock A Nore road	Hastings	LH
505	Manor Farm Cottages, Luddington Vic	Stratford on Avon	FH
507	Unit 3, Thornfield business park	Northallerton	LH
508	Chorley West business park, unit 6	Chorley	LH
515	Eastern Docks, freight services building	Dover	LH
516	Kings Pool, Foss House	York	LH
517	Lumford Mill, Riverside Walk	Bakewell	LH
520	Sutton Harbour, Baylys Wharf	Plymouth	LH
521	Piplers building, Fisheries Office	Poole	LH
522	Neville House, Liddell street	North Shields	LH
524	St. Clare House, Princes street	Ipswich	LH
528	Ponds At Griggs Farm, Grigg Lane	Ashford	LH
529	Government buildings, Beaumont House	Northampton	LH
532	Copthall House, Station square	Coventry	LH
533	Vic Jobs Well Lane	Camarthen	FH
534	Vic Buarth road	Aberystwyth	LH
537	Office Suite 3, St. Andrews House	Tilbury	LH
539	Liberty House, 105 Bell street	Reigate	LH
543	Llanishen, Government buildings	Cardiff	LH
544	Cathays park, Crown buildings	Cardiff	LH
545	Caernarfon, Crown buildings	Caernarfon	LH
546	Picton Terrace, Crown buildings	Camarthen	LH
547	Llandrindod, Crown buildings	Llandrindod	LH
551	Clyst House, Winslade park	Exeter	LH
554	Continental Ferry Port, portacabin	Portsmouth	LH
555	Tileworks Office Block, Suite B	Withington	LH
556	Estuary House, Wharncliffe road	Grimsby	LH
559	1a Page street	London	LH
561	King George Dock, Albert Dock	Hull	LH
562	Crewe business park, Electra Way	Crewe	LH
563	Room 516, Trelawny House	London	LH
564	46 Ponton road, Vauxhall	London	LH
566	Pentlands Science park, Bush estate	Penicuick	LH
567	City Business Centre, Basin road	Chichester	LH
568	Unit 12, St Georges business centre	Portsmouth	LH
569	Saffron House, Tigers road	Leicester	FH
571	Unit 3, The Barn Centre	Aberystwyth	LH

Romeo	Name	Town	Leasehold/ freehold
573	Unit 1 Epps building, Epps building	Ashford	LH
574	Sea Life Centre, Lodmoor Country park	Weymouth	LH
577	Animal Reception, The Residence	London	LH
578	Part First floor, Richmond House	Stevenage Old Town	LH
579	Pembroke Ferry Terminal, PORTACABIN	Pembroke	LH
581	Albion Place, 2nd floor	Maidstone	LH
582	The Palace building, second floor	Truro	LH
583	Unit 2 Thornfield business park, Standard Way industrial estate	Northallerton	LH
584	Riverside Chambers, Castle street	Taunton	LH
589	Thistledown Farm, Nympsfield road	Nympsfield	LH
590	Hamilton House, Parkeston Quay	Harwich	LH
594	The Seaways, Commercial road	Penryn	LH
595	Millbay Docks, portacabin	Millbay	LH
598	Watchtree, Great Orton, site no:1	Carlisle	FH
600	Cromwell House, Dean Stanley street	London	LH
609	Jordan House East, Hall Court	Telford	LH
610	Estuary House, Peninsula park	Exeter	LH
613	Ash Moor	Meeth	FH
614	Widdrington Colliery	Morpeth	LH
622	Barnwood park, unit 1	Gloucester	LH
624	9 Millbank	London	LH
625	Springfield Nursery, unit 10, site 13	Burnham-on-Crouch	LH
626	Beacon House, unit G University Court	Stafford	LH
629	3 Lower House Farm Barns, Long Lane	Throckmorton	FH
631	Fish Hall, Office 8 and 9	Whitehaven	LH
634	Temple Quay House, 2 The Square	Bristol	LH
635	Ashdown House, 123 Victoria street	London	LH
638	Flat 1 Admiralty House, Whitehall	London	LH
639	Quadrant House, Newburn Riverside	Newcastle	LH
640	Kings House, 33 Kings road	Reading	LH
642	North Gate House, 21-23 Valpy street	Reading	LH
644	Paddock road, unit 4d	Reading	LH
649	Suite 11, Derwentside	Duffield	LH
654	Crimscott street, unit 2 Rich industrial estate	London	LH
658	Pilots Watch House, Basin road south	Portslade	LH
660	Stockbridge Technical Centre	Selby	LH
662	Heysham, Sea Link	Morecombe	LH
663	Eastbrook, Shaftesbury road	London	LH
665	Hyperion House, first floor unit 2	Newmarket	LH
667	4-5 Waterloo Crescent, first floor offices	Dover	LH
668	Western International Market, unit 9a Market Centre	Uxbridge	LH
669	Unit B2 The Waterfront, Newburn Riverside	Newcastle	LH
671	15 West Pier	Scarborough	LH
673	40/41 The Fish Quay, unit 2	North Shields	LH
674	24 West Pier	Scarborough	LH
677	17 Barkham Mews, Queens road	Reading	LH
680	24 Regents Riverside, De Montford road	Reading	LH
681	9 Thames Court, Vastern road	Reading	LH
682	44 Aveley House, Southampton street	Reading	LH
687	Vista Suite 32, Vista Business Centre	Hounslow	LH
688	3rd floor Davidson House, Forbury square	Reading	LH
689	Scott Self Storage, unit PR2	Carlisle	LH
690	Unit 2a , Newchase business centre	Scarborough	LH
692	Regus, 1100 Parkway	Fareham	LH
694	Units 1C and 9A , Western International Market	London	LH

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research has been *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned by his Department or its agencies on the safety of alternate weekly household rubbish collections with regards to the health of refuse collection staff. [142261]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA funded an independent research study, carried out by Enviros Consulting and Cranfield University, on this subject. This identified no evidence of adverse health impacts resulting from alternate weekly collection of household waste.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to make further quota swaps in 2007 to support the inshore under 10 metre fleet; and if he will make a statement. [142316]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fisheries Administrations will continue to explore all means possible to enhance the 10 metre and under "pool" allocations for key stocks, including by domestic and international swaps and through quota donations under the economic link licence condition. I have recently introduced an additional measure for 2007 to permit licence holders

of 10 metre and under vessels to lease in-year quota from producer organisations. This is in recognition of the increased pressures faced by the inshore fleet and the need of some fishermen to access quota above the quantities they may fish each month from the 10 metre and under "pool" quota allocation.

Floods: Yorkshire and Humberside

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Environment Agency spent on flood defences in Yorkshire in each year since 1997. [141565]

Ian Pearson: The information is as follows.

Environment Agency spending on flood defences in Yorkshire, 1997-2007

	Capital	*Revenue*	*Additional funding due to autumn 2000 flood event*	*Total (£)*
1997-98	10,450	7,347	—	17,797
1998-99	11,387	7,851	—	19,238
1999-2000	14,365	9,373	—	23,738
2000-01	9,653	14,554	4,371	28,578
2001-02	10,566	19,615	1,323	31,504
2002-03	11,143	30,405	—	41,548
2003-04	11,555	25,775	—	37,330
2004-05	24,353	11,018	—	35,371
2005-06	25,891	14,793	—	40,684
2006-07	17,188	16,560	—	33,748

Source:
Yorkshire Regional Flood Defence Committee Expenditure 1997-98 to 2006-07

Foxes: Urban Areas

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of changes in the number of urban foxes over the last five years; and what assessment he has made of the causes of such changes. [142377]

Barry Gardiner: My Department does not routinely collate data on the levels of urban fox populations and holds no data on the levels of change over the last five years. There have been a number of fox population estimates, the most generally accepted being that produced by Harris et al. (1995), who estimated that in Britain there are 240,000 adult foxes at the start of the breeding season. Of these, 33,000 adult foxes live in urban areas.

GMOs: Crops

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which GM test sites within the National Institute of Agricultural Botany's Huntingdon road research grounds in Cambridge trials have been conducted since 1990, including National List Trials; which GM crop was tested in each case; what GM traits were in the crops; which company was granted the release consent; which areas of each plot were used; and what the six figure map reference was for each trial plot. [140878]

Ian Pearson: The information my Department has available on trials at the NIAB Cambridge site has been placed in the Library today.

Inland Waterways: UN Conventions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made by the UK in ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Law of the non-navigational uses of international water courses; and if he will make a statement. [140847]

Hilary Benn: I have been asked to reply.

This matter was first raised by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on 22 March 2007 in a letter sent to DEFRA, DFID and FCO. In response, we have met both with representatives from WWF and with officials from DEFRA and FCO to discuss the potential benefits and implications of UK accession.

The matter is not straightforward. We do not believe that any potential domestic benefits justify the resources that would be required, given that the UK has no issues with trans-boundary water management. However, we need to do more work to determine whether or not there is a development case for accession. We need to be clear on real benefits on the ground and ensure that this does not just place a further burden on governments in our partner countries. We will reach a view on this in the autumn and feed this into cross Whitehall consultations with DEFRA and FCO.

Ivory: Trade

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterparts in Africa on the international trade in elephant ivory ahead of the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; and if he will make a statement. [141580]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) on 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1308W.

Landfill: Methane

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's estimate is of the volume of emissions of methane from landfill sites in the UK in the last year for which figures are available. [142068]

Mr. Bradshaw: Methane emissions from biodegradable waste in landfill amounted to an estimated 928,000 tonnes in 2005, out of a UK total of 2.35 million tonnes.

Recycling: Standards

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which local authorities exceeded their targets for household waste recycling in the last year for which figures are available; [141225]

(2) what the household recycling rates were for each local authority area in England in the last year for which figures are available. [141226]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is available from the DEFRA website at: www.defra.gov.uk/news/2006/061215a-table.pdf. I have also arranged for copies to be placed in the House Library.

Water: Infrastructure

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the extent of new water infrastructure required in England; and where such new infrastructure will be located. [141323]

Ian Pearson: Since 1 April 2007, all water companies have a statutory requirement to produce Water Resource Management Plans which look ahead 25 years and include projections of current and future demands for water. The next set of plans will show how water companies propose to meet demand for water, including the development of any new water supply resources that are needed beyond those identified in their voluntarily produced 2004 plans.

In their 2004 plans, which informed the 2005-10 review of prices, several water companies included schemes to build new reservoirs or expand existing ones. Details are provided in the following table.

	Company	*Scheme*
New reservoirs		
2019	Southern, Mid Kent, Folkestone and Dover	Broad Oak
2015	South East Water	Clay Hill
2020	Portsmouth	Havant Thicket
2020	Thames	Abingdon
2022	Severn Trent	Lower Severn
Extended reservoirs		
2015	Southern, Mid Kent	Raise Bewl
2008	South East Water	Bray Enlargement
2014	Essex and Suffolk Water	Abberton

Several water companies also had plans for desalination plants in their 2004 plans. Thames Water proposes to build a major desalination plant in the Thames estuary. This is currently before ministers for decision following an appeal by the company against the refusal of planning permission.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Lighting

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House will be taking part in Lights out London on 21 June; and if he will make a statement. [141321]

Nick Harvey: I understand that both Houses will be taking part in lights out London on 21 June. Officials are investigating what is possible given that people will still be using the buildings during the evening. The event will be publicised and Members and others reminded of the need to switch off lights and non-essential electrical appliances when they are not in use.

Members: Transport

Mr. Robathan: To ask the honourable Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many travel card reminder letters have been sent to hon. Members by the Department of Finance and Administration in the last 12 months. [141012]

Nick Harvey: Members are asked to complete, sign and return a pre-printed statement for each month that their travel card is used to purchase rail, air or other travel tickets, for use in connection with their parliamentary duties. A reminder is sent three weeks after the statement is first issued and a further reminder two weeks later.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* value and *(b)* purpose was of each payment made by her Department to Opinion Leader Research since 1997. [141445]

Hilary Armstrong: It is not possible to readily identify from the Department's accounting system, the value and purpose of each payment, made to Opinion Leader Research since 1997, therefore, this information is only available at disproportionate cost.

National School of Government: Freedom of Information

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the National School of Government is deemed to be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [141635]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The National School of Government became a non-Ministerial Department on 1 January 2007 and as such is deemed to be a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: West Bromwich

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions she has had with *(a)* Sandwell metropolitan borough council, *(b)* the Public Gallery Ltd., *(c)* the National Lottery, *(d)* the Arts Council England and *(e)* regional

development agency Advantage West Midlands on the Public Arts Centre in West Bromwich East constituency; and if she will make a statement. [140551]

Tessa Jowell: I have not had any discussions about the public with these organisations. I understand that building work on the project stopped in March 2006 when the Public Building Ltd. went into administration. Sandwell borough council, Arts Council England, Advantage West Midlands and Government office for the west midlands have been working together to secure a way forward. Building work has now re-started and is due to be complete before the end of this year, with a public opening in 2008.

Casinos

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what further scrutiny of the recommendations of the Casino Advisory Panel report has been carried out by officials of her Department since the report by the House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee on that report and the subsequent order. [142165]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State considered carefully the points made by the Merits Committee in its report, and on 21 March wrote to Lord Filkin to set out her views. Copies of that letter were placed in the Libraries of both Houses at the time.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether she has the power under the relevant legislation to introduce two orders separating out the regional casino from the other large and small casinos. [142256]

Mr. Caborn: Section 175(4) of the Gambling Act 2005 requires the Secretary of State by order to make provision for determining the geographical distribution of casino premises licences within the limits specified in subsections (1) to (3) of that section. The Secretary of State is not required to do so by means of a single order.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will list the meetings which have taken place between *(a)* her and *(b)* officials from her Department and representatives of the 17 local authorities set out in the draft Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Casino Premises Licences) Order 2007; and what the purpose was of each meeting. [142166]

Mr. Caborn: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and her officials meet regularly with representatives of many local authorities across a range of issues. The cost of identifying all such meetings would be disproportionate.

However, on 25 April, following a request from LACORS, a senior official attended a meeting of the Casino Officers Network, a group organised by the 17 local authorities set out in the Draft Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Casino Premises Licences) Order 2007. The meeting was convened for a variety of purposes, including discussion of the Government's consultation on the regulations and code of practice to be made under schedule 9 of the Gambling Act 2005.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she expects to bring the Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Casino Premises Licences) Order 2007 back to Parliament. [142257]

Mr. Caborn: Ministers are currently considering the options in the light of the defeat of the Order in the House of Lords on 28 March, and there is no set timetable for an announcement.

Circuses: Licensing

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the progress of her Department's review of the impact of the Licensing Act 2003 on travelling circuses; and how many responses the Department has received from *(a)* circuses and *(b)* local authorities to the survey it is conducting to inform that review. [141587]

Mr. Woodward: Following consultation with representatives of the sector, we issued a survey in March asking circuses about their experience of the first year of the new licensing regime. This has now been completed by 22 circus operators and represents a significant proportion of touring tented circuses. We are currently in the process of obtaining responses to a similar survey of licensing authorities in order to assess the extent of regulatory issues relating to circuses. We aim to complete the analysis of these surveys during the summer.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is on the vehicle excise duty bands of Ministerial cars; and into which bands cars presently allocated to Ministers fall. [141339]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 11 June 2007]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Minister of State for Transport (Dr. Ladyman) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 727-28W.

Hotels: Closures

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* hotels, *(b)* guest houses and *(c)* bed and breakfasts which have closed since 1997, broken down by region; how many representations she has received from (i) hoteliers, (ii) guest house owners and (iii) bed and breakfast owners since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [141839]

Mr. Woodward: The Insolvency Service maintains records of bankruptcies and liquidations, analysed by type of business. No specific records of hotels, guest

houses and bed and breakfasts are maintained, although figures for hotel and catering businesses are held. Regional analyses are not maintained.

The total numbers of liquidations and bankruptcies for hotel and catering businesses in England, Wales and Scotland, for each year since 1998, are as follows:

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	First three quarters of 2006
Liquidations in England and Wales	626	562	530	538	740	566	511	584	0	507
Bankruptcies in England and Wales	1,309	1,376	1,263	1,187	1,041	1,038	951	1,125	0	810
Liquidations in Scotland	26	22	25	23	56	37	39	39	32	0
Total	1,961	1,960	1,818	1,748	1,837	1,641	1,501	1,748	32	1,317

DCMS has received 24 representations from hoteliers, guest house and bed and breakfast proprietors since 2004, when the Department started to record all correspondence electronically. VisitBritain maintains regular contact with such businesses, where the latter participate in the National Quality Assessment Schemes.

Listed Buildings: Smoking

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations she has received on the impact of no smoking signs on listed properties; and what action she has taken on the issue. [142167]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received one representation on this, from the hon. Member for Stratford-on-Avon (Mr. Maples). She has responded that there is sufficient flexibility in the legislation to allow for signs to be placed in a way that is sympathetic to the character of listed buildings.

Musicians: Finance

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding her Department provided for music groups in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [141679]

Mr. Lammy: Government funding for music groups is primarily channelled through Arts Council England (ACE). In the last five years £100,682 has been given to projects in the London borough of Bexley through ACE's Grants for the Arts.

In addition to this, Youth Music have provided funding totalling £101,677 to projects in Bexley in the last five years.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the new logo by Wolff Olins for the Olympics 2012 cost; which other design consultants were considered for the design of the logo; and what estimate she has made of the additional costs required to rebrand all current Olympics 2012 publicity material, including each relevant website. [141050]

Tessa Jowell: The design cost of the new London 2012 brand is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The cost, which is in the public domain, is in the region of £400,000. This sum comes from LOCOG's budget of £2 billion, which is funded from private sources.

The selection of companies is also a matter for LOCOG. I understand a brief was drawn up and a long list of companies with expertise in this field from the UK and abroad was assembled. LOCOG met with these companies and drew up a short list, all of whom had the opportunity to put their case for the design and development of the new brand. Wolff Olins was appointed as the preferred company to develop the thinking behind the brand and the official emblem.

LOCOG does not have a central estimate of the additional cost required to rebrand all London 2012 publicity material.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on the London 2012 Olympic logo. [141086]

Tessa Jowell: This is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). The design cost of the new London 2012 brand, which is in the public domain, is in the region of £400,000. This sum comes from LOCOG's budget of £2 billion, which is funded from private sources.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, what the name was of the separate cost review set up to take forward the work of the Steering Group and chaired by the Minister of Sport. [141484]

Tessa Jowell: The cost review set up to take forward the work of the Olympic Cost Review Steering Group did not have an official name, but was simply referred to as 'the cost review'.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the impact on overall costs for the Olympics of the decision on a final budget being taken in March 2007. [141904]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* I have nothing further to add to my statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what meetings the Budget and Revenues Sub-Group set up to consider the cost of the 2012 Olympics held after July 2004. [141907]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for East Devon (Mr. Swire) on 12 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 62W which states that the Budgets and Revenue Sub-Group met between February 2004 and July 2004. There were no further meetings of this group after July 2004.

Public Libraries: Closures

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of municipal libraries that have closed in the latest year for which figures are available. [142262]

Mr. Lammy: The number of public library closures is not centrally recorded. However, the net change in library service points can be calculated using the Public Library Statistics published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). These show that for 2005-06 (the latest year for which figures are available) the total number of public library service points open for 10 hours or more per week, and including mobile libraries, was 3,500. The comparable figure for 2004-05 was 3,474. This reveals an increase of 26 in the total number of service points. These net figures take into account openings of new libraries as well as closures.

Tourism

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has conducted any economic research within the last six months into the size of the UK tourism industry; and if she will make a statement. [141841]

Mr. Woodward: No new economic research has been conducted in the past six months on the size of the UK tourism industry. However, annual estimates are produced based on the "UK Tourism Satellite Account—First Steps".

The latest report estimated that in 2005 the UK tourism industry generated £85 billion for the UK economy. This total is made up of the following components:

	£ billion
Spending by domestic residents on 'tourism day visits'	44.3
Spending by domestic residents on overnight domestic trips	22.7
Spending by inbound visitors to the UK	14.2
Fares paid to UK carriers by overseas residents	2.8
Imputed rent from second home ownership	0.9

Tourism: Insolvency

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate her Department has made of the number of tourism businesses that have declared themselves bankrupt since 1997, broken down by region; and if she will make a statement. [141840]

Mr. Woodward: The Insolvency Service maintains records of bankruptcies and liquidations, analysed by type of business. No specific records of tourism businesses are maintained, although figures for hotel and catering businesses are held. Regional analyses are not maintained.

The total numbers of liquidations and bankruptcies for hotel and catering businesses in England, Wales and Scotland, for each year since 1998, are as follows:

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*First three quarters of 2006*
Liquidations in England and Wales	626	362	530	538	740	566	511	584	0	507
Bankruptcies in England and Wales	1,309	1,376	1,263	1,187	1,041	1,038	951	1,125	0	810
Liquidations in Scotland	26	22	25	23	56	37	39	39	32	0
Total	1,961	1,960	1,818	1,748	1,837	1,641	1,501	1,748	32	1,317

Tourists: EC Countries

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of how many tourists visited the UK from EU member states in 2006, broken down by country of origin. [141890]

Mr. Woodward: The table shows the number of visits to the UK from the EU member states for 2006.

Overseas residents visits to the UK 2006[1]

	Thousand
Austria	298
Belgium	995
Czech Republic	311
Cyprus EU	118
Denmark	540
Estonia	41
Finland	188

Overseas residents visits to the UK 2006[1]

	Thousand
France	3,714
Germany	3,398
Greece	185
Hungary	272
Irish Republic	2,893
Italy	1,436
Latvia	82
Lithuania	140
Luxembourg	66
Malta	51
Netherlands	1,807
Poland	1,275
Portugal	245
Spain	2,008
Slovakia	239
Slovenia	68
Sweden	725
EU25	21,095

[1] Provisional 2006 figures

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

NORTHERN IRELAND

Electoral Register

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many electors were registered to vote in Northern Ireland *(a)* in the year prior to the introduction of individual registration and *(b)* in each year since its introduction. [129416]

Maria Eagle: The following table shows the breakdown, by constituency, of those on the electoral register for each year from 2001 (following the last annual canvass prior to individual registration) to 2007. It includes the revised registration figures published in advance of the 2007 Assembly election. The registers published on 1 December 2001 and 1 December 2005 include those who did not register afresh but were 'carried forward' from the previous year's register. The legislation governing electoral registration in Northern Ireland no longer permits this practice.

Constituency	Assembly election 2007 (7 March 2007)	Register 1 December 2006	Register 1 December 2005	Register 1 December 2004	Register 2 February 2004[1]	Register 1 December 2002	Register 1 December 2001
Belfast East	50,053	48,570	53,076	48,503	50,005	50,929	58,049
Belfast North	49,629	47,369	52,742	46,008	49,114	49,937	59,653
Belfast South	49,177	47,190	52,523	46,718	49,403	49,349	59,036
Belfast West	51,057	45,923	54,268	46,054	47,183	48,153	58,901
East Antrim	57,025	55,658	58,921	53,307	54,727	54,569	61,092
East Londonderry	56,491	55,056	59,239	54,759	55,260	55,466	60,921
Fermanagh and S. Tyrone	66,410	64,039	67,882	61,774	62,993	63,010	67,846
Foyle	65,430	62,521	68,937	61,386	62,404	62,801	71,252
Lagan Valley	70,654	68,430	72,135	65,837	65,642	65,939	73,027
Mid Ulster	61,783	59,358	63,242	58,346	58,950	58,810	62,490
Newry and Armagh	71,387	68,812	73,226	66,593	67,433	66,802	73,600
North Antrim	73,332	70,863	75,487	70,087	69,942	69,728	75,635
North Down	57,947	56,420	60,266	54,734	56,137	56,606	63,649
South Antrim	66,046	63,983	67,662	60,315	62,983	62,349	70,926
South Down	72,340	69,951	74,367	68,022	68,515	68,317	74,935
Strangford	67,158	65,504	69,712	63,882	64,796	65,558	72,751
Upper Bann	71,244	69,588	73,058	67,033	67,713	67,595	73,594
West Tyrone	58,802	55,876	60,309	54,243	55,960	56,507	61,147
Total	1,115,965	1,075,116	1,157,052	1,047,601	1,069,160	1,072,425	1,198,504

[1] Postponed from 1 December 2003 because of rescheduled Assembly election.

Prosecutions: Expenditure

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost was of a prosecution within the former system of police prosecutions by Central Process Offices in each of the three years prior to the establishment of the Public Prosecution Service. [140236]

Paul Goggins: It is not possible to calculate the total average cost of a prosecution from start to finish—various agencies are involved at different stages of the process and no central figures are compiled. The PSNI do hold information on the average cost to the Central Process Offices of preparing a file for prosecution, although this represents only one part of the total prosecution costs. The Public Prosecution Service was established in 2005; therefore the following figures relate to the preceding three years, 2002-04:

2002: £171.40 per case;

2003: £150.75 per case;

2004: £139.09 per case.

Average cost per case over three years: £153.74 per case.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Terry Lloyd

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Solicitor-General (1) what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions the Law Officers' Departments have had in response to the finding of the coroner in October 2006 that ITN correspondent Terry Lloyd was killed unlawfully; and if he will make a statement; [140906]

(2) what steps the Law Officers' Departments have taken to seek prosecutions of individuals in response to the finding of the coroner in October 2006 that ITN correspondent Terry Lloyd was killed unlawfully; and if he will make a statement. [140907]

The Solicitor-General: At the conclusion of the inquest concerning the inquest into Terry Lloyd's death, where a verdict that Mr. Lloyd was unlawfully killed was recorded, the coroner, Mr. Andrew Walker wrote to the Attorney-General to ask him to consider any steps that might be taken to bring those responsible for the death of Mr. Lloyd before a court.

As it is alleged that Mr. Lloyd was killed in Iraq by American military personnel the relevant offence capable of being tried in a UK court is section 1 of the Geneva Conventions Act 1957. The Attorney-General has to consent to any prosecution which may be brought. Any decision to prosecute is made by the Crown Prosecution Service using the same code for Crown prosecutors test they use in every case.

Accordingly the Attorney-General sent the coroner's letter and enclosures to the CPS for them to consider. The CPS has the case under active review and is briefing the Law Officers regularly. They have decided that they need further information before they can make a decision and are taking steps to obtain that information.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Information Officers

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many full-time press officers are employed in his Department. [142715]

David Cairns: Two.

Departments: Legal Fees

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139394]

David Cairns: Over the last five years, the legal fees paid by the Scotland Office have arisen solely in the financial year 2006-07, when £4,404 was spent.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid in bonuses to civil servants in his Department in the last financial year; and how many civil servants received such bonuses. [142542]

David Cairns: Staff in the Scotland Office are seconded from the Scottish Executive (SE) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who each have bonus schemes, part of which relate to annual performance appraisal. The Scotland Office does not hold information on bonus payments under the annual performance appraisal systems. Under the special bonus scheme of the SE and the reward and recognition scheme of the MoJ, the Office may also directly authorise bonus payments for special effort, achievement and commitment; the following shows the number and cost of such non-pensionable bonuses:

Financial year: 2006-07

Total number of bonuses: 17

Total cost of bonuses: £4,750

Elections

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on the use of electronic counting vote technology and equipment for the May 2007 elections to the Scottish Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [137687]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office does not yet have final figures on the costs of electronic counting as these form part of the accounts which have yet to be submitted by each returning officer. Returning officers have 12 months in which to submit their accounts.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of supply of military helicopters in Afghanistan. [141276]

Des Browne: In common with other capabilities, we continue to keep our helicopter requirements under review to ensure that we have sufficient helicopter support to meet current and anticipated tasks.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum period of time was to repatriate members of the armed forces killed on active service in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq in each of the last 36 months. [141521]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* All casualties suffered by UK forces are a matter of profound sadness and regret. MOD guidance is that repatriations should be carried out within seven to 10 days of the next of kin being informed and every effort is made to ensure that these guidelines are met. We do not hold data on the actual time taken for repatriation.

Armed Forces: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the clinics which treat post-traumatic stress disorder for members of HM armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [142294]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) currently has 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK to provide community-based mental healthcare. These are as follows:

1. Kinloss (Inverness)
2. Leuchars (Edinburgh)
3. Faslane (Glasgow)
4. Aldershot (Hampshire)
5. Brize Norton (Oxfordshire)
6. Catterick (North Yorkshire)
7. Colchester (Essex)
8. Cranwell (Lincolnshire)
9. Marham (Norfolk)
10. Plymouth (Devon)
11. Portsmouth (Hampshire)
12. Tidworth (Wiltshire)
13. Donnington (West Midlands)
14. Woolwich (London)
15. Lisburn (Northern Ireland)

Similar satellite facilities are available to service personnel serving overseas in Germany and Cyprus.

The care provided in these facilities is multidisciplinary in nature. Teams comprise consultant psychiatrists, community mental health nurses, psychologists and specialist social workers; the individual's medical condition dictates which disciplines are involved in their care. The approach to assessment and treatment is delivered in accordance with national guidance (issued through NICE) and is delivered in conjunction with the patient's general practitioner and where appropriate, key individuals in the patient's chain of command.

If a service person's condition requires a period of in-patient assessment and/or treatment, patients can be admitted to an in-patient facility under the MOD's contract with the Priory Healthcare Group. This contract provides specialist assessment and treatment in a facility proximate to their home unit or home. During a period of in-patient care, the Defence Mental Health Services continually liaise with the patient and their medical team through a nominated service liaison officer (SLO) who is a senior mental health nurse.

The primary aim of assessment and treatment, be it community or hospital based is correct diagnosis (as early as possibly), treatment and stabilisation, rehabilitation and return to work. If the patient's condition and prognosis dictates that he/she can no longer service in the armed forces, the focus is on a seamless transfer of care and support from the military medical and welfare services to the NHS and other relevant bodies.

The MOD also provides a care programme for recently demobilised reserve personnel called the Reserves Mental Health programme (RMHP). Under the RMHP, we liaise with the individual's GP and offer a mental health assessment at the Reserves Training and Mobilisation Centre in Chilwell. If diagnosed to have a combat-related mental health condition, we then offer out-patient treatment via one of the MOD's 15 Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs). If more acute cases present, the DMS will assist access to NHS in-patient treatment.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* affordability and *(b)* deliverability within existing allocated resources of the Army Recruiting and Training Division draft Management Plan 2007; and if he will make a statement. [138743]

Derek Twigg: The Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD) draft Management Plan 2007 details the training programme required to meet the individual training needs of the army over the plan period. The Plan takes account of the ARTD's capacity to deliver training. The army has a standard in-year management process whereby plans and resources are kept in balance.

Army Board: Domestic Services

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what criteria are used to determine whether a non-ministerial member of the Army Board qualifies for a full-time *(a)* cleaner and *(b)* gardener at public expense; and if he will make a statement; [134509]

(2) what criteria are used to determine the number of members of staff a non-ministerial member of the Army Board requires in their household. [134555]

Derek Twigg: Guidance on the management of official service residences is set out in Joint Service Publication 448. I have placed it in the Library of the House along with a copy of the Cazalet report to which it refers.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* strategy and *(b)* tactics of the Mahdi Army; and for how many attacks on UK service personnel he estimates it to have been responsible. [139149]

Des Browne *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The Jaysh al-Mahdi also referred to as the Mahdi Army, which acts as the militia wing of the Office of the Martyr Sadr is opposed to the presence of Multi National Forces in Iraq and wish to see their withdrawal. Jaysh al-Mahdi and its factions have been responsible for many attacks against coalition forces including UK troops.

We routinely assesses the capabilities and objectives of insurgent and militia groups in Iraq including the Jaysh al-Mahdi. I am withholding further details as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Britten Norman Defender 4S A2 Mk 1 aircraft are being operated by the army in Iraq. [130327]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding the information requested as its disclosure would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Nuclear Submarines

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected cost is of developing a new submarine reactor to replace the PWR2. [108882]

Des Browne: Decisions on whether or not to develop a replacement for PWR2 have not yet been taken. Initial projected costs for the procurement of the nuclear propulsion system were factored into the estimated procurement costs of the new ballistic missile submarines, set out at paragraph 5-11 of the White Paper (Cm 6994) on the Future of the UK's Nuclear Deterrent, published on 4 December. Cost estimates will be refined as work on the concept and assessment phases is taken forward with industry, but at this early stage of the procurement process, we are not in a position to break these estimates down.

Veterans: Mental Health

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie) of 12 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 940W, on veterans: mental health, if he will place in the Library a copy of the Health and Social Care Advisory Service's recommendations of 2005 on mental health services for veterans; and if he will make a statement; [137531]

(2) what progress has been made with his Department's work to ensure that there is a coherent response to veterans' mental health issues; and if he will make a statement. [137532]

Derek Twigg: The Government are committed to good mental health and wellbeing for armed forces personnel, both in service and after they leave. For veterans, healthcare is primarily the responsibility of the NHS.

Following recommendations on mental health services for veterans made in 2005 by the independent Health and Social Care Advisory Service, officials from the Ministry of Defence, the UK Health departments and Combat Stress have been working together to develop and implement a new community-based model for mental health services for veterans; this is designed to provide health professionals with access to expert understanding of veterans' mental health problems and appropriate treatment options. Based on NHS practice and procedures, the new service would deliver culturally sensitive, evidence-based interventions through a network of public, private and charitable providers; an aim of the new model would be to integrate Combat Stress into NHS commissioning arrangements. It is planned that, beginning in the summer, the model will be piloted at sites across the UK. The pilots are likely to last two years and, if successful, will be rolled out nationally. We have established separately an arrangement for the assessment and treatment of mental health problems that may have affected Reservists as a result of deployment on operations since 2003.

I will place a copy of the recommendations made by the Health and Social Care Advisory Service's in their 2005 report on mental health services for veterans in the Library of the House.

Written Questions

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer question 108882, on submarine reactors, tabled by the hon. Member for North Devon on 7 December 2006. [142091]

Des Browne: I replied to the hon. Member today.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Crime: Internet

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has instructed any police force to close any website or webpage of any organisation demonstrably linked with criminal activity; and if he will make a statement. [140662]

Mr. Coaker: The issue of whether a website should be shut down is an operational matter for the police to discuss with the internet industry.

However, UK ISPs work effectively with law enforcement and take a robust approach to ensuring their services are not used for illegal activity or activity that falls just short of illegality. The Government have also worked closely with law enforcement agencies to build greater clarity on when criminal offences have been committed on the internet.

In addition, the Government are working with international colleagues in a number of fora to develop an approach which allows us all to deal effectively with illegal activity, across very different legal systems, while protecting free speech.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether *(a)* he and *(b)* (i) other ministers and (ii) officials from his Department attended a (A) steering group, (B) working group and (C) other regular series of meetings on HM Treasury's Comprehensive Spending Review policy review into counter-terrorism and security. [141310]

Mr. McNulty: Matters relating to the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 are routinely discussed at meetings between Home Office Ministers and officials and HM Treasury Ministers and officials.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* women under 30 years old and *(d)* men under 30 years old committed drink driving offences in each of the last 10 years. [141234]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

Table A: Findings of guilt at all courts for driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] females by age of offender, England and Wales, 1995 to 2004

Number of offences

	Total findings of guilt at all courts	
	All ages	*Aged under 30*
1995	6,793	2,636
1996	7,750	2,950
1997	8,425	3,147
1998	8,509	3,014
1999	8,409	2,935
2000	8,457	2,982
2001	8,402	2,949
2002	9,512	3,286
2003	10,112	3,513
2004	10,765	3,863

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) & (2), 5 (a) & (b), 6 (4), 7 (6) and s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s. 56.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts' case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] males by age of offender, England and Wales, 1995 to 2004

Number of offences

	Total findings of guilt at all courts	
	All ages	*Aged under 30*
1995	85,693	37,226
1996	87,951	38,979
1997	91,777	39,574
1998	84,604	36,451
1999	80,954	35,361
2000	77,372	34,849
2001	76,346	35,280
2002	80,971	37,094
2003	83,588	38,380
2004	85,473	38,700

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) & (2), 5 (a) & (b), 6 (4), 7 (6) and s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s. 56

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts' case management system currently being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table C: Number of written warnings issued for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] England and Wales, 1995 to 2004

Number of offences

	Written warnings[2]
1995	337
1996	462
1997	385
1998	317
1999	167
2000	91
2001	91
2002	19
2003	31
2004	143

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) & (2), 5 (a) & (b), 6 (4), 7 (6) and s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s. 56.

[2] Data held centrally on written warnings (including cautions) does not identify the sex of the offender.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

K v Manchester City Council

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is being issued as a response to the case K *v.* Manchester city council [EWHC 3164]. [136550]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The assessment of children who may fall to be considered as children in need is already dealt with in full in the statutory Government guidance 'Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families'. All local authorities with children's services responsibilities are required to comply with the requirements of this guidance unless local circumstances indicate exceptional reasons that justify a variation. I understand that this case is still being considered by the courts and therefore cannot make a more specific reply at this time.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has made since its creation in *(a)* Sussex and *(b)* all other UK operational regions, broken down by type of offence. [142287]

Mr. Coaker: SOCA is a UK-wide organisation and not a territorial police force. Arrests made in relation to specific tasked operations may occur in any part of the country. SOCA does not record the county in which an arrest is made.

SOCA records arrests against principal threat sectors. In 2006-07 there were 749 arrests as the result of SOCA casework in the UK. The breakdown by threat area was as follows:

	Number of arrests
Class A drugs trafficking	601
Organised Immigration Crime	128
Fraud	2
Other	18

Sexual Offences: Young People

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to review gaps in evidence and methods of collecting evidence to support prosecution with particular reference to cases where teenagers have been sexually assaulted or raped. [139788]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* There are a number of new initiatives under way to build better serious sexual offence cases, including those involving teenage victims.

All police forces are being asked to develop action plans to implement the recommendations of 'Without Consent', the 2007 joint inspection into the investigation and prosecution of rape by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Her Majesty's Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate. This includes forces working with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) to implement improvements to the collection and presentation of evidence, review processes and monitor case outcomes.

This builds on the national training programme which has been developed for specialist officers working on sexual offence cases. We are also improving facilities for the collection of evidence through the development of Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs), most of which see teenage clients. There are now 16 SARCs with a further 14 in development.

In order to support improvements to the investigation and prosecution of serious sexual offences, we have also introduced new arrangements for monitoring performance and providing practical support to forces and CPS areas.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on services for children and young people within sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many SARCs provide *(a)* services for children and young people and *(b)* child-centred therapeutic counselling and support. [139789]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* As sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) are primarily funded locally, we do not collect information centrally on the amount each centre spends on services for children.

Each of the 16 SARCs currently operating provide services for people below the age of 18 with lower age limits ranging from 0 to 16. Paediatric cases are seen at nine of these centres, while a further two centres have close links with separate but dedicated child sexual abuse services.

SARCs should be contacted direct for details of child-centred therapeutic counselling and support services. Contact information can be found on the Home Office website.

Special Advisers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to alter the *(a)* salaries of, *(b)* number of support staff available to and *(c)* office space provided to his special advisers in the next 12 months. [108497]

John Reid: I have no plans to alter the accommodation or support structure for special advisers in the Home Office. The salaries of special advisers are a matter for the Special Advisers' Remuneration Committee. Special advisers' pay ranges and the number of special advisers in each pay band by Department are published in an annual statement to Parliament.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 110-11W, on speed limits: cameras, if he will break down the numbers of full-time equivalent traffic police officers by police force. [141351]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Available information is given in the following table.

Number of full-time equivalent officers whose main function is traffic

Police force	2005-06
Avon and Somerset	215
Bedfordshire	81
Cambridgeshire	99
Cheshire	85
Cleveland	61
Cumbria	111
Derbyshire	119
Devon and Cornwall	215
Dorset	81
Durham	105
Dyfed Powys	143
Essex	243
Gloucestershire	73
Greater Manchester	342
Gwent	102
Hampshire	240
Hertfordshire	149
Humberside	181
Kent	116
Lancashire	197
Leicestershire	77
Lincolnshire	102
London, City of	24
Merseyside	138
Metropolitan Police	603
Norfolk	112
Northamptonshire	63
Northumbria	167
North Wales	81
North Yorkshire	97
Nottinghamshire	134
South Wales	243
South Yorkshire	141
Staffordshire	28

Number of full-time equivalent officers whose main function is traffic

Police force	*2005-06*
Suffolk	80
Surrey	99
Sussex	160
Thames Valley	236
Warwickshire	97
West Mercia	116
West Midlands	401
West Yorkshire	343
Wiltshire	13
Total	6,511

Notes:
1. Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their 'primary' role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. The does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.
2. This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between the total and the sum of the constituent items.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many companies filed for bankruptcy in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [141898]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A compulsory liquidation is made on the petition of the creditor when the Court is satisfied that there is no prospect of the debt being paid. The following table shows the number of compulsory liquidations made at Hastings and Eastbourne county courts and Brighton Official Receiver's (OR) office as a whole, since 1997. Eastbourne and Hastings are the only two county courts within East Sussex which deal with insolvency matters, but they come under the Brighton OR's office. The county court in Brighton itself falls within the neighbouring county of West Sussex.

The insolvency jurisdictions of OR's offices and of county courts are not directly comparable with standard geographies such as counties or parliamentary constituencies. For these reasons, figures shown in the table will not be an exact measure of compulsory liquidations in East Sussex.

Number of compulsory liquidations made at Eastbourne and Hastings county courts and Brighton OR's Office, 1997 to 2006

	Eastbourne county court	*Hastings county court*	*Total for Eastbourne and Hastings county courts*	*Brighton OR's office*[1]
1997	10	8	18	111
1998	11	9	20	103
1999	19	11	30	112
2000	12	14	26	107
2001	13	11	24	114
2002	14	8	22	176
2003	14	9	23	118
2004	15	10	25	139
2005	17	11	28	132
2006	19	12	31	147

[1] Brighton's OR's office covers the following county courts: Bognor Regis, Brighton, Chichester, Eastbourne, Hastings, Haywards Heath, Horsham, Lewes and Worthing.

Cemeteries: Safety Measures

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions the Health and Safety Executive has had on the quality standards of inspectors of gravestones and memorials. [140525]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply.

The HSE has had no formal discussions on the issue of quality standards of inspectors of gravestones and memorials. However, under the management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 it is a requirement that people are competent to discharge their health and safety responsibilities.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139445]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No consultancy services for advertising campaigns bought through the Central Office of Information were purchased by DTI during these years. Information regarding other such spending by DTI and its Executive agencies is not held centrally and to provide this information would be at disproportionate cost.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental agencies in each of the last five years. [139528]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following was spent on advertising by DTI and its agencies via the Central Office of Information in each of the last five full financial years:

	£
2002-03	
UK Online for Business 2002-03	3,393,124
Export Licence Announcements 2002-03	10,131
Import Licence Announcements 2002-03	88,685
DTI Miscellaneous 2002-03	21,000
UK Online for Business—Supplement 2002-03	153,384
SBS Business Link	5,395,254
Fireworks Campaign 2002-03—media only	181,966
National Minimum Wage 2002-03	299,443
SBS Recruitment Advertising	14,537

	£
Parental Rights 2002-03	718,718
DTI Consumer Gateway 2002-03	74,887
Quality Mark 2002-03	779,817
Ex-Miners Compensation 2002-03	402,419
Total	11,533,365
2003-04	
Parental Rights 2003-04	1,106,186
Import Licence Announcements 2003-04	130,470
Ex Miner Compensation 2003-04	384,875
SBS Public Notice Advertising 2003-04	84,778
SBS Business Link 2003-04	882,188
DTI National Minimum Wage 2003-04	306,360
Quality Mark Scheme 2003-04	189,973
DTI EERA 13 2003-04	422,177
DTI UK Online for Business 2003-04	163,965
DTI Fireworks SMS Internet 2003-04	18,603
DTI UK Online for Business Internet 2003-04	230,914
DTI Consumer Gateway Internet 2003-04	37,686
UK Trade and Investment 2003-04	194,784
SBS Keyword 2003-04	20,799
ACAS Awareness 2003-04	1,070,601
Total	5,244,359
2004-05	
Consumer Direct 2004-05	706,488
SBS Business Link 2004-05	552,712
Import Licence Announcements 2004-05	74,300
DTI Classified Recruitment Advertising 2004-05	41,007
New Minimum Wage 2004-05	315,754
Renewable Energy 2004-05	15,542
Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion 2004-05	30,494
Firework Safety 04/05—(media only)	188,480
DTI—Dispute Resolution (media only)	81,768
SBS Press Media Buying Costs 2004-05	3,255
Total	2,009,800
2005-06	
Consumer Direct 2005-06	1,447,850
DTI Classified/Recruitment Advertising 2005-06	31,099
SBS Business Link 2005-06	1,502,301
New National Minimum Wage 2005-06	369,603
Directgov—DTI Employee Franchise 2005-06	127,690
Total	3,478,543
2006-07	
Consumer Direct—Thomson Directories 2006-07	581,424
DTI Classified Recruitment 2006-07	11,457
AC AS Miscellaneous Advertising Activity 2006-07	228,949
Total	821,830

Details of any other expenditure by the DTI and its agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: EC Law

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many EU *(a)* regulations, *(b)* directives and *(c)* decisions within his Department's responsibility (i) were introduced and (ii) became obsolete in each year since 1977. [140456]

Mr. McCartney: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139419]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following was spent on public relations by DTI and its agencies via the Central Office of Information in each of the last five full financial years:

	£
2002-03	0
2003-04	
DTI Dispute Resolution PR roster project	3,000
Renewable Energy PR Campaign	531,664
SME PR roster project	9,000
Total	543,664
2004-05	
DTI Best Business Practice/GCI OR work	346,205
DTI Best Practice Media Evaluation	5,910
DTI Dispute Resolution PR roster project	74,962
DTI Renewables	572,633
DTI-Fishburn Hedges 'Best Practice' PR	158,898
Sunday Times Enterprise Network Sponsorship	146,497
Total	1,305,105
2005-06	
Consumer Direct PR—freelance contract October 2005-March 2006	32,694
Consumer Direct PR—October 2005-March 2006	57,447
Consumer Direct PR—MP Event October 2005	6,963
Consumer Direct—appointment of PR agency	174,640
DTI Renewable Energy PR 2005-06	137,080
PR support for ACAS DVD	3,645
SBS Enterprising Britain PR (Geronimo)	76,240
SBS Interim PR activity	105,786
Total	594,495
2006-07	
Business Link PR 2006-07	179,113
DTI Gap Analysis	9,071
DTI Renewable Energy PR 2005-06	131,582
SBS Enterprising Britain PR 2006-07	163,642
Total	483,408

Details of any other expenditure by the DTI and its agencies are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139917]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The amount paid by the Department on travel agent fees was:

	£
2006-07	338,250
2005-06	466,499
2004-05	470,122
2003-04	523,904
2002-03	441,882
2001-02	496,476
2000-01	515,440
1999-2000	303,789

From 1 October 2006, DTI moved to an arrangement where it pays a travel agent a set fee per transaction. The set fees are part of an OGC centrally negotiated contract available to government departments. Prior to 1 October 2006 DTI paid the operating costs of a team employed by the travel agent to work on DTI business travel arrangements.

Travel agent fees for 1998-99 and 1997-98 are not available due to change of travel agent and it would entail disproportionate costs to provide the data.

EC Trade: China

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions has he had with his *(a)* French and *(b)* Italian counterparts on EU/China trade quotas in the period up to the end of 2008. [139544]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* I have regular discussions with my French and Italian counterparts on a range of trade issues although this issue has not yet been raised this year.

Electricity: Consumption

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many organisations in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector have half hourly metered electricity consumption of *(a)* greater than 6000 megawatt hours a year, *(b)* between 5000 and 6000 mwh a year, *(c)* between 4000 and 5000 mwh a year, *(d)* between 3000 and 4000 mwh a year and *(e)* between 2000 and 3000 mwh a year. [142197]

Malcolm Wicks: Data are only readily available for counts of meters rather than organisations and can not be spilt between public and private sectors. Many half hourly metered organisations have more than one site.

The table shows the number of half hourly meters in Great Britain by consumption band in 2005.

Consumption band (megawatt hours a year)	*Number of meters*
2000-3000	4,274
3000-4000	2,463
4000-5000	1,633
5000-6000	1,013
6000 +	4,089

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the costs to small and medium sized businesses of implementing the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive; and what steps he has taken to minimise the cost to small businesses. [141072]

Malcolm Wicks: A full regulatory impact assessment was published alongside the UK WEEE regulations. While there are no derogations for SMEs in the WEEE directive and hence the UK WEEE regulations, the Government have been keen to work with small businesses and their representative organisations to ensure they are not disproportionately affected. For example, we have introduced a tiered fee structure for producer registrations—a move widely welcomed and supported by the Federation of Small Businesses.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consideration he has given to exempting small and medium sized businesses from the requirements of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [141073]

Malcolm Wicks: The WEEE directive does not allow member states a "de-minimis" approach which would exclude small businesses from its scope. The UK Regulations ensure that small businesses are not disproportionately affected and both the registration fees for producers and distributors are scaled according to company size.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what producer compliance schemes are available for the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive which are specifically targeted at small and medium sized businesses. [141074]

Malcolm Wicks: There are 37 approved producer compliance schemes details of which are available on both the DTI website

http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html

and the Environment Agency website

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee.

Under the WEEE regulations producer compliance schemes are required to take into account the different sizes of their members and structure their fees and services accordingly.

Employment: Science

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what monitoring he undertakes of the numbers of science based jobs in the UK; what assessment he has made of recent trends in such numbers; and if he will make a statement. [141764]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The Government welcomed the Leitch review, published in December 2006, and its analysis of the growing importance of skills in a modern economy. A significant part of the Government's role, as set out in more detail in the Science and Innovation Investment

Framework 2004:2014, is to ensure that the UK produces a healthy supply of people with science, engineering and technology (SET) skills. These skills are vital in helping to achieve the ambition of making Britain the most attractive location in the world for science and innovation. The Government accept there must be a shared responsibility for delivering this ambition; employers, individuals and the Government must all improve their efforts and investment.

DTI Economics Paper Number 16, Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Skills in the UK provides 2004 baseline and 2014 projected figures for employment in SET occupations. The table is as follows:

Projected employment in SET occupations in 2014

Occupation	*2004 (baseline)*	*2014 (forecast)*	*Percentage change*
Science and technology professionals	947,000	1,121,000	18
Health professionals	277,000	360,000	12
Science and technology associate professionals	593,000	666,000	30
Health associate professionals	1,045,000	1,122,000	7
All other occupations	26,449,000	27,314,000	4

Energy: Coal

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of clean coal technology in future energy policy. [141097]

Malcolm Wicks: The DTI has supported research and development for clean coal technologies and carbon capture and storage through calls under the Technology Programme. The focus has been on cleaner combustion technologies, fuel switching to lower carbon alternatives and carbon capture and storage. This funding will continue through 2007 at which stage the new arrangements for the Technology Strategy Board and Energy Technologies Institute will be introduced.

In September 2006 the Department launched a Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme, worth some £35 million. This programme will focus on the pre-commercial demonstration of key components and systems to support carbon abatement technologies.

In the 2007 Budget Government announced that we would launch a competition to develop the UK's first commercial scale demonstration of CCS. The recent Energy White Paper confirms that the competition is planned to be launched in November 2007.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to paragraphs 2.69 and 2.70 of the Energy White Paper, what estimate he has made of the number of free visual real-time displays of energy consumption to be given to consumers in each year from 2008. [141385]

Malcolm Wicks: Around 1.25 million electricity meters are replaced each year. Each household whose meter was replaced would be eligible to receive a display device, subject to its being technically possible to fit one. Additionally, the Government estimate that up to 5,000,000 customers might request a display device from their supplier over the two-year period to 2010. The proposals in the Energy White Paper will be subject to consultation including testing these assumptions in the coming months.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the additional income received by power generating companies as a consequence of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in each year since its commencement; and if he will make a statement. [141654]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Analysis by IPA Energy Consulting Ltd., carried out for DTI, estimates the potential for an increase in wholesale generator profit of £800 million a year as a result of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. This is based on the assumptions that electricity generators pass on the full costs of carbon allowances through to higher electricity prices, a carbon price of €15 and the current Phase I annual allocation to the sector of 130MtCO_2. However, this figure is dependent on modelling assumptions and is subject to considerable uncertainty. In particular, the current price of Phase I ETS allowances is significantly lower than €15, so the potential for increased profits will be less than £800 million.

Export Credit Guarantees: Coal Fired Power Stations

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many export credit guarantees were granted to British firms involved in constructing coal-fired power stations in each of the last five years. [140901]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* None.

Information

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish the Government's response to the Office of Fair Trading's report The Commercial Use of Public Information. [141325]

Mr. McCartney: The OFT's report contains some challenging recommendations. Given the importance and potential impact of the recommendations, and the wider constituency of interested parties both within and outside Government, more time was required to properly frame the response. The Government expect to publish their response to the report before the end of June.

We will communicate further when the report is published.

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will make a statement on the future of the National Institute for Medical Research. [141663]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned Institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC has stated that it wishes NIMR in future to work with leading university research and clinical partners so as to improve the translation of research into improved health outcomes.

The MRC is currently preparing a business case that will address the options for taking this forward and assesses opportunities to develop a wider vision for enhanced collaboration with other funding bodies and industrial partners.

Political Levy

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will place in the Library figures held by the Certification Office on *(a)* the percentage of union members paying into a political fund, *(b)* the proportion of political fund expenditure spent on affiliation fees, *(c)* the contribution per union member to the political fund and *(d)* the percentage of union members paying into a political fund included in the calculation of the affiliation fee for each trade union in the most recent year for which figures are available. [142182]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I am placing in the Libraries of the House the latest annual returns to the certification officer of the 28 unions with political funds. These returns contain the data provided to the certification officer on the income and expenditure of each political fund.

Seals: Animal Products

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the Canadian Government on the annual Canadian commercial seal hunt; and if he will make a statement. [141583]

Mr. McCartney: Canada is aware of the UK's opposition to its commercial seal hunt and the matter was last discussed at Government level when I met Canada's Ambassador for Fisheries and others on 28 March. The Canadians also raised the issue at the EU-Canada Summit on 4 June 2007.

Working Hours: Parents

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of (i) mothers and (ii) fathers who work hours outside the typical 8.30 am to 5.30 pm Monday to Friday working week (A) at least once a week, (B) at least twice a week, (C) at least three times a week and (D) at least four times a week. [141690]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Labour Force Survey (LFS) does not collect data on working 8:30 am to 5:30 pm but collects data on shift patterns. The following estimates are derived from the LFS spring 2006 survey of all UK employees and cover employees with dependent children under 19.

30 per cent. of fathers (1.56 million) and 28 per cent. of mothers (1.47 million) usually work at least one day in the weekend.

17 per cent. of fathers (890,000) and 15 per cent. of mothers (800,000) usually work both days at the weekend.

36 per cent. of fathers (1.83 million) and 27 per cent. of mothers (1.44 million) usually work evenings, nights or shifts.

47 per cent. of fathers (2.40 million) and 39 per cent. of mothers (2.06 million) usually work either shifts, evenings, nights or days at the weekend.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Architects Registration Board

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what basis the Architects Registration Board took the decision to spend £100,000 on legal action against Ian Salisbury, one of its former board members. [140846]

Angela E. Smith: Any decision to issue legal proceedings is a matter for the Board to decide in the course of exercising its statutory functions. I am assured that the Board would only expect to issue proceedings as a last resort, on legal advice and following strenuous efforts to resolve matters without proceedings. The proceedings between the Board and Mr Salisbury were settled on terms satisfactory to both parties.

Audit Commission: Visits Abroad

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the visits which representatives of the Audit Commission have made outside the UK at public expense in the last 12 months. [141756]

Ruth Kelly: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member. The Chief Executive subsequently replied on 11 June and a copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Constituencies: Greater London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to amend the boundaries of Greater London; and what representations she has received on this in the last 12 months. [141873]

Ruth Kelly: The Department has no plans to amend the boundaries of Greater London, and has received no representations on this matter over the past year.

Council Tax

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely changes in the level of council tax for residents in each of the shire counties in which consideration is being given to *(a)* new unitary authority arrangements and *(b)* enhanced two-tier working arrangements if those arrangements are implemented. [141623]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have not made any estimate of the likely changes in council tax arising from any new unitary authority arrangements or enhanced two-tier working arrangements. The Government have made clear that proposals for new arrangements must represent value for money and be met from existing resources. As part of their business case for new arrangements, bidding authorities were required to include worked examples of how an authority could align council tax across its area. Copies of the business cases are available from the authorities' own websites, accessible via a link on the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1509022

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times her Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139207]

Angela E. Smith: The definition of 'found to have been in breach' is a broad one. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the Courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in her Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141967]

Angela E. Smith: There are no ministerial residences allocated to Communities and Local Government Ministers.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139321]

Angela E. Smith: No land or buildings for which Communities and Local Government, its agencies or its predecessor Department are responsible for, has been sold in the last five years.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government Offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate has been made of the value of her Department's property portfolio. [139384]

Angela E. Smith: The most recent valuation dates of the Department's property assets, not including properties held by sponsored bodies, were 31 March 2006 (audited) and 31 March 2007 (not yet audited) and the total portfolio value at both dates was £25 million.

This answer does not include land or buildings occupied by Government Offices, which carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance the Audit Commission has produced on the effectiveness of moving to alternate weekly collections in terms of meeting the objectives of waste management. [141818]

Ruth Kelly: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive to write to the hon. Member. The Chief Executive subsequently replied on 11 June and a copy of the letter has been placed in the Library of the House.

Fire Services

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the percentage of work currently carried out by emergency fire controls which is out of scope of the Fire Control Project but which will remain the responsibility of local fire brigades; and what her estimate is of the cost of carrying out the work currently deemed out of scope. [142178]

Angela E. Smith: All aspects of emergency call handling, mobilisation and incident management are within the scope of the new networked Regional Control Centres (RCCs), and their costs are reflected in the FiReControl business case.

In 2006, based on detailed information provided by the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), a preliminary estimate was made of the activities which are currently performed within existing control rooms and how they might be delivered under the new regional control arrangements. The ongoing cost to FRSs was estimated to be around £4 million per annum.

Significant local differences exist in the amount of "out of scope" activity carried out by existing control rooms. Each FRS will need to produce a plan for dealing with this work as part of its detailed transition planning. This will provide a more accurate estimate of the cost of continuing to deliver these activities.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she will consider the introduction of national response times for the Fire Service following the move to regional fire controls in order to determine whether response times from time of call to arrival at an incident will improve after regional controls go live; and if she will make a statement. [142179]

Angela E. Smith: It is for each Fire and Rescue Authority to determine appropriate response times as part of its integrated risk management plan. The Government have no plans to introduce national targets. As part of the process of introducing Regional Control Centres the Department has developed a set of benefits indicators, one of which will enable it to show the impact of Regional Control Centres on response times. Two features of the fire control system, Automatic Vehicle Location Systems (AVLS) and the ability to dynamically mobilise fire appliances directly, even when they are not in a fire station, are expected to put a downward pressure on response times. There are a number of other factors affecting response times, including the number and location of fire appliances as well as the control arrangements.

Freedom of Information: Easington District Council

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to respond to the District of Easington Council with the information requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 on 4 April 2007; what the reasons are for the delay; and if she will make a statement. [141941]

Angela E. Smith: The Freedom of Information request from Easington district council seeks information about the proposal by Durham county council for a unitary local authority for Durham, and is one of a large number of requests received on unitary proposals. The Department wrote to Easington district council on 4 May informing them that we did hold information which came within their request, but that the information came within the qualified exemptions to the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and that we required further time to assess whether the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. We intend to respond to the request no later than 15 June 2007.

Housing: Camden

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Camden council on funding for Decent Homes; and if she will make a statement. [141301]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not had any meetings with Camden council about their decent homes programme or funding. As Minister for Housing I met Camden council on 24 May this year to discuss decent homes. I previously met the council on 18 July 2005.

Housing: Construction

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the guidance on the use of windfall land to meet regional housing targets in Planning Policy Statement 3 differs from the 2000 edition of Planning Policy Guidance Note 3; and if she will make a statement. [129364]

Yvette Cooper: Reflecting the need to build more homes across the country to meet the needs of our growing population, and the plan-led approach to the provision of housing, Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" (PPS3) asks local authorities, wherever possible, to identify specific sites for housing in their plans.

In some circumstances it may make sense for local authorities to include a windfall allowance in planning their land supply. PPS3 makes clear that it is open to local authorities to do this if they can clearly demonstrate why, in the particular circumstances of their local area, specific sites cannot be identified.

Planning Policy Guidance 3: "Housing" (PPG3: (2000), which new PPS3 replaces, asked local authorities to make specific allowances for windfalls in their plans.

We want authorities to plan properly for their housing provision, on the basis of specific sites that reflect clear and informed strategies for the location of housing development, and for the infrastructure needed to service it.

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration has been given to ways of decreasing the potential damage to health from small particle emissions in housing developments near roads. [141118]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

Health based air quality standards have been set both at a domestic and EU level on a range of air pollutants, including particulate matter. Action to improve air quality is underway across Government at national, international and local levels.

The introduction of the "Euro" series of progressively tighter emission standards has been underway since 1992, and has drastically lowered the permitted limits for particulate matter emission from new diesel vehicles. This has been complemented by improvements in product standards for petrol and diesel, which have lowered the permitted amounts of certain pollutant-forming substances in these fuels. Further "Euro" vehicle emission standards, with even tighter emission limits for particles, are due to be introduced between now and 2014. This is supported by other Government action, including the promotion of cleaner, less polluting fuel and vehicle technologies.

Local authorities are also taking forward their duty to review and assess air quality in their areas against objectives for a range of pollutants. If there is a likely chance of failure in meeting any of these objectives, an authority is required to declare an Air Quality Management Area and take forward action plans within its remit to address the problem. Such action is

progressed in coordination with other agencies, including the Highways Agency and Environment Agency.

The content of action plans varies from one authority to another, and depends upon the sources of the pollutants of concern. However, common elements where emissions from roads are a particular problem include:

(i) A commitment to working closely with the Highways Agency on possible emissions reduction measures where trunk roads are major local sources of pollutants;

(ii) Local traffic management measures to limit access to, or re-route traffic away from, problem areas. Low emission zones are a possible solution that some authorities have been looking at in this context;

(iii) Commitment to developing green travel plans and/or to using cleaner-fuelled vehicles in the authority's own fleet;

(iv) A strategy for informing members of the public about air quality issues, via local newsletters or other media;

(v) Quality partnerships with bus or fleet operators to deliver cleaner, quieter vehicles in return for the provision of better bus lanes or more flexible delivery arrangements; and

(vi) local walking and cycling strategies.

Housing: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex are on waiting lists for social housing. [141889]

Yvette Cooper: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Local authorities in England currently report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual housing strategy statistical appendix returns.

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were *(a)* bought and *(b)* part-bought in (i) Somerset and (ii) Taunton constituency under the Government's Homebuy scheme in each of the last five years. [141228]

Yvette Cooper: The following table shows the total number of properties purchased under low cost home ownership schemes in each of the last five years for Somerset and for the area covered by Taunton Deane borough council. This information is not held on a constituency basis.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-7[1]
Somerset					
Shared ownership	16	20	53	79	96
Shared equity	5	12	8	17	9
Taunton Deane					
Shared ownership	—	—	—	25	—
Shared equity	—	4	2	8	4

[1] Provisional.

Source:
Housing Corporation

The shared ownership schemes (currently known as new build homebuy) have allowed applicants buy a share of a property (from 25 per cent.-75 per cent.) and pay rent to a housing association on the remaining share which they do not own.

The shared equity schemes (currently known as open market homebuy) have enabled people to buy a property on the open market with the help of equity loans. Under the current scheme purchasers buy the property outright, but only need to raise around 75 per cent. of the purchase price of their home from a conventional mortgage. The balance is made up by two equity loans, each of around 12.5 per cent. of the purchase price. One loan comes from Government through a homebuy agent and the other comes from one of four mortgage lenders participating in the homebuy scheme.

Housing: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were located in *(a)* Northamptonshire, *(b)* North Northamptonshire and *(c)* Wellingborough in (i) April 1997 and (ii) the latest date for which figures are available. [141590]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The information requested has been tabulated as follows:

	31 March 1997	31 March 2006
Corby	21,681	23,936
Daventry	27,165	32,538
East Northamptonshire	29,818	35,344
Kettering	34,252	38,746
Northampton	79,453	86,959
South Northamptonshire	29,503	34,858
Wellingborough	29,449	31,643
Northamptonshire	251,321	284,024

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix

Communities and Local Government do not define an area for North Northamptonshire so figures have been provided for each district in Northamptonshire.

Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines her Department has issued to local authorities on the subject of basement excavations to residential properties; and if she will make a statement. [141165]

Angela E. Smith: Officials from the Department of Communities and Local Government have recently helped with revising the industry-led Approved Document—Basements for Dwellings. This helpful document which is aimed primarily at the home owner and small builder is available from the Basement Information Centre in Camberley, Surrey. It is referenced on the Communities and Local Government website.

Local Government: Standards

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities, classified by Government office region, have public service agreement (PSA) targets which include adoption targets; what the target for adoption is in each case; and how much money each local authority will receive if it achieves all of its PSA targets. [142138]

Mr. Woolas: There are 61 reward targets in local public service agreements and local area agreements which measure performance on adoption and/or stability of placements for looked-after children. Reward would be payable to local authorities and their partners for achievement of these particular targets. Details on each target have been made available in the Library of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates: Exemptions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to undertake a review of business rates exemptions. [141755]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given, to the hon. Member for Vale of York (Miss McIntosh) on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 191W.

Planning: Land Use

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition she uses of genuine local circumstances that would allow windfall sites to be included in local authority plans. [131623]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3) "Housing" asks local authorities to identify specific sites which will deliver their housing numbers and brownfield targets. In doing so it makes clear that allowances for windfalls should not be included in the first 10 years of the plan. This is intended to help achieve, within the plan-led system, the twin aims of giving certainty that land will come forward, and of demonstrating to local communities and developers where development will be accepted. The plan process, with its community involvement and public examination, gives the opportunity for an open debate about local authorities' policies and strategies for development.

However, where local planning authorities can provide robust evidence of genuine local circumstances that prevent specific sites being identified, a windfall allowance may be justified. The circumstances, by their very nature, will vary depending on local factors relevant to individual local planning authorities. And the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment will be key to this. In PPS3 we have also said that any such allowance should be realistic having regard to evidence of land availability, historic windfall delivery rates and expected future trends.

Property: Fires

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total insured fire losses for *(a)* dwellings and *(b)* commercial premises for each fire and rescue service have been in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by region. [142177]

Angela E. Smith: Information on total insured fire losses is collected by the Association of British Insurers (ABI). Data for the last 10 years are shown as follows. The information is not available for individual fire and rescue services. The table includes the costs of business interruption following fire damage.

Gross insured fire-related claims, Great Britain, 1997-2006

£ million

	Domestic fire damage	*Commercial fire damage*	*Business interruption following fire damage*
1997	270	492	221
1998	281	602	207
1999	286	579	99
2000	333	521	122
2001	371	679	84
2002	346	799	209
2003	360	707	81
2004	326	486	98
2005	358	765	220
2006	395	744	148

Note:
Only claims arising from fire and explosions following fires are included. Any explosion only claims are excluded, so the figures will not include any terrorist bombings.
Source:
Association of British Insurers.

Regional Planning and Development

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the criteria for designating an organisation as a regional planning body. [141820]

Ruth Kelly: The criteria for recognising a body as a regional planning body are set out under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and its supporting regional planning regulations, Town and Country Planning (Regional Planning)(England) Regulations 2004 No. 2203.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing were built in each local government area in each year since 1997. [127872]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of social rent homes provided in each local government area in each financial year since 1997-98 are shown in a table which has been placed in the Library of the House. The table includes both new build and acquisitions.

For 2006-07, provisional figures indicate that around 25,000 social rented homes were provided. For 2007-08 we are currently estimating that 30,000 social rented homes will be delivered.

Social Rented Housing: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing there were in each London local authority in *(a)* 1986, *(b)* 1996 and *(c)* 2006; and how many of these were three-bedrooms or larger. [137767]

Yvette Cooper: Numbers of social dwellings for rent in each London borough that are owned or managed by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) are tabulated as follows. Figures are as reported by local authorities and RSLs.

Number of social for rent dwellings in London by borough, 1986, 1996 and 2006

	1986	1996	2006
London	933,221	836,745	773,009
Barking and Dagenham	32,162	27,402	23,045
Barnet	20,229	18,346	17,466
Bexley	12,937	11,782	12,593
Brent	27,962	23,960	22,925
Bromley	20,884	17,998	17,810
Camden	39,332	36,277	34,749
City of London	1,549	759	725
Croydon	22,954	23,169	23,900
Ealing	24,364	22,792	22,658
Enfield	20,665	18,090	17,722
Greenwich	39,880	37,503	35,261
Hackney	53,835	49,802	43,805
Hammersmith and Fulham	27,862	25,973	25,183
Haringey	29,617	28,461	26,907
Harrow	9,331	8,320	8,609
Havering	17,868	14,721	13,129
Hillingdon	19,032	16,252	16,230
Hounslow	23,254	20,908	18,638
Islington	48,544	46,252	40,254
Kensington and Chelsea	19,947	18,854	19,928
Kingston upon Thames	7,567	7,119	6,865
Lambeth	56,751	54,300	48,110
Lewisham	47,076	42,373	36,252
Merton	13,973	11,975	11,157
Newham	35,072	34,211	29,243
Redbridge	12,324	9,429	9,440
Richmond upon Thames	12,024	9,876	9,730
Southwark	68,716	65,501	55,688
Sutton	13,824	12,680	11,141
Tower Hamlets	53,576	44,805	39,079
Waltham Forest	22,782	19,739	21,126
Wandsworth	44,924	29,753	26,964
Westminster	32,404	27,363	26,677

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix from Local Authorities and Regulatory Statistical Return from Registered Social Landlords

For 2006 RSL stock are comprised of general needs self-contained units and supported/older people self-contained units and bed spaces as self-contained units are not shown separately at local authority level.

Information on the number of bedrooms is not available centrally.

Homes for social rent only makes up part of the affordable supply; the remainder is provided through low cost home ownership or other sub-market rental products. Between 1 April 1996 and 31 March 2006, 108,815 affordable homes were provided through these schemes in London.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people were registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each *(a)* English region and *(b)* London local authority in (i) 1986, (ii) 1996 and (iii) 2006. [137770]

Yvette Cooper: Information is available on numbers of households rather than people. The number of households on the waiting list for social housing in each English region and London local authority in 1986, 1996 and 2006 is given in the table:

Number of households on waiting list for social housing, as at 1 April in 1986, 1996 and 2006 by region, as reported by local authorities

	1986	1996	2006
North East	105,822	82,223	95,359
North West	219,890	144,554	214,210
Yorkshire and the Humber	172,609	164,714	247,499
East Midlands	130,347	113,190	133,823
West Midlands	130,267	96,661	126,629
East of England	111,336	90,188	135,444
London	272,271	178,656	331,230
South East	124,247	107,107	195,700
South West	84,543	84,886	151,220
England	1,351,332	1,062,179	1,631,114

Note:
As reported by local authorities
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA). Historic data from Housing Investment Programme (1986 and 1996)

Number of households on waiting list for social housing by London local authority, in1986, 1996 and 2006, as reported by local authorities

	1986	1996	2006
Barking and Dagenham	3,880	1,679	7,689
Barnet	5,753	2,975	16,470
Bexley	3,751	3,863	5,955
Brent	18,496	9,503	16,398
Bromley	4,376	2,983	4,282
Camden	16,922	6,873	9,562
City of London	553	822	1,427
Croydon	5,226	5,496	9,271
Ealing	9,114	9,669	15,936
Enfield	7,825	3,557	7,055
Greenwich	15,015	6,445	10,239
Hackney	15,850	10,294	8,815
Hammersmith and Fulham	9,235	6,187	7,795
Haringey	12,147	3,793	24,939
Harrow	2,001	1,772	5,533
Havering	3,140	2,332	3,876
Hillingdon	3,722	3,387	7,136

Number of households on waiting list for social housing by London local authority, in1986, 1996 and 2006, as reported by local authorities

	1986	*1996*	*2006*
Hounslow	8,637	6,232	11,666
Islington	9,500	8,485	8,489
Kensington and Chelsea	9,987	4,725	10,798
Kingston upon Thames	1,912	1,901	5,726
Lambeth	16,652	13,081	13,611
Lewisham	22,585	11,766	17,535
Merton	3,849	3,737	3,278
Newham	5,386	8,975	29,574
Redbridge	2,791	1,903	10,807
Richmond upon Thames	4,038	3,071	5,726
Southwark	14,583	6,662	8,057
Sutton	1,634	1,921	3,408
Tower Hamlets	10,000	6,718	12,926
Waltham Forest	7,578	8,555	11,059
Wandsworth	6,981	5,620	8,952
Westminster	9,152	3,674	7,240

Note:
As reported by local authorities
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix return (HSSA). Historic data from Housing Investment Programme (1986 and 1996)

Local authorities in England currently report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Aid

6. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanisms he uses to measure the effectiveness and impacts of aid; and if he will make a statement. [142241]

Hilary Benn: The Government are committed to ensuring that UK aid is used effectively to make a difference to the lives of the world's poorest people. Our international development assistance is scrutinised by Parliament and by the National Audit Office. DFID has its own evaluation, audit and reporting under the International Development (Reporting and Transparency) Act, and I am establishing a new Independent Advisory Committee for Development Impact.

International mechanisms include monitoring aid effectiveness under the Paris Declaration, and by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, which found DFID to be a model of development cooperation.

Middle East

7. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's priorities are in Palestine. [142244]

Hilary Benn: We are providing support to the Palestinians through the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

DFID has given £15 million through the TIM, which has supported Palestinian health services, allowances for government workers and the provision of water, sanitation and electricity services.

DFID also gave £15.6 million to UNRWA in April. This is helping it provide essential services such as health, education and housing to 4.1 million Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.

Vulture Funds

8. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government are taking to tackle the operation of vulture funds. [142245]

10. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions his Department has had with HM Treasury on vulture funds; and if he will make a statement. [142247]

Mr. Thomas: DFID regularly works closely with HM Treasury on vulture funds.

The UK deplores the actions of so-called vulture funds and will work to limit their impact by:

working with the World Bank to make the debt reduction facility, which helps countries buy back their commercial debts at heavily discounted rates, more effective;

working with the African Development Bank and others to ensure that countries have access to legal assistance to fight ongoing cases;

proposing a voluntary charter for creditors to help avoid debts being sold to vulture funds;

strengthening debt management in heavily indebted poor countries.

Latin America

9. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's regional assistance programme for Latin America for 2008-11. [142246]

Mr. Thomas: A consultation document on DFID's plans for Latin America from 2008 to 2011 can be found on DFID's website (www.dfid.gov.uk).

DFID's proposed approach includes retaining a presence in Bolivia, Nicaragua and Brazil, a continued partnership with the World Bank and Inter-America Development Bank, and a continued focus on market opportunities for the poor and governance.

There would be also a new focus on climate change, and DFID will work closely with Brazil as a global and regional champion of development issues. The bilateral programme in Nicaragua will continue.

Poverty Reduction

11. **Mr. Andy Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* the UK's and *(b)* the G8 countries' contributions to reducing poverty in the last two years following the Gleneagles summit. [142248]

Hilary Benn: There has been some good progress on reducing poverty in the last two years as set out in DFID's annual report to Parliament. Globally there has been a significant rise in global aid—by 25 per cent. to just over $100 billion since 2004. However there is still much more to be done and it is a priority for the UK Government to work with others to ensure the Gleneagles commitments are implemented.

G8

12. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the outcomes of the recent G8 meeting in respect of international development. [142249]

Hilary Benn: On climate change, the G8 summit made significant progress towards a new global agreement.

The summit also reaffirmed the Gleneagles commitments on aid, and set out how the commitment to AIDS will be delivered with additional funding and help for vulnerable mothers and children.

Somalia

13. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Somalia. [142250]

Hilary Benn: We are in close contact with the relief agencies who make regular assessments of the situation on the ground. The UN estimates that more than one million Somalis need direct humanitarian assistance and the entire population of southern and central Somalia, over four million people, are at risk. There are high levels of starvation and epidemic disease, and the continuing insecurity has a direct effect, with people being killed and wounded, robbed, raped and otherwise abused. Another indirect effect of the fighting is that it disrupts the efforts of Somalis to pursue their livelihoods and access basic services.

Africa: Housing

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has undertaken to improve housing conditions for the urban poor in African cities. [141629]

Hilary Benn: DFID works primarily through the UN Human Settlements Programme—better known as "UN Habitat"—the UN agency charged in 1978 with promoting socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities through the provision of adequate shelter for all. UN Habitat is the mandated lead agency of the UN for cities, urban poverty, and slum dwellers. DFID provides core funding to UN Habitat of £1 million per year.

DFID also supports the joint donor initiative Cities Alliance, which works with partners with municipal governments on city development strategies and slum upgrading. DFID is providing £3 million over four years to the Cities Alliance to strengthen urban planning in developing countries.

UN Habitat and Cities Alliance jointly manage the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF), a technical assistance and bridging-finance facility to develop projects that attract domestic capital and investment for urban regeneration, primarily in cities in the developing world. The SUF's £5.9 million programme has targeted six African countries: Ghana, Senegal, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Cities Alliance further manages, with the NGO Homeless International, the Community Lead Infrastructure Financing Facility (CLIFF). CLIFF is an investment fund mechanism for assisting organisations working with the urban poor to access private finance to undertake infrastructure initiatives in partnership with municipalities. Working in partnership with poor communities, CLIFF aims to access resources from public and private sectors for slum-upgrading projects. CLIFF has recently begun expanding its work to Kenya.

Through its bilateral programmes, DFID also supports local programmes, for example in Kenya with the Centre for Housing Rights and Evictions (CHoRE). This organisation campaigns for the protection of housing rights and the prevention of forced evictions. DFID supported the development of National Evictions Guidelines for Kenya.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments were made *(a)* by and *(b)* through his Department to overseas (i) trades unions and (ii) collections of trade unionists from the public purse in each year since May 1997; and what the (A) value and (B) recipient was of each. [141292]

Mr. Thomas: The information requested is not collated centrally. To answer this question in full would incur disproportionate cost.

DFID supports progress towards the millennium development goals by working through a wide range of partners, including national governments and local civil society organisations (including trade unions). DFID works with trade unions and collections of trade unionists when this is judged to be an effective and efficient means of helping reduce poverty. Civil society (including trade unions) can play a critical role in helping poor people hold their governments to account and have a voice in decisions which affect their lives.

For example, our country offices in South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Tanzania are providing direct support to local trade unions. DFID also funds a number of poverty reduction projects implemented by domestic trade unions—such as TUC Aid helping to promote workers' rights and secure better living standards in Sierra Leone (starting 2007-08, £400,000 over three years) and UNISON

strengthening the public sector union response to tackling HIV/AIDS in southern Africa (starting 2007-08, £350,000 over three years).

Developing Countries: Community Development

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has to support community organisations in the developing world. [141628]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provides financial support to community organisations in the developing world both directly and through UK civil society organisations. As the National Audit Office reported last year, DFID support to civil society organisations as a whole has grown fast since 1997, keeping track with the growing aid budget.

It is a priority for us to help build the capacity of civil society in developing countries, including community groups, to hold local and national governments to account. This is the focus of the new Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF), which will provide £100 million support over the next five years. In order to maximise local involvement and capacity building, successful applicants must grant at least 85 per cent. of their GTF funds to local partners in developing countries.

Another new approach to assisting community groups among others, while also raising levels of awareness about global issues in the UK, is the proposed Linking scheme set out in the White Paper. This proposes to support links between UK groups and counterparts in the developing world. A public consultation has just closed and DFID in now considering how to take this forward.

International Assistance: Environment Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what account is taken by his Department of environmental factors when undertaking development projects. [141630]

Mr. Thomas: DFID makes sure that potential environmental aspects of development projects are taken into account during their design and implementation. Environmental screening is mandatory during the preparation of all DFID projects over £1 million. It is used to identify and address environmental risks and opportunities associated with DFID funded projects. The screening process identifies actions required to address potential environmental impacts.

A review of environmental screening for the financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 was published in September 2006 as Evaluation Working Paper No. 21. This is available on DFID's website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/environmental-screening-review.pdf.

Lebanon

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1091-92W, on Lebanon, what UK initiatives to promote democratic oversight of reconstruction spending and planning in Lebanon are in place; and if he will make a statement. [141182]

Hilary Benn: Together with the British embassy in Beirut, DFID continues to monitor, and engage with efforts to promote democratic oversight of, reconstruction spending and planning. The embassy funded a recent UK parliamentary/National Audit Office mission to Beirut to help the Lebanese Parliament explore what steps might be needed to strengthen its budgetary oversight role. Such initiatives highlight the importance of resuming the normal operation of the Lebanese Parliament, and have the potential to contribute to addressing some of the issues underlying the conflict.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 22 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1091-2W, on Lebanon, what assessment he has made of the *(a)* impact and *(b)* potential impact of the recent conflict and instability in Lebanon on UK bilateral programmes in (i) the Occupied Palestinian Territory and (ii) Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [141183]

Hilary Benn: The recent conflict and instability in Lebanon has not affected our bilateral programmes either in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs) or in Iraq. DFID continues to monitor the situation and will react accordingly.

Lebanon: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the numbers of individuals displaced within Lebanon by the recent violence; and whether any changes are planned to the UK's humanitarian assistance for Lebanon. [141218]

Hilary Benn: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has reported that due to the recent violence in Lebanon, over 20,000 people have been displaced from the Nahr al-Barid Palestinian refugee camp. Most have fled to the nearby Beddawi refugee camp and some to other refugee camps in South Lebanon. Indications are that there are between 3,000 and 5,000 refugees remaining inside the camp. UNRWA estimates that around 27,000 refugees were living in the camp before the crisis, although some reports put the number as high as 40,000.

The UK is providing £100 million of unearmarked funding over five years to UNRWA, of which around 20 per cent. historically goes to Lebanon. This support provides UNRWA with the funding predictability that enables more effective planning, and the flexibility for UNRWA to allocate funds where they are most needed. We will continue to watch how the situation in Lebanon develops and remain ready to provide additional support as appropriate based on humanitarian need and the country's and agencies' ability to respond. The EC is providing €370,000 of humanitarian assistance of which the UK share is £45,000.

Nepal: Education

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will provide a breakdown of how the £60 million funding for

education in Nepal announced on 5 April is proposed to be spent; and what the time scale is for the release of the funding. [141061]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is planning to spend £60 million on education in Nepal between now and 2015. We plan to gradually increase our support to education from its current level of £5 million a year as the political environment in Nepal improves following the recent peace agreement between the government and the Maoists. DFID currently puts all of its support into the Government's Education for All programme, which is supported by other donors and which has resulted in increases in enrolment to primary education, despite the ongoing conflict, including for girls and disadvantaged groups.

Education for All will finish in 2009 and will be superseded by a new government programme that covers both primary and secondary education, which DFID will support. We will work with other donors and the government of Nepal to continue to improve access at all levels, especially for socially excluded groups. We will also help the Government to improve the quality of education, in particular by increasing teacher numbers in overcrowded schools and increasing classroom building.

Education has a vital role to play in stabilising the peace in Nepal after the recent conflict, much of which was motivated by inequality, including inequality in gaining access to government services.

Pakistan: Rural Areas

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department supports in the rural areas of Pakistan. [141631]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is supporting the following programmes that are focused mainly on the rural areas of Pakistan.

Duration	*Programme*	*Objective*	*Value (£ million)*
2006-08	Post-Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	To enable people in earthquake-affected areas, particularly the poor and vulnerable, to reconstruct and rehabilitate their lives	70
2007-10	Improving Citizen Engagement through Devolution	To create an enabling environment based on shared rights and responsibilities for citizen participation and community empowerment in all union councils of Pakistan	18
2006-10	Rural Support Programmes Network Phase II	To mobilise society and the state to meet the development needs of poor women and men in Rural Support Programme areas throughout Pakistan	10
2003-08	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Improved and sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation by poor people in rural parts of North West Frontier Province	6.5
2001-07	Neelum Valley Health Programme	Access to basic health care facilities for 43,000 people in Neelum Valley	1.35

In addition, DFID is supporting many programmes that benefit rural areas as well as other parts of Pakistan. For example, DFID is providing over £68 million for the National Health Facility, which is funding a number of large-scale programmes in rural and urban areas.

Indirect DFID support for rural areas in Pakistan is provided through multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and the European Commission. Many of these agencies have large-scale programmes directly targeted at rural areas.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact the temporary international mechanism to deliver aid to the Palestinians has had on the number of Palestinian families living beneath the poverty line; and if he will make a statement. [141660]

Hilary Benn: At the start of 2006 the World Bank predicted that the Palestinian economy would contract by 27 per cent. during the year. The latest estimates are that the economy in fact contracted by 5-10 per cent. in 2006. Increased EU funding through the temporary international mechanism (TIM) alongside other donor funding, mostly from Arab states, made a substantial contribution to slowing this economic decline. The World Bank and the European Commission are currently assessing the impact of the TIM. The results of this review are expected to be available soon.

However, despite increased donor funding, poverty rates have almost doubled, up from 22 per cent. to 56 per cent. in the West Bank and from 43 per cent. to 87 per cent. in Gaza. The main reasons for this are the effects on the Palestinian economy of Israel's suspension of the transfer of Palestinian tax revenues and Israeli security restrictions on Palestinian movement and access to markets.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what level of annual income for Palestinian Authority employees is used to determine eligibility for funding under the temporary international mechanism; whether any other criteria affect eligibility; and if he will make a statement. [141662]

Hilary Benn: There is now no income limit for eligibility to allowances provided by the temporary international mechanism (TIM). The TIM provides a monthly allowance of 1500 Israeli Shekels (about £180) to all 71,000 civilian Palestinian authority employees

and to 6,600 pensioners. It also pays a quarterly allowance of 1500 Israeli Shekels to 75,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable Palestinian families, as defined by the Ministry of Social Affairs and the World Food programme. Excluded from benefiting are individuals appearing on internationally recognised terrorist lists. Only one person has so far been excluded on this basis. With an estimated household size of six, almost one million people have so far benefited from the TIM, about a quarter of the Palestinian population in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of international aid provided by his Department in 2006 was given to Sri Lanka. [142049]

Mr. Thomas: DFID reports its expenditure in financial rather than calendar years. Therefore figures used are provisional bilateral outturn figures for the 2006-07 financial year. Final statistics will be published in Statistics on International Development 2007 in October.

	£ million
Total DFID bilateral aid	2,515.12
Total Asia	872.54
Sri Lanka	5.91

The percentage of aid for Sri Lanka is 0.2 per cent. of the total DFID Bilateral outturn.

Figures were published on 12 June and further details are available on the DFID website

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/pressreleases/statsrelease-bilateralaid200607.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what contribution the UK has made to emergency relief to Darfur. [142309]

Hilary Benn: The UK is heavily engaged in Darfur on a number of levels. DFID has spent over £142 million supporting emergency relief operations in the region since October 2003. The UK is also prominent in efforts to make the humanitarian response in Sudan more effective. This includes advocacy and support for humanitarian agencies operating on the ground and through our £40 million contribution in 2007 to the pioneering Common Humanitarian Fund, allowing the UN Humanitarian Coordinator to direct resources at the areas of greatest need across the country.

The UK is working at the highest level to secure a lasting peace in Darfur, regularly raising the need to resolve the Darfur conflict with the parties and with international partners. The UK has also contributed £73 million to the African Union Mission in Sudan to help support the protection of civilians in Darfur.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Aral Sea: Environment Protection

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the environmental effects of the drainage of the Aral Sea; and if she will make a statement. [142120]

Mr. Hoon: The Aral Sea has been recognised as the world's worst artificial ecological disaster. From 1960 to 2000 it lost 75 per cent. of its volume and 50 per cent. of its surface area. Its degradation has been ruinous to the people, plant and animal life in the region. None of the twenty species of fish once found in the Aral have survived. However, a dam has now been placed between the northern and southern part of the Aral Sea, built with international assistance from the World Bank. Since completion in 2005, the World Bank reports that the water-level in the northern part of the sea has gradually risen and, between 2003 and 2006, increased by 13 per cent. in surface area (from 2,850 km sq to 3,250 km sq).

A spillway passing excess water from the northern to the southern part of the Aral Sea has been operational since February 2006 and the water level in the southern part is also now likely to increase in the future, though probably only marginally. Salinity levels of both parts of the sea have been reduced over the last two years and several freshwater fish have been returned to the sea. As such, fish harvests have considerably increased during the past two years.

According to the World Bank, the next step is to improve the irrigation efficiency of the land in the Kazakh part of the Aral Sea basin. Additional waterworks are also planned to restore wetlands and fishing lakes in the delta region. A World Bank project to this end began in 2007 and a project monitoring mission to the Aral Sea is currently underway.

Details of the World Bank project can be found at:

http://www.worldbank.org.kz/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=73230&theSitePK=361869&menuPK=361901&Projectid=P046045

Baker-Hamilton Commission

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her US counterpart on new talks based on the Baker-Hamilton Commission. [140682]

Dr. Howells: Following publication of the Baker-Hamilton report, the Government of Iraq made clear that it would lead any discussion on Iraq by the international community. At its invitation, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the US Secretary of State both attended the Iraq Neighbours Conference in Sharm El-Sheikh on 4 May. Both the US and we look forward to continuing discussion with Iraq, its neighbours and the wider international community through this format.

Bangladesh: Political Prisoners

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether she has

made representations on the detention without trial of the former prime minister of Bangladesh, Mondud Ahmed, to the military government of Bangladesh. [142447]

Dr. Howells: We understand that a court hearing on this case is due to take place on 17 June. It is the right of the caretaker government of Bangladesh to take legitimate measures against corruption and the abuse of public office. We have made clear to them the need to resolve the cases of those in detention promptly and through due process. We continue to urge the caretaker government, the armed forces and the law enforcement agencies to act impartially and with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Burma: Refugees

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what representations she has made to the government of *(a)* Burma and *(b)* Thailand on employment and education for refugees that live in camps on the border; [140993]

(2) what representations she has made to the government of *(a)* Thailand and *(b)* Malaysia on extending refugee status to parents and children of Burmese residents in camps within their borders. [140994]

Mr. McCartney: Our Embassy in Bangkok has regular discussions, both bilaterally and together with EU counterparts, with the Government of Thailand and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) about the welfare of refugees in Thailand. These discussions include the question of the refugees' status and access to education and employment. Officials from our Embassy in Bangkok regularly visit the refugee camps to monitor conditions, most recently in May this year.

We have made no representations to the Burmese government about employment and education opportunities for refugees in Thailand.

We have made no representations to the Malaysian government on the status of Burmese refugees. However, our High Commission in Kuala Lumpur remains in close contact with UNHCR about issues concerning refugees in Malaysia.

Burma: Tourism

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps have been taken to reduce the number of British tourists visiting Burma. [142037]

Mr. McCartney: My right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister stated in January 2005 that anyone who may be thinking of visiting Burma on holiday should consider carefully whether by their actions they are helping to support the regime.

The country profile for Burma on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) website draws attention to our position and the views of Aung San Suu Kyi on tourism. The FCO Travel Advice on Burma includes a link to the country profile so that those thinking of travelling to Burma will be aware of this.

The FCO's country profile on Burma can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?=pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029394365&a=KCountryProfile&aid=1018965307901.

The FCO's Travel Advice on Burma can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c-Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618387126.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the security risks to *(a)* British tourists and *(b)* Burmese citizens if such tourists engage local people in political discussions in Burma; and what advice her Department gives to British citizens on this issue. [142038]

Mr. McCartney: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Travel Advice for Burma advises that

"there are stringent restrictions on freedom of speech, movement, religion, and political activity. Foreign nationals criticising the regime in public are liable to arrest or imprisonment".

The FCO's Travel Advice on Burma can be found at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618387126.

Burma: Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Burma will be taking part in negotiations regarding a free trade area between the EU and ASEAN. [142035]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission, on behalf of the EU, and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries as a bloc agreed to enter into negotiations on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on 4 May. It is for the ASEAN states to decide how they are to be represented at the negotiations. The mandate to negotiate the FTA was agreed by the EU at the 23 April General Affairs and External Relations Council. The UK and like-minded member states were instrumental in securing language within the council conclusions and the mandate, which will have the effect of excluding Burma from the EU/ASEAN FTA. Burma will not benefit from the proposed EU-ASEAN FTA under its current regime.

Iran: Nuclear Fuels

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the talks between the EU High Representative Javier Solana and Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani; and if she will make a statement. [141742]

Dr. Howells *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Dr. Solana met Dr. Larijani on 31 May for talks in Madrid. Iran continues to give no indication that it is willing to comply with its international obligations and suspend all enrichment-related, reprocessing and heavy-water related activities, as the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Dr ElBaradei,

reported on 23 May. The matter will therefore return to the UN Security Council who will consider further measures on Iran.

Iran: Occupied Palestinian Territories

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment has been made of the role of Iran in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and if she will make a statement. [141661]

Dr. Howells: We have longstanding concerns that groups seeking to undermine the Middle East peace process through violence draw support from inside Iran. In the occupied Palestinian territories, Iran continues to support Palestinian rejectionist groups including Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which continues to undermine the peace process. Iran also provides ideological and financial support to Hamas. Iran also opposes a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We support the EU presidency statement of 5 June, which condemned the anti-Israeli comments made by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. We have called on Iran to renounce all links to groups using terror and violence, to distance itself clearly from all threats made towards Israel, to support a solution to the Palestinian question based on the principle of two states living side by side in peace and security, and to act responsibly in the region.

Nigeria: Elections

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Government of Nigeria on the conduct of the Nigerian presidential election in April 2007; if she will press for fresh elections to be held; and if she will make a statement. [140915]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary expressed deep concern about serious flaws in the conduct of the Nigerian elections in her public statement of 23 April.

Our High Commissioner in Abuja raised these concerns in meetings with President Obasanjo and the then President-elect, Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, shortly after the elections in April. My noble Friend the Leader of the House of Lords, right hon. Baroness Amos, also made our disappointment clear to President Obasanjo when she saw him in Nigeria on 28 April. The elections were among the issues that my noble Friend Baroness Royall of Blaisdon discussed with President Yar'Adua when she represented the Government at the President's inauguration on 29 May.

In his inaugural address President Yar'Adua acknowledged there had been shortcomings in the elections and urged anyone aggrieved to pursue the established legal avenues of redress. He also announced that he would set up a panel to examine the electoral process to ensure that standards were raised.

We have not called for the presidential elections to be re-run. We have urged aggrieved parties who wish to challenge the results to do so peacefully, through the appropriate electoral tribunals.

We will continue to watch closely how the Independent National Electoral Commission and the Nigerian Government respond to the concerns and issues raised by Nigerian citizens and international observers.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement of 23 April is available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1176969243828&year=2007&month=2007-04-01

North Korea: Asylum

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will press China to meet its obligations relating to the refugee status of those North Koreans seeking asylum. [140995]

Mr. McCartney: We take every opportunity to urge China to respect international norms in their treatment of North Koreans who escape into China. We continue to have concerns about repatriation of refugees to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and reports of their subsequent ill-treatment by the North Korean authorities.

Saudi Arabia: Religious Buildings

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to Saudi Arabia on the funding of new and existing mosques in the UK; and what reports she has received on the levels of such funding received *(a)* from Saudi Arabia and *(b)* other countries in each of the last three years. [142048]

Dr. Howells: I have made no representations to the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding funding of new or existing mosques in the UK.

A comprehensive response to the second part of the question would necessitate our conducting an investigation, drawing information from a wide range of diplomatic posts. This would take a long time and incur disproportionate cost. However, initial inquiries with our main diplomatic posts in Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Bangladesh have shown that over the period in question no information on this subject has been received.

Somalia: Human Rights

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on *(a)* the human rights situation and *(b)* compliance with humanitarian law in the last month in Somalia. [141515]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned about the human rights situation in Somalia. In his report to the UN Security Council on 21 May, UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator John Holmes spoke of

"severe breaches of international humanitarian law during the recent fighting, with indiscriminate use of massive force in civilian areas, apparently by all sides".

He also spoke of major human rights violations, including abductions and unlawful killings; and concerns over the apparent arbitrary detention, deportation, and disappearance of individuals.

We condemn human rights violations wherever they arise. All parties in Somalia are aware of our stance on this issue.

Somalia: Peace Keeping Operations

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to encourage the deployment of an international peace-keeping force in Somalia. [141514]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has been very active in helping to deploy an international peace-keeping force in Somalia.

The UK sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1744, which was adopted unanimously on 20 February and which authorised the African Union (AU) Mission for Somalia (AMISOM). The UK has supported the Ugandan contingent with £1.3 million, and has offered financial assistance to other troop contributing countries and to the AU planning cell in Addis Ababa. We strongly supported the EU funding of €15 million for AMISOM. We have also called on other potential donors to consider how they might assist troop contributing countries.

We also support plans for greater UN involvement in Somalia. At the meeting of the International Contact Group on Somalia in London on 6 June, the Group called on the UN to devise plans for a follow-on UN mission.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has held with other EU and NATO member states on the security situation in Somalia. [141516]

Mr. McCartney: We are discussing the grave security situation in Somalia on a regular basis with a range of EU, NATO and other international partners.

The UK hosted the International Contact Group (ICG) on Somalia on 6 June, I will send my hon. Friend a copy of the ICG communique following this meeting and place copies in the Library if the House. At this meeting, we and international partners recognised the relative improvement in security in and around Mogadishu but expressed serious concern about continued sporadic violence. Within the EU, Somalia was discussed most recently by Ministers at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23 April and subsequently by senior officials.

Timor-Leste: Elections

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the recent reports from the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste on the forthcoming parliamentary elections in Timor-Leste. [141657]

Mr. McCartney: The reports of the UN Integrated Mission to Timor-Leste (UNMIT) show that the East Timorese presidential elections were concluded last month in a democratic and peaceful manner. This was facilitated by the effective security arrangements which exist between the Government of East Timor, UNMIT and the international security forces. UNMIT has indicated that the 30 June parliamentary elections will be a more complex process, but the conduct of the presidential elections is encouraging. We welcome the fact that the 16 competing parties have signed both an electoral code of conduct and a political party accord, committing themselves to due process in the elections and democratic principles of governance after them.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* diplomatic and consular staff have had with representatives of the Uzbek Government on the human rights situation in Uzbekistan. [142121]

Mr. Hoon: We remain seriously concerned about the human rights situation in Uzbekistan and closely monitor the situation there, with our EU partners. The first session of the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue took place in May. At that session, the EU discussed a range of human rights issues with senior representatives of the Uzbek Government. We hope that this dialogue will lead to constructive co-operation in areas of concern on human rights. EU Special Representative to Central Asia, Pierre Morel, visited Uzbekistan in May and raised human rights concerns with the Uzbek Government.

Our Ambassador in Tashkent, Iain Kelly, discussed UK concerns on human rights in Uzbekistan with both Foreign Minister Norov during his introductory meeting on 5 June and with President Karimov, during the presentation of his credentials on 8 June.

Uzbekistan: Children

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will hold discussions with representatives of the Uzbek Government on child labour on cotton fields in Uzbekistan; and if she will make a statement. [142119]

Mr. Hoon: We closely monitor a range of human rights issues in Uzbekistan, including the rights of the child. with our partners in the EU and in the international community. The International Labour Organisation works on the issue of child labour in the cotton industry, which is deeply entrenched, and a sensitive issue in Uzbekistan. It affects education, migration and the process of democratisation.

The rights of the child are among the human rights issues covered by the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue which began in May. At the last session of the EU-Uzbekistan Sub-Committee on Justice and Home Affairs, in May, the EU delegation encouraged the Uzbek authorities to ratify the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

In 2006 the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child reviewed the National Report of Uzbekistan on Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and issued recommendations to the Uzbek authorities e.g. on adopting legislation and ratifying international conventions. Committee members put questions to the Uzbek delegation including on the issue of child labour in the cotton fields. The Uzbek authorities are preparing new legislation, including a draft law on childrens' rights which we hope will address the Committee's concerns.

We will continue, bilaterally, with the EU and through the international community, to raise a range of human rights concerns with the Uzbek authorities, and to support efforts to improve the human rights situation in the country.

Uzbekistan: Forced Labour

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps her Department is taking to monitor the enforcement by the Uzbek Government of the International Labour Organisation's Convention on the Abolition of Forced Labour. [142543]

Mr. Hoon: As a permanent member of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Governing Body, the UK actively promotes and encourages all member states to ratify and implement the ILO core conventions which cover the elimination of the forced labour, child labour, discrimination in employment and the observance of trade union rights.

The UK also participates fully in the discussions of the ILO Conference Committee on the application of standards which each year discusses a selection of individual cases of member state compliance with various ILO conventions in detail.

Such discussions are based on reports submitted under Article 22 of the Constitution of the ILO which requires member sates to regularly report on conventions they have ratified. Uzbekistan has ratified both of the ILO forced labour conventions (29 and 105). The ILO's Committee of Experts, which examines member states reports, has asked the Uzbek Government to make every effort to comply with its constitutional obligations and reminded the Uzbek Government that the ILO can provide technical assistance to help to prepare the annual written reports which are a requirement of membership.

This year the committee noted with regret that Uzbekistan was among those member states which had supplied no reports on ratified conventions for the past two or more years; and that because Uzbekistan was among those governments which were not represented at the conference, they were unable to participate in the committee's examination of the cases relating to them.

Venezuela: Television

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the recent closure of state television stations by President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela. [142476]

Mr. Hoon: Along with EU partners, the UK has been closely monitoring recent events in Venezuela. We are concerned at the Venezuelan government's decision not to renew the broadcasting licence for the private media organisation RCTV. The UK strongly supported the EU's statement of 31 May, which noted with concern the Venezuelan government's decision, and recalled the promises made by the Venezuelan authorities to hold an open competition for the successor licence.

With EU partners, we will continue to monitor the situation closely, including on Venezuela's upholding of the fundamental democratic principles of freedom of speech and freedom of the press.

HEALTH

Departments: Private Finance Initiative

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what value of annual private finance initiative payments by her Department was classified as *(a)* identifiable and *(b)* non-identifiable in each of the last five years, broken down by project. [137810]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 648-652W.

All payments made under private finance initiative (PFI) schemes are identifiable. Prior to a PFI contract being signed the profile of unitary charge payments is agreed between the contractor and the public sector, subject to the operation of the payment mechanism.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she has taken to ensure value for money in the tendering process for private finance initiative contracts. [139818]

Andy Burnham: National health service trusts must follow European Union procurement regulations under which private finance initiative (PFI) contracts are always awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender overall to the NHS, following a competitive bidding process. New EU regulations to decide the most economically advantageous bid, specifically applying to complex contracts such as PFI and other public private partnership (PPPs), were implemented in the United Kingdom from 1 February 2007 (known as the competitive dialogue procedure, succeeding the previous negotiated procedure). The Department is currently trialling this new process by shortlisting up to three bidders from which final priced bids will be invited from no less than two. In recognition of the additional work now required on the part of bidders to achieve full commercial and price certainty whilst still at this competitive stage, the EU legislation has specifically introduced a discretion to pay bid costs with the aim of ensuring that the costs of bidding are no greater then they would have been under the negotiated procedure.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* the establishment and *(b)* the running of the Private Finance Unit in her Department; [139819]

(2) what the functions of the Private Finance Unit in her Department are; and how its performance is assessed; [139821]

(3) how many staff work in the Private Finance Unit in her Department. [139822]

Andy Burnham: The Department's Private Finance Unit (PFU) are a group of specialists contracted to work for the Department. They include lawyers, financiers, bankers, accountants and technical staff and staff on secondment from the national health service. They report to the Department's Director of Finance-Investment, a civil servant.

No costs were specifically incurred in setting up the PFU, who occupy space in the Department's buildings. Their cost in 2006-07 was just over £2.4 million inclusive of salaries, travel costs, subsidence etcetera.

The function of the PFU is to offer expert advice to NHS trusts, or to Department's Ministers and officials on all commercial aspects of the private finance initiative and the NHS local improvement finance trust (LIFT) contracts: the provision of loans to foundation trusts; the operation of NHS Shared Business Services Ltd, the joint venture that offers financial and accounting services to the NHS; and operational and commercial matters in a number of arms length bodies.

The PFU works alongside the Department's officials and its performance is monitored by the director of finance.

Currently, 19 staff work in the PFU.

Harwich Hospital

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the reasons for the delay in providing the expected range of NHS medical services at the new Harwich hospital; and when the full range of services will be available. [140760]

Andy Burnham: I am advised by North Essex primary care trust that there has been a delay in making available the full range of services planned at Harwich hospital and that this issue is being addressed.

Health Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the Specialised Services National Definitions are planned to be updated; [141235]

(2) whether changes to the Specialised Services National Definitions set are to be subject to public consultation; and if she will take steps to ensure that patient representative groups are consulted on the changes. [141236]

Andy Burnham: A project has started to review the Specialised Services National Definitions Set, under the auspices of the newly constituted national specialised commissioning group hosted by NHS London. The initial phase of the project will cover those eight service areas which, under Payment by Results, attract a national tariff specialist top-up. As part of consultation, draft versions of the updated definitions will be circulated for comment to the wider stakeholder community, including patients' groups.

Health Services: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her policy is on the closure of *(a)* hospital beds and *(b)* other services by primary care trusts on health and safety grounds. [122647]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for local national health service organisations. However, the Department has issued guidance under section 10.1.6 of the Overview and Scrutiny of Health Guidance, published in July 2003, which states that NHS organisations can temporarily stop services without consultation, if they believe there is a risk to the safety and welfare of patients.

Hospitals: Transport

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of changes to charges on *(a)* the use of and *(b)* the willingness of volunteers to operate hospital transport services. [142540]

Andy Burnham: Non-emergency patient transport services should be provided, free of charge, to patients who have a medical need for transport. The local national health service may provide other transport services, and may charge for the provision of those services. However, decisions on provision, and on charges, are a local matter.

The hospital travel costs scheme, operating under the NHS low income scheme, provides financial assistance to NHS patients who do not have a medical need for ambulance transport, but who require assistance in meeting the cost of travel to and from their care.

No assessment has been made by the Department of the use of voluntary drivers. Any assessment of the impact of any change to the operation of voluntary car schemes would be for the local NHS to make.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the take-up of the Hospital Travel Cost scheme in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* Devon. [142541]

Andy Burnham: The Department gathers information on the number of postal claims only, made in England under the Hospital Travel Costs scheme, as detailed in the following table.

	Hospital fares—annual number of refunds authorised
2004-05	17,652
2005-06	18,138
2006-07	13,018

This information is not available by region.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average hospital waiting times were in *(a)* Taunton Deane primary care trust area, *(b)* Somerset and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years, broken down by specialty function. [141501]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The figures are shown in the following tables.

Table 1: Commissioner based median in-patient waiting times for the Somerset area

As at March each year

Organisation	*Median waiting time (weeks) at month end*										
	Somerset health authority						*Taunton Deane PCT*				*Somerset PCT*
Specialty	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All specialties	12.5	13.6	12.6	13.9	13.5	15.6	10.6	10.1	7.8	6.0	5.1
General surgery	12.3	14.6	11.5	12.9	12.1	14.4	8.7	8.4	8.0	7.6	4.5
Urology	9.4	9.1	8.1	8.5	9.1	9.6	7.5	7.7	4.5	3.5	3.2
Trauma and Orthopaedics	14.2	16.3	15.8	18.2	19.0	19.3	13.7	12.7	9.6	6.9	6.4
ENT	11.9	13.9	15.9	20.8	17.9	20.3	8.0	8.7	6.6	4.9	4.8
Ophthalmology	18.2	20.9	19.1	15.0	12.5	15.6	10.9	9.4	7.4	4.8	3.8
Oral surgery	10.2	9.5	7.6	8.2	9.5	9.7	9.2	8.7	7.9	3.7	5.2
Neurosurgery	n/a	10.3	n/a	22.6	17.8	17.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Plastic surgery	14.7	16.2	16.4	19.6	18.6	18.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.8
Cardiothoracic surgery	17.3	14.3	14.1	15.8	20.2	13.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.0
Anaesthetics	n/a	7.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
General medicine	7.5	8.6	7.9	11.1	12.2	11.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gastroenterology	7.1	7.3	9.6	7.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cardiology	12.0	10.3	9.3	18.2	19.5	22.2	n/a	9.0	5.9	5.0	5.2
Dermatology	n/a	n/a	8.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4.4
Neurology	9.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gynaecology	10.5	10.8	10.0	10.9	10.2	11.0	8.7	9.4	9.6	10.0	6.5

Table 2: Commissioner based median in-patient waiting times, national

As at March each year

National	*Median waiting time (weeks) at month end*										
Specialty	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
All specialties	13.2	14.9	12.9	12.9	12.6	12.7	11.9	10.2	8.5	7.3	6.2
General surgery	13.1	15.2	12.4	12.5	12.1	12.5	11.6	10.1	8.6	7.5	6.0
Urology	11.5	11.7	10.3	10.8	10.8	10.7	10.2	9.1	7.3	6.2	5.1
Trauma and Orthopaedics	17.6	19.4	18.3	18.1	17.6	17.1	15.6	12.5	11.3	9.3	8.2
ENT	14.1	16.4	15.3	13.4	13.2	13.5	12.4	10.7	9.1	7.8	6.6
Ophthalmology	16.1	18.3	15.9	15.5	14.0	14.2	12.6	9.1	5.8	5.5	5.3
Oral surgery	13.6	14.7	12.0	10.7	9.8	9.5	9.8	9.4	8.6	7.7	7.0
Restorative dentistry	11.8	12.9	10.8	10.0	10.5	10.4	8.9	9.5	6.8	5.0	2.6
Paediatric dentistry	10.8	9.8	8.5	10.6	10.2	9.1	10.6	9.3	9.8	8.5	6.2
Orthodontics	14.2	11.6	14.8	17.6	17.7	20.2	11.2	9.2	8.9	6.8	4.0
Neurosurgery	14.7	15.0	13.1	16.6	15.9	16.3	13.0	11.2	10.6	8.6	6.9
Plastic surgery	16.7	17.7	15.1	15.1	14.3	13.7	12.8	10.8	10.1	8.2	6.8
Cardiothoracic surgery	17.6	18.5	19.4	20.7	18.6	16.1	10.9	9.5	6.0	5.6	5.0
Paediatric surgery	12.6	12.5	12.3	12.1	11.5	11.3	10.8	9.4	8.2	6.6	6.1
Accident and emergency	11.8	12.5	12.6	11.3	10.0	10.0	12.3	9.9	9.1	7.7	7.6
Anaesthetics	10.2	10.3	9.7	9.4	10.1	9.4	9.1	8.3	7.8	6.7	6.5
Pain Management	n/a	10.1	9.4	8.7	8.8	9.0	8.9	9.2	6.8	n/a	n/a
General medicine	8.7	8.7	8.0	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.1	8.0	6.0	5.0	3.5
Gastroenterology	7.9	8.6	7.8	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.3	7.8	5.5	4.3	2.8
Endocrinology	10.4	10.3	8.5	8.5	7.9	7.9	7.5	7.1	3.8	3.8	3.6
Haematology (clinical)	7.9	7.6	7.7	7.5	6.9	7.6	6.8	6.7	3.6	3.0	2.2
Clinical Immunology and Allergy	n/a	10.5	n/a	n/a	12.8	14.9	11.1	12.8	22.9	n/a	n/a
Rehabilitation	10.8	10.9	12.4	13.7	10.3	9.3	10.7	7.6	6.8	9.2	6.3

Table 2: Commissioner based median in-patient waiting times, national

As at March each year

National	Median waiting time (weeks) at month end										
Specialty	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Palliative medicine	18.2	16.3	15.0	9.5	15.0	13.0	10.6	10.5	5.9	7.4	7.7
Cardiology	12.5	12.1	11.2	11.6	11.6	10.9	11.0	9.4	7.7	6.1	4.7
Dermatology	9.9	8.7	8.2	8.4	7.6	7.8	8.7	8.2	5.4	4.6	4.7
Thoracic medicine	9.9	9.9	10.0	10.8	9.3	9.7	8.9	7.4	6.8	6.4	4.4
Nephrology	9.8	8.6	9.0	9.5	8.2	8.7	7.9	7.9	4.4	5.9	3.3
Medical oncology	7.9	7.4	7.1	6.7	7.1	42.9	7.0	6.9	2.8	2.7	1.9
Neurology	9.2	9.6	9.1	9.7	9.2	11.1	10.6	8.5	6.7	5.1	4.8
Rheumatology	9.0	8.9	8.7	8.5	9.1	8.5	7.6	7.5	4.6	4.0	3.8
Paediatrics	9.0	8.8	9.0	8.0	9.8	9.2	8.4	7.7	6.3	4.0	4.3
Paediatric neurology	10.3	10.6	8.8	12.2	12.2	12.6	9.2	7.9	7.9	8.1	5.1
Geriatric medicine	7.4	7.6	7.5	7.6	7.2	7.2	7.6	7.4	6.9	4.3	4.4
Dental Medicine Specialties	8.7	8.3	7.5	7.0	7.0	6.9	7.9	7.6	4.6	5.7	n/a
Medical ophthalmology	14.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gynaecology	10.9	11.9	11.0	10.8	10.1	10.2	9.9	9.2	7.8	6.8	5.9
General Practice (non-maternity)	9.0	8.5	7.6	7.3	7.4	7.6	6.9	6.7	6.2	n/a	n/a
Mental handicap	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5.5	n/a
Mental illness	10.9	9.5	8.9	8.4	8.8	8.0	7.1	7.8	5.7	4.1	2.9
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry	9.8	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Clinical oncology	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.8	2.5	2.5	1.5
Radiology	7.8	8.2	9.4	9.0	24.2	18.9	9.9	8.7	5.9	4.0	3.7
Chemical pathology	8.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	6.8	5.3	n/a
Haematology	8.6	8.5	7.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	7.0	n/a	2.5	2.4	1.2
Community medicine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.6	n/a	n/a
Occupational medicine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.2	n/a

Table 3: Commissioner based median in-patient waiting times, PCTs now part of Somerset PCT (excluding Taunton Deane)

As at March each year

	Somerset Coast PCT				Mendip PCT				South Somerset PCT			
Specialty	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003	2004	2005	2006	2003	2004	2005	2006
All specialties	11.4	9.9	7.9	6.3	13.2	11.7	11.2	7.4	9.6	8.8	7.0	6.1
General surgery	10.1	8.1	7.0	5.8	10.6	10.5	11.2	6.3	7.9	7.9	5.4	4.8
Urology	8.1	7.8	4.1	3.8	8.7	9.2	8.3	5.0	7.5	7.6	4.1	3.4
Trauma and Orthopaedics	14.7	12.6	10.3	8.3	17.5	14.6	13.7	7.9	11.7	10.8	9.9	6.7
ENT	9.3	9.5	8.6	6.0	11.3	11.7	12.1	10.2	7.5	7.0	5.9	8.2
Ophthalmology	11.2	8.8	7.1	4.9	14.8	10.9	7.5	6.6	10.1	8.4	6.7	5.3
Oral surgery	8.1	8.3	9.5	6.5	10.7	13.6	12.8	10.5	7.3	7.7	5.6	7.0
Plastic surgery	20.0	13.8	n/a	n/a	16.0	n/a	11.4	n/a	14.0	11.2	14.2	9.0
Cardiothoracic surgery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10.5	n/a	n/a	n/a

Table 3: Commissioner based median in-patient waiting times, PCTs now part of Somerset PCT (excluding Taunton Deane)

As at March each year

	Somerset Coast PCT				Mendip PCT				South Somerset PCT			
Specialty	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cardiology	9.1	8.2	5.6	4.0	19.8	9.4	9.4	7.6	n/a	9.1	7.7	n/a
Gynaecology	11.5	9.3	8.6	8.7	12.7	11.1	13.8	8.9	8.6	8.1	6.2	5.3

Notes:
1. Prior to the financial year 2002-03 commissioners were organised into health authorities, with Somerset being the appropriate authority in this case.
2. In October 2006 Taunton Deane PCT, Somerset Coast PCT, South Somerset PCT and Mendip PCT merged to form Somerset PCT. The question specifically refers to Taunton Deane, however, the others are included for reference.
3. Statistically meaningful medians cannot be calculated for specialties with a total waiting list of less than 50. These cases will be marked n/a.

Source:
Department of Health, QF01

Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust: Admissions

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions were cancelled for a non-clinical reason within seven days of the proposed date of admission by Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last two years, broken down by hospital. [140845]

Andy Burnham: The information is not available as requested. Data is not collected at hospital level. The following data shows the number of operations cancelled at the last minute. Last minute is defined as on the day the patient was due to arrive, after the patient has arrived in hospital or on the day of the operation or surgery itself.

2005-06: there were 825 operations cancelled at the last minute.

2006-07: there were 788 operations cancelled at the last minute.

Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of outpatients in *(a)* the area covered by Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust and *(b)* England waited less than 13 weeks for a hospital appointment in each of the last five years. [140821]

Andy Burnham: The percentage of patients who were seen within 13 weeks, in each of the last five financial years are outlined in the following table.

Percentage of general practitioner referrals for first consultant led out-patient appointment seen within 13 weeks

Financial year	*Hull and East Yorkshire national health service trust*	*National*
2002-03	73.1	77.8
2003-04	72.5	80.3
2004-05	74.2	83.6
2005-06	81.6	91.4
2006-07	90.8	98.1

Source:
Department of Health, QM08

Human Embryo Experiments

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons she proposes that sex selection for non-medical reasons will not be permitted under Clause 18 and Schedule 2 of the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill; and what the evidential basis is for the proposal. [142321]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The Government stated in the White Paper "Review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act: Proposals for revised legislation (including the establishment of the Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryos)", published in December 2006, that it is persuaded that sex selection for non-medical reasons within treatment services should be prohibited[1].

Such a provision, as envisaged by clause 18 and schedule 2 of the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill would, in effect, put existing restrictions applicable to non-medical sex selection onto a statutory footing. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority's (HFEA) code of practice makes clear that licensed centres should not, for social reasons, (a) select embryos of a particular sex, or (b) separate sperm samples, or use sperm samples which have been separated, for the purpose of sex selection[2].

Allowing sex selection for non-medical reasons found very little support in responses to the Department of Health's consultation on the review of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, which ran from 16 August to 25 November 2005.

The Government also took into consideration the recommendations resulting from the HFEA's extensive review of sex selection and options for regulation conducted in 2002-03, which revealed widespread public opposition to non-medical sex selection.

As stated in the White Paper, the Government's position reflects, in part, the strength of public opinion on this matter and also takes account of the possible effects—including internationally—on cultures where there are marked preferences for male children.

Permitting sex selection for family-balancing reasons would also run the risk of opening the door to sex selection for other non-medical reasons.

[1] Cm 6989, section 2.47.

[2] Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, code of practice, 7th edition, section G.8.7.

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many knife wound injuries were treated in hospitals in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [140634]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows

the number of finished admission episodes with a cause code for contact with a knife, sword or dagger for acute trusts in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997-98 to 2005-06.

	Suffolk	*Bedfordshire*	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*
2005-06	21	15	86	363	267	78
2004-05	36	8	90	366	246	87
2003-04	28	[1]	106	334	258	83
2002-03	30	[1]	93	325	252	93
2001-02	30	7	87	320	234	70
2000-01	41	6	83	292	219	94
1999-2000	30	[1]	75	313	191	85
1998-99	33	8	68	255	155	81
1997-98	23	7	87	262	176	83

[1] Due to reasons of confidentiality, low numbers (figures between one and five) have been suppressed.

Notes:

1. Finished admission episodes: A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Cause code: The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
3. Data quality: Hospital episode statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
4. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
5. Ungrossed data: Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Mentally Ill: Community Care

Mr. Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the merits of bringing forward amendments to the Mental Health Bill to enable a patient issued with a community treatment order to appeal against restrictions imposed by that order. [135493]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The amendments to which my hon. Friend refers were debated at the tenth sitting of the Public Bill Committee on the Mental Health Bill on the 10 May 2007, when I set out the Government's views on this matter. The Government have also replied fully to the Joint Committee on Human Rights on this point.

As I outlined in Committee, given the nature of the conditions and the involvement of patients in setting the conditions for supervised community treatment, the Government do not believe that a third party appeals process would be appropriate.

NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff funded by the public purse in the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency are classified as people without posts. [141643]

Andy Burnham: There are three staff in the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency who are classified as people without posts. All three are returning from long-term secondments and in formal redeployment.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been to date of the negotiation, tendering and legal requirements for Wave 2 independent sector treatment centres. [138421]

Andy Burnham: The Phase 2 independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme was first announced in October 2004. The total cost of the procurement at the end of March 2007 was approximately £72 million. This figure includes all assessment, scoping, procurement and associated management, professional advisory and support costs.

It is expected that the procurement costs as a percentage of the total investment in Phase 2 will be low and will compare favourably with other Government procurement programmes.

NHS: Drugs

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 606W, on NHS: drugs, (1) what assessment she has made of the role of *(a)* general practitioners and *(b)* pharmacists in over-prescribing medicines; [138868]

(2) what steps are being taken to reduce the amount of unused medicines; [138869]

(3) what guidance her Department has issued to general practitioners on over-prescribing of medicines; [138871]

(4) what assessment she has made of the role of pharmaceutical companies in the over-prescribing of medicines; [138872]

(5) what assessment she has made of the responsibility of patients in the over-prescribing of medicines. [139027]

Caroline Flint: The Department is concerned about the amount of unused medicines and supports a range of initiatives to help patients get the most from their medicines, while at the same time minimising the amount of unwanted medicines returned to pharmacies.

The new contractual framework for community pharmacy includes repeat dispensing as an essential service, which means that all community pharmacies in England must be in a position to dispense a repeatable prescription if presented with one. This service together with medicines use reviews, an advanced service provided by accredited pharmacists in premises that have been accredited, should both help to reduce the amount of medicines wasted.

The National Audit Office in their recently published report "Prescribing costs in primary care" focused on the potential savings that could be achieved by reducing the amount of medicines wasted. It has recommended that the Department conduct some research to estimate the scale of medicines wastage, and provide better information on why patients do not take their medicines. This is a complex area and we intend to commission research to establish the extent of medicines waste and the complex and varied reasons for it. This may include the part played by patients and the pharmaceutical industry. We have not issued any guidance on over-prescribing.

NHS: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what surpluses or deficits were generated by NHS services in each strategic health authority area in 2006-07. [141743]

Andy Burnham: The NHS financial performance report for quarter four of 2006-07 was published on 6 June. Copies are available in the Library.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of Sir Ian Carruthers' report on limiting the damaging effects of organisational change. [141981]

Andy Burnham: Sir Ian was asked by the chief executive of the national health service (David Nicholson), to conduct a review of how the NHS managed reconfigurations. Far from damaging effects, it was clear that when managed and delivered well, reconfigurations have a positive effect on patient care. A copy of the report, setting out his findings, has now been placed in the Library.

NHS: Welsh Language

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much English NHS trusts spent on Welsh translation services in each of the last five years. [135034]

Andy Burnham: There is currently no mechanism for recording this information centrally within the Department and to attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Spearhead funding has been allocated to *(a)* Oldham primary care trust and *(b)* Tameside and Glossop primary care trust; if she will provide a breakdown of how such funding has been spent; and what assessment she has made of the effect of such funding on health inequalities in the areas served by the primary care trusts. [140652]

Caroline Flint: There is no funding stream that exclusively supports the Spearhead initiative.

However, the 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) separately identify £211 million in 2006-07 and £342 million in 2007-08, around half of the £1 billion promised, to support implementation of the "Choosing Health" White Paper initiatives. The funding has been targeted on the most deprived areas, including PCTs in spearhead areas.

The following table shows the White Paper funding separately identified in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations for Oldham PCT and Tameside and Glossop PCT.

£000

	Separately identified White Paper funding		
Organisation name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total 2006-08*
Oldham PCT	1,618	1,949	3,567
Tameside and Glossop PCT	1,598	1,925	3,523

The White Paper funding is not ring-fenced within the PCT revenue allocations, as it is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Revenue allocations are made on the basis of a weighted-capitation formula. The aim of the formula is to provide equal access to services for equal need, and to reduce health inequalities.

The following table sets out the 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to Oldham PCT and Tameside and Glossop PCT.

	Allocation (£ million)		*Two year increase*	
Organisation name	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£ million*	*Percentage*
Oldham PCT	304.1	332.6	54.7	19.7
Tameside and Glossop PCT	308.6	337.3	55.3	19.6

No assessment has been made on the impact of local expenditure on health inequalities outcomes.

Revascularisation

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2219W, on revascularisation, if she will publish the results of the cardiac stock-take which reviewed capacity in different parts of London and the South-East. [139242]

Ms Rosie Winterton: 10 strategic health authorities across London and the south east conducted a stock-take of capacity for that area in 2005-06. This work was supported by the Department's vascular programme. The results from the stock-take were made available to all of the participating authorities in March 2006. It is now a year since the work was completed and there are no plans for formal publication. A compact disc providing details of the stock-take, the final report and supporting mapping and data analysis is available to interested bodies within the national health service.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cemeteries: Inspections

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the latest guidelines are for cemetery memorial inspections; and when they were last issued. [140521]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* There are a number of industry produced guidelines available the latest of which is the British Standard 8415, 'Specifications for monuments within burial grounds', published in 2005.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the minimum technical specifications are for a gravestone topple tester; and what the qualifications are for the *(a)* operative and *(b)* data recorder. [140520]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) does not consider the risk posed by toppling gravestones to be a priority as compared with other workplace risks. Therefore, HSE has not produced any guidelines on the minimum technical specifications for topple testers. However, the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 require that a risk assessment is undertaken by a competent person to identify any measures needed to control the risks caused by a workplace hazard. In undertaking an assessment of the stability of gravestones the competent person will need to apply an appropriate test.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many registered inspectors of gravestones and memorials there are in each of the English regions. [140523]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive are not aware of any national scheme specifically for the registration of inspectors of gravestones and memorials.

Child Support Agency: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at the Child Support Agency in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost was of those bonuses in each year. [132830]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the right hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures, dated 13 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive. As he is out of the country, I am responding, with his authority, on his behalf.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many bonuses were awarded to Senior Civil Servants working at the Child Support Agency in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost was of those bonuses in each year [132830].

The table below contains the number and total of bonus payments awarded to senior civil servants in the Agency since 2001-02. The Agency offers bonuses to Senior Civil Servants as part of performance related pay deals, based on year long performance measures. Bonuses are also offered to Senior Civil Servants in recognition of considerable additional work. There is no statutory requirement to keep accounting records longer than 6 years. I am therefore unable to supply information prior to 2001/02 financial year.

	Number of bonuses awarded	£ *Total bonus payments*
2001-02	4	13,192
2002-03	7	47,000
2003-04	7	38,120
2004-05	10	38,550
2005-06	11	83,024

The increase in the size of average bonuses in 2005-06 compared with 2004-05 reflects the substantially improved performance of the Agency over that period. In particular, comparing 2005-06 with 2004-05:

55,000 more children were in receipt of maintenance;

There were 28,000 fewer uncleared cases;

Over 20,000 more of the poorest parents with care were receiving the Child Maintenance Premium, with payments up by £670,000 every month;

Accuracy increased from 75% to 81% on the scheme, and from 78% to 84% on the old scheme; and

Client Service in the Agency improved substantially with 91% of calls to the Agency answered, up from 84%, and a 40% reduction in the average time taken to answer calls.

These performance improvements laid a solid foundation for the launch of the Operational Improvement Plan in April 2006, and were a vital component of the improved, and improving, service offered by the Agency today.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency claimants in Bassetlaw are awaiting their first payment of maintenance. [139657]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency Claimants in Bassetlaw are awaiting their first payment of maintenance.

At the end of March 2007, there were 280 cases on the new computer system in Bassetlaw, which had a positive liability and the Parent/Person with care was awaiting the first payment. This figure does not include maintenance direct cases.

There are an additional 290 applications that are currently being processed. It is not possible to say at present how many of these will result in a positive liability to pay maintenance.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of child maintenance payments collected by the Child Support Agency was made up of deductions from earnings orders in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [138696]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Jos Joures, dated 13 June 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what percentage of child maintenance payments collected by the Child Support Agency was made up through deductions from earnings orders in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07.

Of the cases with a positive maintenance outcome in the quarter ending March 2006, 25% had Deduction from Earnings Orders/Requests as the method of collection at the end of the period. At the end of March 2007, the equivalent figure was 23%.

A monthly breakdown from April 2005 onwards is presented in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Deduction from earnings orders/requests as a percentage of cases with a positive maintenance outcome

Quarter ending	*Cases with positive maintenance outcome*	*Percentage of which were deduction from earnings orders/requests at end of quarter*
April 2005	387,700	25
May 2005	390,400	25
June 2005	393,400	25
July 2005	396,900	25
August 2005	399,800	25
September 2005	402,000	25
October 2005	405,400	25
November 2005	409,700	25
December 2005	413,200	25
January 2006	416,200	25
February 2006	419,800	25
March 2006	428,900	25
April 2006	434,400	24
May 2006	439,900	24
June 2006	444,000	24
July 2006	450,900	24
August 2006	453,700	24

Deduction from earnings orders/requests as a percentage of cases with a positive maintenance outcome

Quarter ending	*Cases with positive maintenance outcome*	*Percentage of which were deduction from earnings orders/requests at end of quarter*
September 2006	455,000	24
October 2006	455,900	24
November 2006	457,800	24
December 2006	457,400	23
January 2007	455,000	24
February 2007	458,400	24
March 2007	466,200	23

Notes:

1. Cases are counted as having a positive maintenance outcome if the Agency has received a payment via the collection service during the quarter or have a maintenance direct agreement in place, since we assume that non resident parents in maintenance direct cases are making payments. Cases are classed as maintenance direct if this is their status at the end of the quarter.
2. The table includes deduction from earnings orders (DEOs) and deduction from earnings request (DERs). DERs are the equivalent method of collection when the non-resident parent is a member of the Armed Forces. The method of collection is classed as being a Deduction from Earnings Order/Request if this is the preferred method of collection at the end of the month.
3. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred and percentages to the nearest whole percent.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency is able to initiate enforcement action to collect arrears in a case when there is a change of circumstances review taking place on the current liability. [140879]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 13 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Child Support Agency is able to initiate enforcement action to collect arrears in a case when there is a change of circumstances review taking place on the current liability. [140879]

The Child Support Agency is able to initiate enforcement action to collect arrears in a case where there is a change of circumstances review taking place on the current liability.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Poverty

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of *(a)* ethnic minority children and *(b)* non-ethnic minority children are estimated to live below the poverty line. [124514]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is available in the Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (revised), table 4.5 on page 46. This is available in the House of Commons Library.

Crisis Loans

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the timescale is for dealing with applications for crisis loans; [139503]

(2) how many people have been waiting for over two weeks for a decision following their application for a crisis loan; [139504]

(3) how many applications for a crisis loan remained to be dealt with as at 24 May 2007; and what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average time taken to deal with an application for a crisis loan was in each of the last five years. [139505]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, 13 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions a bout the time taken to process applications for crisis loans. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The clearance time for an individual crisis loan is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer, plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual application is one day, even if the application is cleared immediately.

The clearance time for an individual crisis loan is two days, but applications for living expenses must be dealt with on the same day as the application is made.

For 2006-067, 9,400 crisis loan applications in Great Britain took longer than two weeks to clear, representing 0.7 per cent. of all crisis loan applications cleared.

As of 30 April, there are 9,700 applications waiting for a decision. I am unable to provide a figure for the number of outstanding applications on 24 may 2007, as this data is counted as a snapshot figure at the end of each month.

Information on the longest time taken to deal with a crisis loan application is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost,

The average actual clearance times (ACCT) for crisis loan applications in each of the last five years can be found in the following table.

National crisis loan AACT in days

	Number
2002-03	1.2
2003-04	1.3
2004-05	1.3
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	1.5

Source: DWP social fund policy, budget and management information system.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139462]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table.

In April 1998, in a private finance initiative agreement, the Department for Social Security disposed of its property and assigned its leases to Trillium (now Land Securities Trillium) and commenced payment to Trillium of a monthly facility price for its occupation of the property and for facilities management services, such as maintenance and security. The costs shown include this facility price, together with utilities standing charges and business rates.

In December 2003, the PFI agreement was extended to incorporate former Employment Service properties. The costs shown also include equivalent Employment Service property costs prior to December 2003.

The costs shown include payments for other Government Departments.

£ million

	Department	*Agencies*
2002-03	106.8	421.2
2003-04	114.1	460.5
2004-05	99.2	510.4
2005-06	113.6	549.1
2006-07	123.8	513.5

Costs for the Health and Safety Executive and the Rent Service are excluded, as the Commercial and Estates Directorate does not hold this information. The Appeals Service is also excluded after April 2006, when, as the Tribunal Service, it became part of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139451]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns to increase awareness of people's rights and responsibilities or changes to legislation. PR agencies are taken on where messages are most effectively promoted by supplementing 'paid-for' advertising (press/TV/radio) with public relations activity.

The following table detail spend on PR campaigns run by the Department in each of the last five financial years:

Financial year	*Spend (£000)*
2006-07	1,061
2005-06	1,206
2004-05	1,435
2003-04	1,412
2002-03	689

Executive Agencies

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which of the executive agencies of his Department have regional offices outside London. [116734]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has five executive agencies, as follows:

Child Support Agency;

Disability and Carers Service;

Jobcentre Plus;

The Pension Service;

The Rent Service.

The Department's estate consists of approximately 1,250 buildings, the majority of which are occupied wholly or in part by executive agencies. All of the Department's executive agencies have offices outside London.

Housing Benefit: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 25 years or under claimed housing benefit in each year for which figures are available since 1997. [140594]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit (HB) recipients by age: Great Britain, May 1997 to May 2004

	Aged 25 and under
May 1997	467,000
May 1998	396,000
May 1999	374,000
May 2000	326,000
May 2001	302,000
May 2002	291,000
May 2003	294,000
May 2004	325,000

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.
2. Figures are based on a 1 per cent. sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
3. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Housing benefit figures exclude extended payment cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 1997 to May 2004.

Incapacity Benefit: Medical Examinations

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish the results of the second round of testing of the revised personal capability assessment. [141191]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The technical working group carrying out the review of the personal capability assessment carried out an early and limited evaluation, which was published in February 2007. The full and extensive evaluation of the second round of testing is currently under way and we expect to publish the results this summer when analysis is completed.

Industrial Accidents: Construction

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of whether the target of reducing fatalities in the construction industry by June 2010 to half of their 1990 levels will be met. [139746]

Mrs. McGuire: These targets do not relate to 1990 levels. They were set by the industry (not the Health and Safety Executive) at the 2001 Construction Summit to provide challenging targets for a reduction in accidents and ill-health by 2010.

Both behavioural and statistical progress is reported to my Department by the Strategic Forum for Construction Health and Safety Task Group approximately every 18 months. I am expecting the 5th report from the forum soon.

The 4th report showed that there have been encouraging developments in areas such as work force competence and that the industry is exceeding the Government's health and safety targets set in 2000 for all industries. However, the industry is failing to meet the target it set itself in 2001 for a reduction in fatal injuries and is not currently on track to meet its target for 2010.

Jobseekers Allowance: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex were registered for jobseeker's allowance in each year since 1997. [141886]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in Eastbourne local authority (LA) and East Sussex: April 1997 to April 2007, as at April each year

	Eastbourne LA	*East Sussex*
1997	1,997	9,877
1998	1,536	7,855
1999	1,698	7,557
2000	1,345	6,194
2001	1,136	5,267
2002	1,256	5,426
2003	1,283	5,469
2004	1,278	5,379
2005	1,347	5,250
2006	1,540	6,102
2007	1,478	5,629

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Figures include clerically held cases.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems.

LinkAge Plus Centres

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on LinkAge Plus centres, how much of the LinkAge Plus budget has been spent to date. [140418]

James Purnell: £1,581,517 has been paid by DWP to local authorities in respect of invoices received relating to the period up to 30 April 2007.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on LinkAge Plus centres, how many elderly people the eight LinkAge Plus pilots are expected to assist. [140438]

James Purnell: LinkAge plus is testing out new and innovative methods of providing information and access to services to over 50's. It aims to join up services to existing clients and increase take-up through outreach work with isolated individuals. The evaluation will show the numbers as well as the range of people accessing services and in what ways as well as providing information on the cost effectiveness of LinkAge Plus. A report is due by March 2009.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on LinkAge Plus Centres, when the eight LinkAge Plus pilots will be completed. [140444]

James Purnell: The current LinkAge Plus pilots will end their funded activity by October 2008.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on LinkAge Plus centres, which areas his Department has identified for future LinkAge Plus centres. [140442]

James Purnell: The current LinkAge Plus pilots will end their funded activity by October 2008. The evaluation of the pilots will inform any subsequent developments. In the meantime emerging lessons will be shared widely with local authorities and other service providers in other areas of the country.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1281W, on LinkAge Plus Centres, what evaluation of the eight LinkAge Plus pilots will be undertaken. [140443]

James Purnell: Warwick Business School have been commissioned to undertake an over-arching national evaluation of the LinkAge Plus pilots. The project brief is:

To build a robust evidence base to support the case for joined up services in terms of delivering better outcomes for older people;

To build an evidence base that supports the economic, as well as social, case for fully joined up/holistic services for older people;

To test the limits of holistic working and;

To build a body of good practice and lessons learned for other partnerships and communities so as to encourage wider application of the approach, beyond pilot sites.

In addition local evaluators have been appointed by each pilot to test the success of the projects in local terms. Their evidence will contribute to the national evaluation. A series of thematic reports are proposed during the life of the projects with a final summary report scheduled for publication by March 2009.

New Deal for Partners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of partners who would be eligible for the New Deal for Partners *(a)* were claiming jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* had been claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than five years in each month since 1997. [141114]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 June 2007]*: The information requested is not available.

Pension Credit: Telephone Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Pension Credit application forms were requested *(a)* on the Pensions Credit application form telephone number 0845 6060 265 and *(b)* in total in each month since the service has been offered. [138036]

James Purnell: The information requested is as follows:

(a) A total of 2,342,669 pension credit application forms have been requested from the pension credit application line, telephone number 0800 99 1234.

(b) The information is in the following table.

Pension credit application forms requested from the pension credit application line

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
January	—	162,725	25,697	34,479	17,036
February	—	148,762	46,178	24,125	12,942
March	—	160,544	40,024	31,607	13,346
April	6,530	107,936	21,843	17,914	—
May	11,204	76,982	18,294	28,624	—
June	27,905	82,457	21,922	18,829	—
July	64,980	46,709	27,713	23,097	—
August	84,844	28,501	31,609	25,193	—
September	126,398	37,507	32,387	20,610	—
October	218,859	23,237	33,791	20,965	—
November	115,162	20,569	56,131	21,518	—
December	74,157	21,107	19,557	10,463	—

Source: Telephony centres operational reports from 2003 to date.

Remploy: Closures

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account was taken of the *(a)* general condition and shape of, *(b)* level of worklessness in, *(c)* strength of manufacturing in and *(d)* development of the service sectors of a local economy when deciding to close a Remploy factory. [139198]

Mrs. McGuire: No decisions have been made to close any factories. The Remploy board are consulting on their proposals following which they will finalise their plan and submit it to the Government later in the year for consideration.

The Remploy board's proposals signal the next phase in the development of a five-year modernisation plan—a formal consultation with their trade unions and employees and a disability impact assessment as part of Remploy's Disability Equality Duty obligations.

In drawing up the closure proposals, Remploy took into account the market for the product made at their factories, their likely ability to achieve acceptable losses per disabled employee in the future, the percentage of its cost which is covered by income from its customers and the local employment market. The proximity to another factory which was not closing was also considered.

The Government encourage participation in the Remploy board's consultation process by contacting

Bob Warner chief executive of Remploy on Tel: 02476 515810 or by writing to him at Remploy, Stonecourt, Siskin Drive, Coventry, CV3 4FJ.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* found guilty of benefit fraud in each of the last 10 years in (i) each police force area and (ii) North West Cambridgeshire; [142722]

(2) how much was lost through benefit fraud in each of the last five years in *(a)* each police force area and *(b)* North West Cambridgeshire; and how much of that money has subsequently been recovered. [142723]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available broken down by police force areas or constituencies.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will reach the age of 65 between 2024 and 2054 and die before becoming eligible to receive their state pension. [141549]

James Purnell: Although a small proportion of people who survive to 65 will die before reaching the new state pension age as proposed under the pension reforms, the proportion of those surviving to the new state pension age is still projected to be higher than the proportion who survive to state pension age now. Those retiring at current state pension age of 65 for men and 60 for women are estimated to constitute about 82 per cent. of their generation, but those retiring at 68 in 2055 are expected to be more than 88 per cent. of their generation.

Over the 30 year period between the financial years 2024-25 and 2054-55, a total of 24,463,000 people are projected to reach age 65 in the UK. Of these, about 1.6 per cent. of the total (about 238,000 males and 163,000 females) would subsequently die before reaching the new state pension age.

Written Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 111231, *(b)* 111229, *(c)* 111227, *(d)* 111293, *(e)* 111228, *(f)* 111232, *(g)* 111226 and *(h)* 111233, on funding for the new deal programmes, tabled by the hon. Member for Fareham on 22 January 2007. [126115]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The hon. Member's questions have all been replied to.

TREASURY

Departments: Libraries

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many items there are in HM Treasury's library; what the cost of purchasing stock for the library was in each year since 1997; and how many staff were employed to work in the library in each year. [141269]

John Healey: HM Treasury, the Cabinet Office and their departmental agencies have had a shared library service since 1946. There are 15,472 items catalogued, including books, pamphlets, specialist periodicals and reports. Expenditure on purchasing stock since 2003-04 is:

	£
2003-04	186,070
2004-05	161,582
2005-06	117,562
2006-07	148,030

Due to changes to the Treasury's accounting system, costs prior to 2003-04 could be identified only at disproportionate cost. Eight staff were employed to work in the library in 2006-07. Figures for individual previous years could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Department of Health's *(a)* expected and *(b)* actual non-cash spending was in 2005-06. [131950]

Mr. Timms: Provisional non-cash spending estimates are published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA). Updated non-cash outturn for 2005-06 was published in PESA 2007.

Equity

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what regulatory assessment the Financial Services Authority has made of Home Reversion Plans; and if he will make a statement. [142336]

Ed Balls: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) published its assessment of the home reversion market in its consultation paper, "Regulation of Home Reversion and Home Purchase Plans" (April 2006), which is available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Library/Policy/CP/2006/06_08.shtml

In October 2006, the FSA announced the results of its consultation in its Policy Statement, which is available at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Library/Policy/policy/2006/06_12.shtml

Financial Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress his Department has made in promoting wider access to financial advice in the workplace following the launch of its consultation Extending Employers' Freedoms in the 2006 Budget. [141367]

Ed Balls: Respondents to consultation on Extending Employers' Freedoms, suggested further changes to the financial promotion regime. We expect to consult on these proposals shortly. Following that we will make the necessary changes to the Financial Promotion Order.

Earlier this year the Government published their long-term approach to financial capability. Our long-term aspiration is to ensure that all adults can have access to high-quality generic financial advice to help them to engage with their financial affairs. The study will report to HMT ministers at the end of this year.

Leasehold

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans there are to bring lifetime leases under the regulation of the Financial Services Authority; and if he will make a statement. [142175]

Ed Balls: There are no plans to bring lifetime leases within the scope of FSA regulation.

The regulatory treatment of lifetime leases was addressed in the Government's response to the March 2006 consultation document, "Secondary legislation for the regulation of home reversion and home purchase plans". The Government response to that consultation is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk./media/880/39/responses_homereversion_130906.pdf

National Insurance Contributions: Landlords

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of what the likely level of revenue would be if all non-corporate landlords were liable for class 4 national insurance contributions. [141944]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* Introducing a class 4 charge on rental income of non-corporate landlords would result in an estimated yield of around £175 million for 2007-08 in class 4 national insurance contributions. This figure is based on projections of the Survey of Personal Incomes for 2004-05 and excludes rents received under the rent-a-room scheme. The estimate does not allow for any behavioural effects.

Population: Newcastle Upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the mid-year estimates of population were for the city of Newcastle upon Tyne in each of the last five years; what the projection is for each of the next three years; and what estimate he has made of the impact of international migration on population change in the city. [141739]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 13 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question concerning the population of the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in each of the last five years, what the projection is for each of the next three years and the impact of international migration in the population change in the city. I am replying in her absence. (141739)

The mid-2001 to mid-2005 population estimates are shown in Table 1 with the Total International Migration component for the corresponding years. Estimates for mid-2006 will be published on 22 August 2007. The Total International Migration figures shown are produced for the express purpose of calculating the mid-year estimates.

Table 2 shows the projected population from 2006 to 2010 for Newcastle-upon-Tyne with the Total International Migration assumption for each year. These figures are taken from the 2004-based subnational population projections published by ONS in October 2006 and are the most recent projections available. Please note that they are not therefore directly comparable with the 2005 mid year estimate in Table 1.

ONS is making improvements this year to the methods used for distributing international migrants to local areas as part of its "Improving Migration and Population Statistics" work programme. Thus the figures quoted, both estimates and projections, will be subject to change in August and September 2007 respectively.

Table 1: Mid-2001 to mid-2005 population estimates and components of change for Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Mid-year to mid-year	Population at start of period	Total annual change	Total net international migration component of population change	Other changes	Population at end of period
2001-02	266,000	0	1,000	-2,000	266,000
2002-03	266,000	1,000	2,000	-1,000	267,000
2003-04	267,000	3,000	4,000	-1,000	269,000
2004-05	269,000	7,000	8,000	-1,000	276,000

Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 1,000 and thus may not add due to rounding.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Table 2: Mid-2006 to mid-2010 subnational population projections for Newcastle-upon-Tyne (2004 based)

Mid-year to mid-year	Projected population at start of period	Total annual change	Total net international migration assumption	Other changes	Projected population at end of period
2005-06	272,000	1,000	4,000	-2,000	273,000
2006-07	273,000	1,000	3,000	-2,000	274,000
2007-08	274,000	1,000	3,000	-2,000	275,000
2008-09	275,000	1,000	3,000	-2,000	276,000
2009-10	276,000	1,000	3,000	-2,000	277,000

Note:
Data are rounded to the nearest 1,000 and thus may not add due to rounding.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the decision-making process is for the allocation of private finance initiative credits to each department. [141368]

John Healey: HM Treasury allocates PFI credits as part of the comprehensive spending review (CSR). An envelope for the overall level of PFI credits in the CSR period was set at a fiscally affordable level in Budget 2007 at £3.63 billion for each of the three years. PFI credits are allocated between Departments based on HM Treasury's assessment of:

the bids submitted by Departments in the CSR;

the value for money that PFI will provide in each sector—assessed using HM Treasury's value for money assessment framework; and

the relative level of priority the investment programmes represent.

The level of DfES credits have already been agreed and the remaining departmental allocations will be announced by the autumn.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the funding allocation was of private finance initiative credits to each Department in each year since 1997. [141369]

John Healey: The allocation of PFI credits across Departments since 1997 has been as follows:

£ million

Sponsoring Department	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
DfES	50	130	350	350	450	853	850	1,050	1,220	1,270	1,320
DH	7	30	30	30	40	52	40	65	70	95	115
HO	59	75	100	20	65	96	75	100	110	110	120
DCMS	—	—	—	27	36	38	30	55	65	65	65
DEFRA	47	57	86	34	96	70	100	125	130	255	280
DCLG Housing	—	4	2	3	160	312	356	325	360	610	610
DfT	—	8	291	—	151	145	360	425	560	620	1,180
DCLG Fire	—	5	—	81	35	29	50	55	50	65	75
DCLG Other	11	57	26	25	56	50	24	69	65	65	65
Total	*173*	*366*	*883*	*569*	*1,088*	*1,646*	*1,885*	*2,269*	*2,630*	*3,155*	*3,830*

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) by which date he expects each policy review being undertaken as part of his Comprehensive Spending Review to be completed; [141295]

(2) which of his Comprehensive Spending Review policy reviews have reported; [141296]

(3) how many staff have been working as part of his Department's Comprehensive Spending Review on the reviews of *(a)* counter-terrorism and security, *(b)* mental health and employment outcomes, *(c)* sub-national economic development and regeneration, *(d)* supporting housing growth and *(e)* future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration, broken down by payband. [141386]

Mr. Timms: As set out in Budget 2006, PBR 2006 and Budget 2007 a number of cross-cutting reviews will inform the decisions to be made in the CSR. A number of these have already reported:

Eddington Transport Study—published December 2006

Leitch Review of Skills—published December 2006

Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change—published October 2006

Barker Review of Land Use Planning—published December 2006

Lyons Review of Local government—published March 2007

Energy Review: meeting the energy challenge—published May 2007

Children and Young People's Review

Aiming high for children: supporting families (both prevention and families in a cycle of low achievement)—March 2007

Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families—May 2007

Review of positive activities for young people—still to report.

No specific date has been set yet for the outstanding reviews to be published.

The cross-cutting reviews, listed are being worked on by officials across government. Within HMT a wide range of staff across teams are contributing to and working as part of these reviews—whether full-time, part-time or as an aspect of their team's work. Each review is also guided by senior input and direction from team leaders, Directors, Managing Directors and Ministers.

Redundancy Pay: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1360W to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on Redundancy Pay: Ministerial Policy Advisors, and the written statement by the Prime Minister of 26 July 2006, what calculation he has made of his Department's contribution to the figure for severance pay. [141477]

John Healey: I have nothing further to add to my answer of 23 May.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many pre-surplus staff there were at HM Revenue and Customs at the end of each quarter since 1 April 2005; and what the average length of service was for pre-surplus workers in the most recent quarter for which figures are available. [141171]

John Healey: The numbers of pre-surplus staff have been recorded since July 2005. The following table sets out the number of pre-surplus staff at the end of each quarter.

	Number
December 2005	1,409
March 2006	923
June 2006	1,101
September 2006	1,642
December 2006	1,736
March 2007	1,853

We do not record the average length of service for pre-surplus staff and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

A range of measures are available for pre-surplus HMRC staff including early retirement schemes, redeployment support and training, priority access for staff to vacancies and incentives to re-train for other public sector posts.

Tax Allowances: Pensions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the total cost to the Exchequer was of providing the tax relief for workplace pensions advice during *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [141365]

(2) what cost benefit analysis was undertaken prior to introducing the workplace advice tax credit; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the measure in promoting access to financial advice in the workplace; [141366]

(3) many firms have been in receipt of the additional tax relief given to employers offering workplace pensions advice since the measure was introduced as part of the Pensions Act 2004. [141903]

Ed Balls: Encouraging employers to provide workplace pensions information and advice to their employees was part of the Government's informed choice programme. The proposals on the informed choices strategy can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2004/inf-choice/

and the DWPs subsequent evaluation of the effectiveness of different methods of providing pension information in the workplace can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/summ2005-2006/294summ.pdf.

The limited tax exemption introduced on 14 December 2004 ensured that, as long as the qualifying conditions were met, the provision of such information and advice would not give rise to a tax charge on employees. There are no records of the cost of this exemption as employers are not obliged to report them separately to HMRC as long as they meet the qualifying conditions.

Firms do not get additional tax relief for providing this workplace pension advice where the qualifying conditions are met but can include the cost in their accounts under employee costs as a deductible expense.

Tax Avoidance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax shelter or mitigation schemes were notified to him in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of these have been deemed not to be acceptable by HM Revenue and Customs. [141170]

John Healey: Details of arrangements notified under the Disclosure of Tax Schemes Regime are published at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/avoidance/avoidance-disclosure-statistics.htm.

Those for the period to 31 March 2007, the latest available, indicate that just over 1,450 direct tax schemes (income tax, corporation tax, capital gains tax and stamp duty land tax) and over 800 VAT schemes have been disclosed. These disclosures have both informed targeted anti-avoidance legislation and allowed HMRC to take swifter and more targeted action to counter deliberate abuse of the tax system. HMRC does not issue rulings as to the acceptability or otherwise of disclosed schemes.

Tax Avoidance: USA

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs *(a)* consult and *(b)* share information with the US Inland Revenue Service on tax shelter or tax mitigation schemes. [141155]

John Healey: Under the terms of the bilateral double taxation convention between the United Kingdom and the United States, the tax authorities of the two states have regular discussions about tax avoidance schemes, exchanging any information that is necessary for the assessment, collection and enforcement of the taxes covered by the convention.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress he has made in introducing caps to the size of repayments following the overpayment of tax credits by HM Revenue and Customs. [138797]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Paymaster General's responses to questions 20 and 21 when she gave oral evidence to the Treasury Sub-Committee on 14 March.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the case for returning to a system of fixed tax credit awards since January 2006; [141496]

(2) what his estimate is of the revenue consequences for the Exchequer of moving to a system of six monthly fixed awards for tax credits; and if he will make a statement. [141497]

Mr. Timms: As the 2005 pre-Budget report stated, the Government continue to listen to the case for a system of fixed awards, but believe on balance that it is preferable to maintain the current system that flexibly responds to changing circumstances.

The Government have made no estimate of the revenue consequences of moving to a system of six monthly fixed awards for tax credits. A system where payments were fixed, based on past information, would mean that families could not benefit from the flexibility to give extra support when they need it most. Statistics published on 22 May 2007 show that between 2004-05

and 2005-06 720,000 families experienced a fall in their income, and benefited from extra support through tax credits.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimates are of tax credits *(a)* overpayments and *(b)* fraud and error for each year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; how much is estimated in each year to be (i) uncollectable and written off, (ii) unlikely to be collected but not yet written off, (iii) collected and (iv) likely to be collected; and if he will make a statement. [141522]

Mr. Timms: Information on the value of overpayments on 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 tax credits awards are shown in the published statistics on finalised awards for those years (supplements on payments). They are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Information on error and fraud in 2003-04 tax credits awards is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/menu.htm

Information on the values of recoveries, remissions and write-offs made up to 5 April 2006, and the provision for doubtful debt, is shown in notes 3.3 and 8.2 of the Trust Statement to the HM Revenue and Customs 2005-06 Accounts. This is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/reports.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Appeals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many written *(a)* appeals and *(b)* complaints there were in relation to tax credits for each (i) month, (ii) quarter and (iii) year from April 2003 to May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [141470]

Mr. Timms: For information about the number of appeals relating to tax credits, up to and including October 2006, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that the Paymaster General gave the hon. Member for Wycombe (Mr. Goodman) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1740W.

Details for the period November 2006 to May 2007 were:

Month	*Number of appeals (around)*
2006	
November	880
December	650
2007	
January	790
February	810
March	830
April	700
May	610

For information about the number of complaints in relation to tax credits up to and including 2004-05, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer that the Paymaster General gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Walsall, North (Mr. Winnick) on 15 June 2005, *Official Report*, columns 398-399W. Information for 2005-06 and 2006-07 was published in the HM Revenue and Customs departmental report in May 2007 which is available on the HMRC internet site at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/downloadFile?contentID=HMCE_PROD1_027505

The number of complaints received in each month in 2005-06 and 2006-07 was around:

Month	*Number of complainants (around)*
2005	
April	5,650
May	4,400
June	5,550
July	5,900
August	5,400
September	5,400
October	5,650
November	5,700
December	4,150
2006	
January	4,850
February	5,100
March	4,900
April	3,900
May	4,350
June	5,250
July	4,950
August	5,100
September	4,400
October	4,800
November	5,250
December	3,650
2007	
January	4,450
February	4,300
March	4,100
April	3,250
May	4,000

Welfare Tax Credits: Fraud

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date he plans to release the latest estimates of tax credit fraud and error in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [141490]

Mr. Timms: The HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits. Error and Fraud Statistics 2003-04" is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/error-fraud.htm

For information on Child and Working Tax Credit Fraud and Error Statistics in 2004-05 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 2 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 585W.

No release date has been set as yet for the publication of the 2005-06 fraud and error statistics.

Welfare Tax Credits: IT

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the quality of performance of the tax credits IT systems from January 2006 to May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [141517]

Mr. Timms: The performance of the tax credits IT system is continually monitored and is proving to be stable. In 2006 and 2007 HMRC have exceeded their system availability targets of 99.37 per cent. and 99.43 per cent. respectively.

Written Questions

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer Question 131611, on HM Revenue and Customs, tabled by the hon. Member for Taunton on 29 March 2007. [141214]

John Healey: The Treasury regrets that the hon. Member's question has not yet been answered and hopes to be able to do so shortly.

Students: Loans

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the interest accrued by the Student Loans Company (SLC) money paid by former students prior to it being passed onto the SLC; and if he will make a statement. [141478]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

Student loans repayments are not transferred to the Student Loans Company. They reduce the net assets, representing outstanding loans, on the Department for Education and Skills balance sheet. It is only information about repayments made by individual borrowers that is passed to the Company to allow it to issue annual statements. Once that information is received by the Company, repayments are attributed to each month of the tax year in which they were made by the borrower and monthly interest is calculated accordingly. This ensures that even if there is a delay in repayment details reaching the Company, the borrower does not pay any additional interest. No borrower pays too much interest as a result of the time lag in updating their account and nor does the Department or the SLC gain any additional income from the interest paid.

JUSTICE

David Kelly

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which persons from the Department of Constitutional Affairs attended the resumed inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly on 14 August 2003. [141347]

Ms Harman: No-one from the Department for Constitutional Affairs attended the resumed inquest into the death of Dr. David Kelly.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what methodology is used by her Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140786]

Vera Baird: The former DCA estate uses an electronic energy monitoring system that calculates the total energy consumption based upon energy invoices. The result is submitted yearly to the Building Research Establishment (BRE) which calculates the annual carbon emissions. The result is published in the annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report.

Public sector prisons are the responsibility of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). Energy consumption is reported to the Prison Service Energy Manager on a monthly basis and carbon emissions are calculated using a standard conversion factor. The monthly consumption is adjusted to take account of variations in the prison population and weather. Annual consumption figures are reported to BRE for inclusion in the annual SDiG report.

The Probation Service calculated their carbon emission through collecting the energy bills for electricity, gas and oil and collating the data for the whole Home Office. The data are submitted to BRE to be weather corrected, converted into carbon and sent to the Sustainable Development Commission for inclusion in the SDiC report.

The privately operated prisons and the secure training centres were delivered under the private finance initiative and have no official methodology.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139472]

Ms Harman: The full running costs of all office space could be obtained but only at a disproportionate cost. However I am able to provide the cost incurred by my Department and its executive agencies on rent over the past five years. These are as follows:

(a) The Department

	£
2002-03	6,271,931
2003-04	7,027,431
2004-05	7,027,431
2005-06	21,375,684
2006-07	23, 778,951

(b) Executive agencies

	£
2002-03	24,023,000
2003-04	28,831,000
2004-05	31,178,000
2005-06	28,547,000
2006-07	66,690,352

The Home Office is reporting with regard to MOJ properties transferring from the Home Office as part of Machinery of Government changes.

Departments: Signs

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many *(a)* signs and *(b)* business cards have been purchased for the Ministry of Justice; [141707]

(2) how much has been spent on new signage for the Ministry of Justice. [141708]

Vera Baird: The number of signs purchased for the Ministry of Justice totals 62 as at 7 June 2007. We are unable to determine precisely how many business cards have been purchased for the Ministry of Justice.

Costs incurred by the Department for Constitutional Affairs up to 9 May 2007 in relation to the setting up of the Ministry of Justice are estimated at £1.5 million. These costs mainly relate to IT and estate changes to ensure the new Ministry can operate effectively. The costs relating to signage are included in the £1.5 million. Additional costs arising from the integration of the various activities that constitute the new Ministry will be incurred after 9 May.

Electoral Register: Fraud

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps the Government are taking to tackle false electoral registration. [141718]

Bridget Prentice: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced new measures to help tackle false electoral registration. The measures introduced in the Act are:

Making it an offence to provide false or incorrect information to an electoral registration officer;

Allowing an elector to object to a person's registration at any time;

Allowing an ERO to remove ineligible people from the electoral register;

Imposing a duty on a registration officer to take all necessary steps to maintain the register. This includes inspecting any records held by any person which he is permitted to inspect such as council tax records.

A requirement for electors to provide additional personal identifiers (signature and date of birth) if they wish to have a postal vote.

A requirement for electors to provide personal identifier (signature and date of birth) if they wish to have a postal vote.

The Government and the Electoral Commission continue to work with the electoral community and the police to address issues to improve the security of the registration system.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when the code of practice on the discharge of public authorities' functions under Part I of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 was last updated or revised. [141703]

Vera Baird: The code of practice on the discharge of public authorities' functions under Part I of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 was published on November 2004. It has not subsequently been updated or revised, however we consider that it is working well.

(http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/imprep/codepafunc.htm)

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what guidance her Department has given to public authorities, in relation to freedom of information, on signing contracts with external organisations that have clauses stating that the contract itself cannot be made public. [141714]

Vera Baird: Guidance to public authorities is contained in the code of practice on the discharge of public authorities' functions under Part I of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Advice about freedom of information and confidentiality obligations when entering into contracts is set out in part V of the code.

(http://www.foi.gov.uk/reference/imprep/codepafunc.htm)

Freedom of Information: Regional Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will take steps to bring within the ambit of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 English regional chambers as public authorities. [141811]

Vera Baird: Organisations such as the English regional chambers will be considered in the context of any review of extending the coverage of the Freedom of Information Act. We have no plans to review the coverage of the Act at present.

Hayden Phillips

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what fees, expenses and payments Sir Hayden Phillips will receive in relation to *(a)* his review of party funding and *(b)* the discussions on party funding in which she is involved. [141705]

Bridget Prentice: From the commencement of his review of party funding in March 2006 to the end of April 2007, Sir Hayden Phillips has received £48,768 in fees, expenses and payments.

This figure covers both Sir Hayden's review of party funding which ended in March 2007 and the continuing cross-party talks for the calendar month of April 2007.

Information Commissioner: Appeals

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average time was for an appeal to the Information Commissioner to be considered in the last 12 months. [141712]

Vera Baird: In the 12 months up to May 2007 the average was 151 days.

This figure does not include Data Protection Act cases, as they are "assessments", not "appeals".

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many appeals to the Information Commissioner have been waiting to be considered for more than six months. [141717]

Vera Baird: At the end of May 2007 there were a total of 784 complaints under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental Information Regulations aged over 180 days.

This figure does not include Data Protection Act cases, as they are "assessments", not "appeals".

Legal Aid Scheme

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction in October 2007 of a fixed fee system for legal aid on access to justice; and if she will make a statement; [141695]

(2) how many solicitors she expects to participate in the new fixed fee system of legal aid when it is introduced in October 2007; [141696]

(3) what assessment she has made of the effect on the demand for legal aid of the introduction of a fixed fee system in October 2007; and if she will make a statement; [141697]

(4) what contingency plans she has put in place to deal with any delays in access to justice which may result following the introduction of a fixed fee system for legal aid in October 2007; [141698]

(5) what recent representations she has received from *(a)* solicitors and *(b)* representative organisations on access to justice following the introduction of a fixed fee system for legal aid in October 2007; and if she will make a statement. [141699]

Vera Baird: Fixed and graduated fees have been operating in many areas of legal aid for many years and have been shown to control costs and encourage efficiency, and hence to improve access to justice. The Legal Services Commission (LSC) currently expects to extend the application of these fees to nearly all areas of legal aid from October 2007 as a precursor to best value tendering, which is expected to be rolled out from October 2008.

While greater efficiency will allow us to help more people within a limited budget, the new fee schemes will not impact directly on demand for legal aid. Full regulatory impact assessments have accompanied each of the new fee schemes as they have been announced.

We expect the long-term trend of fewer legal aid providers helping more people to continue. Nevertheless, 94 per cent. of civil providers signed the new unified contract in April this year. The LSC will closely monitor the state of the supplier base as the reform programme progresses. The LSC is also working closely with Her Majesty's Courts Service and other justice agencies to ensure that the reforms are implemented smoothly.

We do not expect any delays to follow the implementation of fixed fees.

My Department and the LSC regularly meet solicitors, other providers and their representative bodies to discuss issues of concern.

Legal Aid Scheme: Kent

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many legal practitioners in the Kent criminal justice area have not signed up to the new legal aid contract. [140806]

Vera Baird: The unified contract for civil work was issued to 79 solicitors' offices in Kent. 75 contracts have been returned signed. 23 out of the 75 contracted offices undertake crime legal aid work as well as civil legal aid work.

Eight contracts were issued to not-for-profit organisations in Kent and all have been returned signed.

Local Child Curfew Schemes: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many child curfew orders were issued in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since their creation. [141829]

Bridget Prentice: The number of curfew orders received by young people aged 10 to 17 in East Sussex is as follows. Separate figures for Eastbourne are not collected.

	Number
2000-01	1
2001-02	3
2002-03	8
2003-04	12
2004-05	26
2005-06	28
2006-07	47

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when the Secretary of State expects to answer the letter transferred to him from the Home Office dated 16 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. M. Aslam. [141075]

Ms Harman: I apologise that the reply has been delayed beyond our normal target date on this occasion. My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor replied on 6 June.

Personal Injury

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the levels of referral to mediation of disputes involving personal injury claims. [141624]

Vera Baird: As mediation services are provided by a number of local and national commercial mediation organisations, it is not possible to assess the true level of referral to mediation involving personal injury claims across England and Wales. However, the Ministry has recently conducted evaluations of our court-based mediation schemes based at central London, Birmingham, Guildford and Exeter. The results show that, although personal injury claims represent over half of the cases allocated to the fast and multi-track, these claims make up less than 6 per cent. of the cases that undertake the mediation process.

Police Custody

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* female prisoners, *(b)* prisoners under the age of 18, *(c)* prisoners who are undergoing a Crown Court trial, *(d)* prisoners at risk of self-harm, *(e)* prisoners remanded for serious offences who are potentially Category A and *(f)* prisoners who have a history of either escape attempts or disruptive behaviour have been housed in police cells under Operation Safeguard in the last 12 months. [142468]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No female prisoners, prisoners under the age of 18 or potential Category A prisoners have been held in police cells under operation safeguard in the last 12 months.

We assess all prisoners considered for accommodation in police cells under operation safeguard for risk of self harm, potential to escape and disruptive behaviour with a view to excluding those who demonstrate a high level of risk of these behaviours.

The number of prisoners held in police cells under operation safeguard while undergoing a Crown court trial is not available.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what provisions are in place to provide *(a)* purposeful activity, *(b)* behavioural treatment, *(c)* drug and alcohol dependency rehabilitation, *(d)* contact with friends and family and *(e)* resettlement preparation to prisoners held under Operation Safeguard. [142469]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We aim to hold individual prisoners in police cells under Operation Safeguard for the minimum period, normally overnight and for no longer than 48 hours. As prisoners are only held in police cells for a short time, the police will do everything possible to meet prisoners' basic needs but it is not possible to offer a prison regime.

Police cells will not normally be used to accommodate prisoners with an identified health care need or vulnerable prisoners.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the total cost to date to the public purse has been of *(a)* Sir Hayden Phillips' review and *(b)* the discussions on party funding. [141706]

Bridget Prentice: The total cost to date is as follows:

£278,072.31 for Sir Hayden Phillips' review of the funding of political parties, which ended in March 2007;

£15,937.80 for the cross-party talks on the funding of political parties, chaired by Sir Hayden Phillips.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff are working on *(a)* the Sir Hayden Phillips review and *(b)* discussions on party funding. [141709]

Bridget Prentice: Sir Hayden Phillips' review of the funding of political parties began in March 2006 and ended in March 2007. During this phase of Sir Hayden's work, four full-time civil servants on secondment and one part-time civil servant worked on Sir Hayden's review, assisted by two external consultants providing specialist skills.

Sir Hayden Phillips has been chairing cross-party talks on the funding of political parties since his review ended in March 2007. Four full-time civil servants on secondment and one part-time civil servant, led by an external part-time consultant, are working on the cross-party talks. Sir Hayden Phillips is also being assisted by two external consultants providing specialist skills.

Powers of Attorney

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the levels of abuse by donees of powers given to them under enduring powers of attorney. [142393]

Vera Baird: There has been no formal assessment of levels of abuse of enduring powers of attorney (EPAs). It is particularly difficult to make judgments in this area because of the potentially high numbers of unregistered EPAs in existence. The Public Guardianship Office and Court of Protection have no knowledge of unregistered powers and only become aware of their existence if and when third parties raise direct concerns.

Under the provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, EPAs will be replaced by new lasting powers of attorney (LPA). Because of concerns around the potential for abuse of such powers, the Act introduces a number of additional safeguards that will provide greater protection for people making them in the future:

From October 2007 EPAs and LPAs must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) before use.

An independent party must provide a certificate confirming that the person making the LPA understands what they are doing and that they are not acting under undue influence.

When an application to register an LPA is made, the OPG must contact up to five people named by the donor to be notified. If no one is named, then a second independent party must have provided an additional certificate.

Attorneys will have a duty to have regard to a statutory code of practice. Failure to follow the guidance in the code can be used as evidence in court proceedings.

If the public guardian has concerns about the way an attorney is carrying out their role, he has the powers to ask for accounts and an explanation as to why particular decisions are being made.

Prisons

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 292-3W, on prisons, how many *(a)* suicides, *(b)* attempted suicides, *(c)* self-harm incidents and *(d)* prisoner-on-prisoner assaults there were in HM Prisons in 2006. [142414]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number requested at *(a)* in relation to self-inflicted deaths in prison in 2006 is 67.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 671-72W, to question number 103622 for the information requested at *(b)* of his question.

The recorded number requested at *(c)* in relation to self-harm incidents in prison in 2006 is 23,389 incidents, the vast majority of which did not constitute life threatening incidents. The recorded number

requested at *(d)* in relation to prisoner on prisoner assault in 2006 is 11,427. These figures should not be taken as absolute.

Prisons: Construction

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which prisons have made planning applications related to expansion of capacity; and what steps *(a)* HM Prison Service and *(b)* her Department is taking to consult local residents at each stage of the process in each case. [141810]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following schedule details those planning applications which have been submitted so far to local planning authorities.

Officials from the Ministry of Justice meet with planning officers from the appropriate local planning authorities in the early stages of the consideration of any proposal for the expansion of an existing prison establishment or for a new prison development. This is to ensure that they are aware of the proposal; that we can take on board wherever possible comments that they may have about the nature of the project and that there is agreement on the timing and content of any public consultation.

Public consultation forms part of the planning process normally conducted by the local planning authority. However, in addition the Ministry of Justice undertakes public consultation in respect of significant prison proposals including new prisons. Such public consultation will invariably involve presentations to councillors (including parish councils) and the holding of a public exhibition (usually over a two to three day period) close to the site in question where officials are present to explain proposals and to answer questions. This is preceded by a leaflet drop in the surrounding area advertising the exhibition and explaining the proposals.

8000 Capacity Programme

	Number of additional places	*Type of accommodation*	*Status of planning application*	*Comments*
A. Expansion of existing prisons				
Featherstone	64	RBRU	Approved	Under construction
The Mount	44	RBRU	Approved	Under construction
Onley	64	RBRU	Rejected	Initial application rejected on traffic analysis. To be re-submitted.
Brinsford	64	RBRU	Approved	Under construction
Stocken	64	RBRU	Application submitted	Determination Expected in July 07
Coldingley	124	2 x RBRU	Approved	—
Send	64	RBRU	Approved	—
Portland	64	RBRU	See comments	Initial application rejected on ground conditions and car parking. Has been re-submitted.
Haverigg	64	RBRU	Approved	Under construction
Acklington	62 to 70	RBRU	Application submitted	
Whatton	60	TCM	Permitted development	Certificate of lawfulness approved by Local Authority. Under construction
Hindley	60	TCM	Permitted development	Certificate of lawfulness approved by Local Authority. Under construction
Channings Wood	64	TCM	Permitted development	Certificate of lawfulness approved by Local Authority. Under construction
Stoke Heath	60	TCM	Permitted development	Certificate of lawfulness approved by Local Authority. Under construction
Lindholme	60	TCM	Permitted development	Certificate of lawfulness approved by Local Authority. Under construction
Blantyre House	60	RBRU/TCM	See comments	Initial application rejected New application to be submitted
Wayland	300	TCP	Approved	Under construction Public exhibition has been held.
Rochester	300	TCP	Application submitted	Determination expected in mid-July - Public Exhibition has been held.
Highdown	180	Houseblock	Approved	Under construction
Lewes	176	Houseblock	Approved	Under construction
Bullingdon	120	Houseblock	Approved	Under construction

8000 Capacity Programme

	Number of additional places	*Type of accommodation*	*Status of planning application*	*Comments*
Swaleside	180	Houseblock	Approved	Under construction
Long Lartin	180	Houseblock	Approved	Under construction
Stocken	120	Houseblock	Approved	Under construction
Styal (New site)	258	6 x RBRU	Approved	Original scheme approved but new application to be submitted as significant changes have taken place
Frankland	120	Houseblock	Approved	—
Dovegate	260	Houseblock	Approved	Private Sector prison
Lowdham Grange	256	Houseblock	Approved	Private Sector prison
Bronzefield	77	RBRU	Approved	Private Sector prison
Forest Bank	464	Houseblocks	Application submitted	Private Sector prison
Pare	360	Houseblocks	Application submitted	Private Sector prison

Establishment	*Number of additional places*	*Type of accommodation*	*Status of planning application*	*Comments*
B. New prisons				
Belmarsh East	480	Co-located prison	Application submitted	Public Exhibition held.
Ashworth	600	Prison	Approved	New site at Maghull, Merseyside. Public exhibition held.
Ken net	350	Prison	Approved	Conversion of a former hospital at Maghull, Merseyside Public exhibition held

Note: RBRU = Ready Built Residential Unit—small accommodation block to category C standard.
TCM = Temporary Custodial Module—small accommodation block to category C standard.
TCP = Temporary Custodial Facility—small prison to category C standard
houseblock = Standard accommodation block to category B standard.
Co-located prison = new prison adjacent to or within existing prison; including houseblocks to category B standard.

Prisons: Rochester

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 605W, on Prisons: Rochester, what related demolition or construction works have already been undertaken at HMP Rochester; [142433]

(2) who authorised the commencement of building work at Rochester Prison. [142482]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Some preparatory work has been carried out on site. I took the decision that no further work should be carried out pending the outcome of the planning application which has yet to be determined. The main building work has not therefore commenced.

Salisbury Justice Centre

Robert Key: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when work will start on the construction of the Salisbury Justice Centre; and when the centre will come into service. [141189]

Ms Harman: It is planned that work will start on the construction of the Salisbury Justice Centre by the end of July 2007 and coming into service during the early summer 2009.

Valuation Office Agency: Land Registry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the Valuation Office Agency will have access to the Land Registry's Chain Matrix system. [141835]

Vera Baird: The Chain Matrix system which, as a prototype, is currently being tested, is a dedicated website that tracks the progress of a chain of residential property transactions starting with the issue of contract through to exchange and completion. There is no business need for the Valuation Office Agency to have access to the system and Land Registry has no arrangements or plans to provide the agency with Chain Matrix data.

Young Offenders: Suicide

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* suicides, *(b)* attempted suicides, *(c)* self-harm incidents and *(d)* prisoner-on-prisoner assaults there were in young offender institutions in each year since 1997. [142415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following table shows the numbers of apparently self-inflicted deaths in Young Offender Institutions since 1997.

	Number of self-inflicted deaths[1]
1997	9
1998	7
1999	10
2000	8
2001	6
2002	6

	Number of self-inflicted deaths[1]
2003	3
2004	3
2005	9
2006	1

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 28 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 671-72W, to question number 103622 for the information requested at *(b)* of his Question.

The following table shows the numbers of recorded self-harm incidents in Young Offender Institutions since 1997.

	Recorded self-harm
1997[1]	144
1998[1]	300
1999[1]	384
2000[1]	473
2001	494
2002[1]	686
2003	1145
2004	1310
2005	1579
2006	1836

[1] The numbers of recorded self-harm incidents (or figures derived from them) before and after 2003 (when improvements for self-harm recording were introduced under the new F213SH procedures) should not be compared directly.

Note:
Figures overall should not be taken as absolute.

The information requested at *(d)* in relation to prisoner on prisoner assaults is provided in the following table. Data for 1997-99 are not centrally available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. They should not be taken as absolute.

	YOI[1]
2000	2562
2001	3005
2002	2976
2003	2945
2004	3544
2005	4435
2006	4707
2007[2]	1047

[1] Excludes data from establishments also holding older prisoners.
[2] Up to 28 April

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of apprenticeships are part of the programme-led pathway; and what percentage of apprentices on the programme-led pathway successfully complete the full framework. [130646]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1272W.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many apprenticeships were *(a)* created and *(b)* completed in each of the last three years. [134431]

Phil Hope: Figures for apprenticeships completed can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) work based learning (WBL) individualised learner record (ILR).

(a) The volume of learner starts on apprenticeship frameworks is published by the LSC in the annual Statistical First Release "Further Education, Work Based Learning and Adult and Community Learning—Learner numbers in England". The volumes for the previous two full years are collated in the following table. The data for 2003/04 showed the number of learners as opposed to the number of starts and therefore are not consistent with the latest data.

	Advanced apprenticeships	Apprenticeships
2003/04	n/a	n/a
2004/05	53,900	134,500
2005/06	52,100	122,800

(b) The number of achievers (students who successfully completed the framework) for the last three years are shown in the following table.

	Advanced apprenticeships	Apprenticeships
2003/04	23,820	45,540
2004/05	25,950	61,190
2005/06	32,990	77,180

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 learners.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of apprenticeship training providers funded by the Learning and Skills Council are *(a)* employers, *(b)* colleges of further education, *(c)* independent training providers, *(d)* local authorities and *(e)* other in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) broken down by sector skills council. [128575]

Phil Hope: Data on Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships are collected on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). The table shows the volume and percentage of apprenticeship training providers funded by the LSC broken down by provider type for each region in England in 2005/06. It is not possible to associate learning providers to Sector Skills Councils.

Volume and percentage of apprenticeship training providers funded by the LSC broken down by provider type for each region and England—2005/06

	East of England		East Midlands		Greater London		North East		North West	
Type	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region
Chamber of Commerce	230	1	870	3	—	—	460	2	510	1
Independent school or college	—	—	—	—	100	0	—	—	—	—
Organisation in Business in its own right	28,390	67	21,510	66	16,090	71	9,410	41	47,480	64
Other Private Organisation	—	—	390	1	430	2	4,700	21	2,140	3
External Institution	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sixth form college	70	0	—	—	100	0	—	—	280	0
Special college—Agriculture and Horticulture	650	2	1,320	4	50	0	—	—	1,210	2
Special college—Art, Design and Performing Arts	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General FE College inc. Tertiary	11,830	28	7,890	24	4,760	21	4,690	21	13,210	18
Higher - Education Organisation	—	—	280	1	—	—	—	—	160	0
Local Authority	20	0	450	1	—	—	110	0	—	—
Local Education Authority (LEA)	450	1	50	0	300	1	1,670	7	1,060	1
Other Public Organisation	10	0	—	—	50	0	350	2	50	0
Charitable	690	2	—	—	620	3	1,430	6	7,690	10
Non-charitable	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Voluntary Organisation	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Local Authority	130	0	—	—	140	1	—	—	0	—
Total	42,480	—	32,740	—	22,640	—	22,810	—	73,780	—

	South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and Humberside		England
Type	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.
Chamber of Commerce	—	—	—	—	2,220	4	1,310	3	5,600
Independent school or college	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	104
Organisation in Business in its own right	53,630	67	21,080	50	35,430	65	25,540	61	258,540
Other Private Organisation	1,040	1	790	2	1,870	3	1,690	4	13,040
External Institution	190	0	70	0	—	—	180	0	440
Sixth form college	340	0	60	0	100	0	—	—	950
Special college—Agriculture and Horticulture	520	1	490	1	370	1	650	2	5,260

Type	South East		South West		West Midlands		Yorkshire and Humberside		England
	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.	% in region	No.
Special college—Art, Design and Performing Arts	—	—	30	0	—	—	—	—	30
General FE College inc. Tertiary	12,620	16	13,580	32	12,190	22	9,670	23	90,440
Higher Education Organisation	—	—	—	—	120	0	250	1	810
Local Authority	—	—	740	2	360	1	550	1	2,210
Local Education Authority (LEA)	690	1	70	0	230	0	880	2	5,400
Other Public Organisation	30	0	4,550	11	1,250	2	190	0	6,470
Charitable	11,090	14	900	2	540	1	170	0	23,120
Non-charitable	50	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Voluntary Organisation	—	—	—	—	60	0	—	—	60
Other Local Authority	—	—	190	0	—	—	650	2	1,110
Total	80,200	—	42,540	—	54,720	—	41,730	—	413,580

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
ILR

Boxing: Schools

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the Government's policy is on the provision of boxing as a physical education activity in schools; and if he will make a statement. [142016]

Jim Knight: It is for schools to decide whether they want to deliver elements of the PE national curriculum through boxing, or offer it as an after school activity.

Schools have a duty to ensure that any coaching is provided by responsible and qualified coaches in a safe environment. Only qualified and experienced coaches should be employed to teach, coach or officiate boxing in schools. Schools that choose to offer boxing should ensure that all parents and pupils involved are aware of, and accept, the inherent and obvious risks.

The 2006 annual school sport survey found that 431 schools (3 per cent.) involved in a school sport partnership offered boxing either within or beyond the school day.

Carers' Allowances: Kent

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with Kent county council on the phasing in of the minimum allowances payable to carers. [142323]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The national minimum allowance rates for foster carers were introduced in July 2006. Local authorities are working towards meeting the rates. The good practice guidance which accompanied the national minimum allowance supports local authorities in improving the way they organise their payment systems.

Detailed discussions with individual local authorities are not taking place but local authorities' progress towards meeting the minimum rate will be monitored through inspection. If significant progress is not made, we shall consider enforcing the national minimum allowance through regulation.

Dartington College of Arts

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what measures he has taken to ensure that the merger of Dartington College with University College Falmouth will not adversely affect *(a)* the local economy and *(b)* the students studying there. [141761]

Bill Rammell: The governing body of Dartington College is pursuing the option of a merger with University College, Falmouth from 2010 in order that the resulting institution should have a sustainable future. The proposed University of the Arts in Cornwall should contribute to economic regeneration and provide new opportunities for students across the south-west region. As autonomous bodies which are independent of Government control, it is for higher education institutions and the funding bodies which support them to take account of the needs of students and the regions they serve and I am confident that they will do so.

Day Care: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many child care places were available *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 100 children under the age of five in each London local authority in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2006. [128674]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the form requested.

The available information on registered child care places for children under eight is shown in the following table. The latest figures on registered child care provider and places are available on the following website:

www.ofsted.gov.uk/

Registered child care places for children under eight years of age

London boroughs	Number[1,2] of registered child care places		Rates[3] per 100 children aged under eight	
	1997[4]	2006[5]	1997	2006
Inner London	36,300	73,000	14	28
Camden	2,500	4,800	17	28
City of London	200	600	58	171
Hackney	4,200	5,800	19	26
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,800	4,200	15	31
Haringey	2,600	4,500	12	22
Islington	4,200	5,300	25	37
Kensington and Chelsea	2,000	3,700	20	26
Lambeth	n/a	6,900	n/a	29
Lewisham	3,800	6,700	15	29
Newham	2,600	5,500	9	20
Southwark	4,800	8,900	19	39
Tower Hamlets	n/a	3,800	n/a	18
Wandsworth	5,500	8,700	25	39
Westminster	2,300	3,700	20	24
Outer London	52,600	105,400	13	27
Barking and Dagenham	1,200	2,600	7	15
Barnet	3,000	8,300	11	29
Bexley	2,600	3,700	12	20
Brent	4,000	5,600	16	24
Bromley	2,700	7,200	10	28
Croydon	4,800	10,200	15	34
Ealing	5,100	7,300	18	28
Enfield	3,500	5,500	13	21
Greenwich	2,600	6,400	12	30
Harrow	1,800	3,800	10	21
Havering	2,500	3,700	13	21
Hillingdon	3,100	5,600	13	25
Hounslow	2,300	4,700	11	25
Kingston upon Thames	2,200	3,800	18	31
Merton	2,300	5,500	13	34
Redbridge	1,800	5,800	8	26
Richmond upon Thames	2,800	5,400	20	33
Sutton	2,200	4,500	13	30
Waltham Forest	2,200	5,900	9	28

n/a = not available

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.

[2] Figures at 31 March each year.

[3] Population estimates at January each year.

[4] Data Source: Children's Day Care Facilities Survey. Includes Day Nurseries, Childminders and Out of School Clubs.

[5] Data Source: Ofsted. Includes Full Day Care, Childminders and Out of School Day Care.

Note:

The population estimates are subject to a margin of error and should be considered to be approximations. For the City of London the participation rate exceeds 100 per cent. because the counts of children attending providers do not correspond exactly to the counts of children in the population. For example, children attending child care provision within the city may live outside the area.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much revenue his Department received from *(a)* advertisements on his Department's public information leaflets and *(b)* advertisements on his Department's public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142530]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills does not receive revenue on adverts from Public Information leaflets or on the Department's public websites.

Departments: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139456]

Mr. Dhanda: The cost of leasing buildings for the Department in each of the past five years is shown as follows.

	£
2002-03	20,174,340
2003-04	20,875,911
2004-05	20,875,911
2005-06	20,875,911
2006-07	22,345,123

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140792]

Mr. Dhanda: DFES headquarters uses the DEFRA required or recommended methodology to account for its carbon emissions.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by his Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138456]

Mr. Dhanda: This information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135153]

Mr. Dhanda: This information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be given only at a disproportionate cost.

The Department has arrangements in place where people can raise a grievance on any action or decision that they believe is wrong and that puts them at a disadvantage. All such complaints are considered in line with the arrangements in our staff handbook that reflect the three step process in the statutory dispute resolution procedures. Most of these complaints are settled directly between the individual and their line manager and are not recorded centrally.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139106]

Mr. Dhanda: Data are not available on the number of people with epilepsy employed by the Department for Education and Skills. Declaration of a disability is voluntary and does not require staff to declare the nature of their disability.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140122]

Mr. Dhanda: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies are available in the House Libraries.

Departments: Netmums Website

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether his Department has provided funding to the netmums.com website. [138368]

Beverley Hughes: The Department paid £9,500 (before VAT) to Netmums on 6 January 2006, to fund their pilot coffee house project. We have made no payments in this financial year. This project tested and evaluated the potential for enhancing the experience of those using the Netmums Forum by having experts online who can directly answer questions and give practical advice. The expert involvement ran from January 2006 to March 2006.

The key points from the evaluation of the project showed that the peer support forum is a vital service for parents who are struggling. Many parents who used the coffee house were surprised that there are others there who are going through the same difficulties. The parents also felt supported by reading about the experiences of others, and are interested to read how others have coped in similar situations. The evaluation study has shown how expert involvement can benefit the users of peer support forums.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141966]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills has no official ministerial residences.

Departments: Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last three years. [134046]

Mr. Dhanda: DfES Headquarters used the following percentages of paper from recycled sources for *(a)* photocopying and *(b)* printed publications in the latest available three years.

			Percentage
	2003/04	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
(a)	1	26	79
(b)	0	0	100

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139318]

Mr. Dhanda: The Departments property disposal receipts for the past five years are shown in the following table.

	£
2002-02	Nil
2003-04	1,300,000
2004-05	1,530,000
2005-06	100,000
2006-07	Nil

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was received by the Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139337]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is as follows.

Property receipts

	£
2002-03	4,152,575
2003-04	7,131,889
2004-05	5,902,482
2005-06	6,182,901
2006-07	6,002,258

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139358]

Mr. Dhanda: The following are properties owned by the Department in the last five years.

Property name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Moorfoot Sheffield	X	X	X	X	X
Sheffield Nursery	X	X	X	X	X
Wales Bar Sheffield Document Store	X	X	X	X	X
Mowden Hall Darlington	X	X	X	X	X
Middlesbrough Skillcentre Annexe	X	X	X	X	X
Castle View House Runcorn	X	X	X	X	X
East Lane House Runcorn	X	X	—	—	—

The following are departmental properties rented.

Property name	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Caxton House Westminster London	X	X	X	X	X
Sanctuary Buildings Westminster London	X	X	X	X	X
Maltravers Road Sheffield Warehouse	X	X	X	X	X
83 Piccadilly/28 Bolton Street London	X	X	X	X	X
Vincent House Darlington	X	X	—	—	—

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139380]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is as follows.

Valuation of the Department's property portfolio

	£
2005 valuation	33,485,000

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [134996]

Mr. Dhanda: DfES headquarters purchased 4,872,685 kilowatt hours of renewable energy in 2005-06.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138487]

Mr. Dhanda: The information as requested is not readily available centrally within the Department for Education and Skills (DFES). To respond fully would involve an extensive information collection exercise which would exceed the recommended disproportionate cost threshold. However, to be helpful, using a variety of information and data sources relating solely to DFES headquarters, the following information can be provided.

DFES currently sponsor seven telephone numbers with the prefix *(a)* 0870, and ten telephone numbers with the prefix *(b)* 0845. Alternative geographic telephone numbers are available in each case.

Employment Schemes: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding was allocated to *(a)* adult learner support, *(b)* career development loans and *(c)* wage compensation under Train to Gain in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07; and how much is likely to be allocated in 2007-08. [131578]

Phil Hope: The table shows the Department of Education and Skills' expenditure on *(a)* adult learner support; *(b)* career development loans; *(c)* Train to Gain wage compensation between 2005-06 and 2007-08 (actual and planned). All amounts are rounded to the nearest £1 million.

Adult learner support includes the Learner Support Fund and Adult Learning Grant. These provide financial support to help meet the costs of learning to disadvantaged and low income adults undertaking further education.

Train to Gain commenced operations in April 2006. Funds have been allocated for wage compensation for small employers of up to 50 employees to compensate them for the time employees spend in training.

£ million

	Outturn		*Budget*
	Actual 2005-06	*Provisional 2006-07*	*Planned 2007-08*
Adult learner support	89	98	121
Career development loans	19	22	20
Train to Gain—wage compensation	—	17	38

Extended Schools

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what research his Department is undertaking to assess the range of services and activities being offered by secondary schools as part of the extended school programme; [142427]

(2) what research his Department is undertaking to assess the take-up of extended school services by *(a)* social class, *(b)* ethnic composition and *(c)* children with disabilities; [142428]

(3) how many secondary schools provide the childcare element of the full extended schools offer; [142430]

(4) what research his Department has undertaken into demand for formalised access to and registered attendance at extended schools amongst children aged 11 years and older; and what research has been carried out into the scope and impact of charging for extended school services. [142432]

Beverley Hughes: We will be publishing a detailed report of the three year evaluation of the full service extended schools programme at the end of June. This report will show that full service extended schools have a positive impact on the attainment of pupils and their engagement with learning, family stability and enhanced life chances, and are generating positive outcomes for families and local people. Further evaluation of impact and activities of extended schools is planned, covering the increasing number of schools which will be offering extended services by 2010. This will include the extent to which different groups of pupils and families such as social class, ethnic composition and children with disabilities are taking up extended services. This information is not currently collected by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

The DfES has a range of strategies to assess and monitor the extent to which schools are providing extended services. The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) monitor the extent to which the schools they are working with are providing access to services and activities. To date 1,175 secondary schools are providing all aspects of the core offer of extended services. In addition to these, 958 secondary schools are providing a varied menu of study support activities beyond the normal school day; 208 are providing parenting support programmes; 929 have in place swift and easy referral arrangements to targeted and specialist services; and 579 are providing community access to their facilities, including adult learning. In 2005 the DfES commissioned its own independent survey of activities in primary and secondary schools. Undertaken by BMRB Social Research, it is available on the DfES's website at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR681.pdf.

In addition to this, questions about what services schools are offering have been included in the 2007 school census which is completed by all schools and which is due to be available in September 2007. Finally, the DfES monitors extended school related research and surveys carried out by other organisations.

Secondary schools are not required to provide childcare as part of their extended schools offer. However, we know that from the 2005 BMRB social research survey 61 per cent. of secondary schools provided before school activities and or child care, 95 per cent. provided after school activities and or childcare and 65 per cent. provided holiday activities and or child care.

The TDA has undertaken research to examine demand for formal childcare for the 11 to 14 age range. This involved a small year long pilot to test demand as well as a bigger sample survey of schools to investigate what is already happening in schools for this age range. The research concluded that that there was insufficient parental demand for formal child care at secondary schools. It also showed that parents saw the varied menu of activities element of the extended schools core offer as providing a safe place for children to be both before and after school, 8 am to 6 pm and during school holidays.

The forthcoming report on the evaluation of full service extended schools will contain a section on cost benefit which will include some analysis of charging. It will show that there is considerable variability in the method of charging. It will also show that schools tend to charge for regular child care but after that charging is often ad hoc and relatively low level. The Government have issued guidance to schools on charging through the 'Planning and Funding Guidance: a guide for schools, local authorities and their partner organisations'.

Foundation Degrees

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what research he has commissioned on the way in which granting further education colleges the power to award foundation degrees will be perceived by *(a)* students and prospective students and *(b)* employers; and if he will place a copy of this research in the Library. [140734]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* The purpose of the proposal is to enable the Privy Council to grant Foundation Degree awarding powers to those Further Education Colleges who are capable of delivering the highest quality provision. In doing so it further liberalises the market and allows those Colleges who have established an impressive track record of delivering high quality HE provision, to perform to their full potential. For these Colleges this proposal will empower them further by allowing them to award Foundation Degrees.

The proposal has been developed in dialogue with key stakeholders, including student and employer representative bodies, who have expressed broad support for the proposal.

General Teaching Council for England: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding the Government provided to meet the start-up and running costs of the General Teaching Council for England (GTC) in each year since its creation; and what proportion of the GTC's budget this represented. [142472]

Jim Knight: Grant provided by this Department to contribute to the operational costs of the GTC is as follows:

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£000 2006-07
Grant in aid	[1]3,950	8,974	3,457	[2]784	—	—	—
Grant	50	50	278	796	740	609	599
Total DFES grant	4,000	9,024	3,735	1,580	740	609	599
Proportion of total income (percentage)	100	100	26	10	4	3	3

[1] Grant in aid payments began in September 2000. Funding in 2000-01 therefore covered the part year period September 2000 to March 2001 inclusive.
[2] The Department stopped paying grant in aid payments to the GTC at the end of 2003-2004 when the full registration fee became payable.

Government Auctions

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills where his Department publishes information about Government auctions which it arranges or to which it contributes in *(a)* Blackpool, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* the North West; and when the next such auction will take place in each area. [117419]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department does not arrange auctions, however, we do use an organisation called Northern Realisations of Bolton to dispose of IT equipment that is no longer required. Auctions are held in Bolton. All markers and identifiers are removed from the equipment prior to the auction therefore it cannot be identified as DfES equipment and the auctioneers do not disclose supplier clients to purchasers.

Northern Realisation advertise using Google Adwords, *Manchester Evening News, Bolton Evening News, Loot* (North West edition) and *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*. They also subscribe to the National Schools Procurement Directory.

There is currently no DfES equipment being held by Northern Realisations for auction.

Higher Education: Midwives

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many university academic staff specialising in midwifery there were in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [141186]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the table. The figures cover staff whose primary academic discipline is midwifery. Due to significant changes to the staff record, comparable figures are not available for earlier years.

Academic staff at English Higher Education Institutions

Academic year	Academic staff whose primary academic discipline is midwifery
2003/04	85
2004/05	105
2005/06	120

Notes:
1. Does not cover staff whose secondary academic discipline is midwifery.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) staff record data.

Languages: Schools

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support is being given by his Department to local education authorities to fund language instruction for the children of migrants from EU entrant countries from eastern Europe. [115520]

Jim Knight: Departmental funding is available via the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG). This is a ring-fenced grant which provides a contribution towards support for underachieving ethnic minority pupils and support for those pupils for whom English is an Additional Language. The total grant for 2007-08 is £179 million.

In addition, £435 million of the £24.6 billion Schools Formula Spending Share for 2005-06 was distributed on the basis of numbers of children from underachieving ethnic minority groups and for those pupils for whom English is an Additional Language. The Dedicated Schools Grant allocations for 2007-08 will depend on January 2007 school census data.

In October 2006, we announced that the Department would allocate £400,000 for an English as an Additional Language Excellence Programme. The funding will be spent in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to provide advice, guidance and training for local authorities and schools to provide good quality provision for new arrivals and teaching English as an Additional Language.

Loans: Students

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the projected total cost is to the public purse of the interest subsidy paid to the debt sale owners over the lifetime of the student loans which the Government proposes to sell. [142073]

Bill Rammell: We are at the early stages of implementing the Budget announcement to sell income-contingent student loans. Further details about the sale will be announced in due course. We are confident that the Government will obtain good value for money, as it is obliged to do by rules of Government accounting.

Missing Persons

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) if he will take steps to set a programme of regular scheduled meetings of the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group over the next 12 months; [138767]

(2) what the next scheduled date is for a meeting of the Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group; how his Department will be represented at that meeting; and what the report-back process will be to Ministers in his Department. [138764]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* The Missing Persons Strategic Oversight Group is chaired by the Association of Chief Police Officers, supported by the Home Office. The next meeting is scheduled for the early part of July. Any forward programme of meetings for the Group will be considered in consultation with all Group members. Officials from my Department sit on the Group, and will report back to Ministers through the usual management channels.

Music: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding his Department provided for music tuition in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [142212]

Jim Knight: The funding of music services is the responsibility of local authorities and not central Government. Funding made available by Bexley local authority is contained within the following table:

Budgeted net expenditure on music services (not standards fund supported)[1]

	Amount (£)
2003-04	0
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	176,000
2007-08	182,000

[1] The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Tables 1) submitted to the Department for Education and Skills.

Note:
The Department is currently validating the 2007-08 data. It is subject to change by the local authority.

Nursery Schools: North East Region

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many nursery school places were available in Gateshead, East and Washington, West in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* 2006-07. [140641]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in Gateshead, East and Washington, West parliamentary constituency area. Data are provided for 2006 only because data are not available at constituency level for 1997.

Table 1: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2,3] filled by three and four-year-olds Parliamentary constituency: Gateshead, East and Washington, West Position in January

	3-year-olds			*4-year-olds*		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[5]	*total 3-year-olds*	*maintained nursery and primary schools*[6]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[7]	*total 4-year-olds*
2006	580	240	820	830	90	920

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency for 1996-97 are not available.
[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Gateshead, East and Washington, West parliamentary constituency is split between Gateshead and Sunderland local authority areas. Tables 2 and 3 provide information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds for each of these local authority areas respectively.

Table 2: Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds Local authority: Gateshead Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			*4-year-olds*		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total 3-year-olds*	*maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total 4-year-olds*
1997	1,300	n/a	1,300	n/a	n/a	[5,6]2,200
2007	1,200	[6]690	1,900	1,700	[6]270	1,900

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For 1997, four-year-old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 3 Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1,2] filled by three and four-year-olds Local authority: Sunderland Position in January each year

	3-year-olds			*4-year-olds*		
	maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total 3-year-olds*	*maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*total 4-year-olds*
1997	2,400	n/a	2,400	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,700
2007	2,300	[7]390	2,700	2,800	[8]140	2,900

n/a = Not available.
[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.
[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.
[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.
[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.
[6] For 1997, four-year-old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise can not be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.
[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.
[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2007", available on my Department's website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/.

Pauline Hughes Consultancy

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what expertise in electoral practice and principle the Pauline Hughes Consultancy brought to its assessment of the appropriateness of electoral arrangements for deciding the continuance or establishment of grammar schools. [141686]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* This review considered whether the grammar school ballot provisions were working as intended and whether any providers could administer the ballots process in addition to Electoral Reform Services which is named in regulations. The Pauline Hughes Consultancy had relevant expertise in the procedures and regulations relating to the future of grammar schools and was paid £2,732.40 for this and other work.

Primary Education: Drugs

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans the Government have to introduce drugs education schemes to primary schools. [141291]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department's guidance, 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004)', makes clear that drug education should start in primary schools and outlines the issues that should be covered at key stages 1 and 2, having regard for the age and maturity of the pupils concerned. As part of their drug education, pupils should learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take more responsibility for their actions. The Government intend to consult shortly on proposals for a new drug strategy, and education in primary schools will be considered as part of that wider process.

Primary Education: Teaching Methods

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his latest estimate is of the number of primary school pupils receiving Government-sponsored one-to-one tuition in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* other subjects. [140150]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills does not collect data on the extent to which individual schools are choosing to provide one-to-one support for their pupils in particular subjects from their own resources.

Through the Every Child A Reader programme approximately 2,300 six-year-olds in England will receive one-to-one tuition in early reading from highly skilled Reading Recovery teachers in this academic year. Reading Recovery is an intensive one-to-one support programme aimed at those young children

with the greatest difficulties in learning to read. Every Child A Reader will be rolled out nationally from 2008-09 benefiting over 30,000 children a year by 2010-11. We also intend to develop a similar intensive one-to-one support programme in maths.

The Making Good Progress pilot begins in the next academic year and will include one-to-one tuition of up to 10 hours in English and/or maths to pupils behind national expectations who are still making slow progress. Our latest estimate is that in pilot schools (which will be both primary and middle schools) in 2007/08 6,100 children in key stage 2 will receive one-to-one tuition in English, and the same in maths. We anticipate that a similar number of key stage 2 pupils will receive the one-to-one tuition in 2008/09.

In the CSR it was announced that by 2010-11 300,000 pupils across both primary and secondary will be receiving one-to-one tuition in English and a further 300,000 pupils in maths.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of current pupils have been permanently excluded from school more than once, broken down by *(a)* those receiving and not receiving free school meals, *(b)* gender and *(c)* ethnicity. [152383]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Information relating to free school meal eligibility is not collected for permanently excluded pupils.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools [1]: Number of pupils permanently excluded from school more than once by gender and ethnic group [2]—England

	Pupils who have been permanently excluded more than once during 2004/05 [2]	
	Number [3]	*Percentage*
Gender		
Boys	20	0.25
Girls	10	0.29
Total	20	0.26
Ethnic Group [4]		
White	[7]	[7]
White British	[7]	[7]
Irish	0	0.00
Traveller of Irish heritage	0	0.00
Gypsy/ Roma	0	0.00
Any other White background	0	0.00
Mixed	0	0.00
White and Black Caribbean	0	0.00
White and Black African	0	0.00
White and Asian	0	0.00
Any other Mixed background	0	0.00
Asian	0	0.00
Indian	0	0.00
Pakistani	0	0.00
Bangladeshi	0	0.00
Any other Asian background	0	0.00
Black	[7]	[7]
Black Caribbean	0	0.00
Black African	[7]	[7]
Any other Black background	0	0.00
Chinese	0	0.00
Any other ethnic group	0	0.00
Unclassified [6]	20	n/a
All pupils [5]	20	0.26

n/a = Not applicable

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.

[2] This analysis is based on incomplete pupil level data. Any findings based on these figures should be used with caution. Those pupils who have been permanently excluded from more than one different school during the 2004/05 school year have been selected.

[3] Number of pupils who have been permanently excluded more than once expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils who were permanently excluded of same gender and ethnic group. Based on incomplete pupil level data.

[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and above have been classified according to their ethnic group.

[5] Includes those pupils for whom information on their ethnic group was not sought, refused or is missing.

[6] Information presented here has been derived from an extract of the National Pupil Database which has selected pupils with multiple cases of exclusion from different schools and linked to the available characteristic data (gender, ethnic group) collected via the School Census.

[7] less than 5, or a rate based on less than 5

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
School Census / National Pupil Database [6]

Pupils: Counselling

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each local authority area undertook anger management courses in each of the last 10 years. [141233]

Jim Knight: DfES does not collect centrally data about specific approaches dealing with pupil behaviour.

Supporting the psychological well-being and mental health of pupils is a key component of the school curriculum and of the new multi-agency structures and settings, such as children's centres, extended schools and the targeted youth support pilots, which are being developed under the Every Child Matters: Change for Children programme.

Pupils: English Language

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps have been taken to ensure that staff in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools with high numbers of English as an additional language pupils are being supported in their teaching. [138719]

Jim Knight: The DfES launched a strategy for English as an additional language (EAL) in October 2003 as part of its Aiming High initiative for raising achievement of minority ethnic pupils. Central to this strategy was the professional development of teachers and teaching assistants in primary and secondary schools.

Key initiatives since 2003 include an extensive EAL programme delivered through the primary national strategy involving a package of professional development for mainstream staff. Professional development materials on EAL have been rolled out as part of this initiative and are available to all primary schools.

A secondary national strategy programme for EAL was launched in June 2006 which builds on from this work to promote awareness of best practice in EAL teaching in secondary schools.

Local authorities also receive additional funding from the ethnic minority achievement grant (EMAG). EMAG is distributed to local authorities by formula which includes the number of EAL pupils in each LA, with locally determined formulae devolving at least 85 per cent. to schools. The grant is £179 million in 2007-08.

EMAG provides resources for schools to employ specialist EAL support teachers and teaching assistants and for local authorities to maintain a small advisory team. Some local authorities employ a team of specialist EAL teachers whose services are bought in by schools.

The DfES will launch a New Arrivals Excellence Programme in July 2007. This aims to build capacity in local authorities and schools in England to deliver good quality provision and point towards the best training opportunities.

The Department has published two documents designed to support school assessment of EAL pupils and funded accredited specialist training in EAL for teachers and teaching assistants between 2004 and 2006. These courses have continued despite no longer being funded by the Department.

Departments: Intimidation

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many complaints of bullying have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [134830]

Mr. Dhanda: From April 2006 to March 2007, my Department investigated less than five official complaints of bullying, this information is therefore suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality.

The Department believes that each and every individual has the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. Harassment and bullying at work can cause fear, stress and anxiety and even sickness among employees. It can lead to serious legal consequences for both the harasser and the employer. As such, we do not tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards others. Formal complaints are investigated quickly and thoroughly and, where complaints are upheld, appropriate disciplinary action is taken. All cases are treated seriously.

The overall aim of our harassment and bullying policy is to prevent such unacceptable behaviour occurring but, where it does occur, to ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to deal with it and prevent it happening again. This applies to everyone in the Department. Every individual is personally responsible for their own behaviour, and every manager is responsible for enforcing the policy in accordance with the guidance and procedures set out in our Staff Handbook.

School Food Trust: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the location of regional training centres for the School Food Trust; and if he will meet interested parties to discuss the options for one in Stoke-on-Trent. [141753]

Mr. Dhanda: The Secretary of State has asked the School Food Trust (SFT) to lead on the work to establish regional training centres (RTCs), which will act as centres of excellence for training school catering staff. The SFT will be publishing an interim prospectus on its website on 15 June 2007 setting out the business planning requirements and the principles for the capital funding distribution for RTCs. Location of the RTCs will depend on the applications received but our aim is to have a National network. The interested parties in Stoke-on-Trent may wish to contact the SFT in the first instance to discuss their options.

Schools: Drinking Water

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps his Department has taken to ensure that local education authorities and individual schools will have free, fresh *(a)* drinking water and *(b)* chilled drinking water available to school children by 1 September; [141328]

(2) what targets have been set to measure the meeting by schools of the Healthy Schools Standard for the availability of free, fresh water in schools by 1 September; and what percentage of schools are expected to achieve those targets; [141329]

(3) what procedures have been put in place by Ofsted for the auditing of the availability and provision of free, fresh *(a)* drinking water and *(b)* chilled drinking water throughout the school day as part of the new nutritional standards for schools; and if he will make a statement; [141330]

(4) what funding his Department *(a)* has made and *(b)* plans to make available to local education authorities and individual schools to ensure that they meet the nutritional standards to provide free, fresh (i) drinking water and (ii) chilled drinking water throughout the school day by 1 September 2007. [141331]

Mr. Dhanda: The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 require that

" school shall have a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes including a supply of drinking water".

The new nutritional standards for school food require that drinking water is provided free of charge to registered pupils. Chilled water is not a requirement of the standards. We are investing close to £500 million between 2005 and 2011 to assist authorities and schools in improving school food and drink.

Ofsted will be monitoring schools' approaches to healthier eating as part of their regular inspections of schools.

Providing free drinking water and meeting the new nutritional standards are key criteria under the healthy eating theme of the National Healthy Schools programme. We have set a target for all schools to be working towards Healthy School Status by 2009, with 75 per cent. of schools achieving the status by that time.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools were made subject to special measures in each local education authority in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142153]

Jim Knight: The information requested was provided by Ofsted in response to the PQs numbered 132878 and 132879 and is available in the Libraries of both Houses.

The number of primary and secondary schools being placed in special measures is now considerably less than in 1997/98, despite a tougher inspection regime. So far during the current academic year 116 primary and 28 secondary schools have been placed in this Ofsted category. The figures for the 1997/98 academic year were 210 primaries and 43 secondaries.

Schools in special measures are now also being turned around more quickly. Primary schools now spend an average of 16 months in special measures and secondary schools 22 months, compared with 23 months and 28 months respectively in 1997. Our reforms in the Education and Inspections Act 2006 will reduce turn round times further. Under the new arrangement authorities will be expected to be more active in preventing school failure and more decisive in tackling it where it occurs.

Special Educational Needs: Hertfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many special educational needs schools there are in Hertfordshire; and how many school places there were in each year since 1997. [124406]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is provided in the table.

Information on the number of school places is not collected centrally therefore information on the number of pupils on roll in special schools has been provided.

Special schools: Number of schools and pupils. Position in January each year: 1997 to 2006—Hertfordshire local authority

	Number of schools			Number of pupils [1]		
	[2] Maintained	[2] Non-maintained	Total	[2] Maintained	[2] Non-maintained	Total
1997	27	1	28	2,055	66	2,121
1998	27	1	28	2,106	66	2,172
1999	27	1	28	2,115	67	2,182
2000	25	2	27	2,037	134	2,171
2001	26	1	27	2,077	64	2,141
2002	26	1	27	2,088	63	2,151
2003	26	1	27	2,128	57	2,185
2004	26	1	27	2,123	57	2,180
2005	26	1	27	2,158	46	2,204
2006	25	1	26	2,082	54	2,136

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Up until 2003 the 'maintained'/'non-maintained' status of special schools was derived from information as reported by schools. There are known quality issues with this information. From 2003 the 'maintained'/'non-maintained' split of special schools has been taken from another, more reliable source.
Source:
School's Census

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of current pupils with *(a)* statemented special educational needs (SEN) and *(b)* non-statemented SEN have received a permanent exclusion from (i) maintained mainstream and (ii) other schools (A) once, (B) twice, (C) more than twice and (D) more than five times. [132385]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is given in the following table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: number of pupils permanently excluded from school by special educational needs (SEN)[2] 2004/05, England

	Maintained primary and secondary schools							
	Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements		Pupils with no identified SEN		Total	
Number of permanent exclusions per pupil	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
One	570	6.9	4,150	50.4	3,480	42.3	8,200	99.7
Two	[4]	[4]	10	0.1	10	0.1	20	0.3
Three to five	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
More than five	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	570	7.0	4,160	50.6	3,490	42.5	8,230	100.0

	Special schools							
	Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements		Pupils with no identified SEN		Total	
Number of permanent exclusions per pupil	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
One	210	81.7	[4]	[4]	40	17.1	250	100.0
Two	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Three to five	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
More than five	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	210	81.7	[4]	[4]	40	17.1	250	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[2] This analysis is based on incomplete pupil level data. Any findings based on these figures should be used with caution. Those pupils who have been permanently excluded from more than one different school during the 2004/05 school year have been selected.
[3] Number of pupils who have been permanently excluded expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils who were permanently excluded from same type of school. Based on incomplete pupil level data.
[4] Less than five, or a rate based on less than five.
[5] Information presented here has been derived from an extract of the national pupil database which has selected pupils with multiple cases of exclusion from different schools collected via 2006 school census and linked to the available characteristic data (special educational needs) collected via the 2006 school census.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source:
School Census/National Pupil Database

Special Educational Needs: Training

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps are taken to ensure that teachers in training are given a basic understanding of the range of special educational needs they are likely to encounter in mainstream schools. [141592]

Mr. Dhanda: In order to be awarded qualified teacher status, all trainee teachers must demonstrate that they understand their responsibilities under the statutory special educational needs code of practice, know how to seek advice from specialists on less common types of SEN, can differentiate their teaching to meet the needs of pupils, including those with SEN, and can identify and support pupils who experience behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

We are proposing that from September 2007 the standards for qualified teacher status will be strengthened to require teachers to know and comply with current legislation on the well-being of children and young people, to know and understand the role of others when dealing with children who have SEN or disabilities, and to communicate effectively with parents and carers.

The current induction standards require newly qualified teachers to demonstrate that they can plan effectively to meet the needs of pupils in their classes with SEN, with or without a statement. The standards also demand that they work collaboratively with both other teachers and specialists to ensure that provision is suitable for SEN pupils. The revised standards framework will reinforce, build on and strengthen the current standards surrounding SEN.

Once qualified, all teachers are expected to discuss their own development needs in performance management reviews, and to address development priorities. This could include strengthening knowledge and understanding of SEN. Where schools have identified a need to strengthen knowledge and understanding of SEN, as a school improvement priority, this should be addressed through their school improvement and development plans.

All schools receive a school development grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. A wide variety of courses are available covering SEN, ranging from awareness-raising through to in-depth studies leading to specific qualifications. It is, however, a matter for individual teachers and their schools to determine their own particular training and development needs. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, under certain conditions, to provide specific training and development of SEN.

The Department's published SEN strategy, 'Removing Barriers to Achievement' recognised the importance of training and committed us to work closely with the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) to ensure that initial teacher training and programmes of continuing professional development provide a good grounding in core skills and knowledge of SEN. We have commissioned the TDA to carry forward a range of initiatives designed to improve and strengthen the SEN skills and confidence of trainee, newly qualified and established teachers. These initiatives are being implemented and evaluated over the period 2005-08 at a cost of approximately £1.1 million.

Ofsted will be undertaking a thematic review of the journey the intending teacher takes in terms of acquiring SEN and disability knowledge and skills during their initial training and induction. It is envisaged that the fieldwork for this will begin in September 2007.

Student Loans Company

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make it his policy to pass Student Loans Company (SLC) money deducted from a former student's monthly salary onto the SLC immediately after deduction; and if he will make a statement. [141479]

Bill Rammell: Student loans repayments are not transferred to the Student Loans Company. They reduce the net assets, representing outstanding loans, on the Department for Education and Skills balance sheet. It is only information about repayments made by individual borrowers that is passed to the Company to allow it to issue annual statements. Once that information is received by the Company, repayments are attributed to each month of the tax year in which they were made by the borrower and monthly interest is calculated accordingly. This ensures that even if there is a delay in repayment details reaching the Company, the borrower does not pay any additional interest. No borrower pays too much interest as a result of the time lag in updating their account and nor does the Department or the SLC gain any additional income from the interest paid.

Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking *(a)* to extend workplace training and *(b)* to ensure that older people can improve skills. [137754]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 21 May 2007]:* Train to Gain is a new brokerage service designed to support businesses in finding the right training and skills for them to succeed. It helps to meet business demands through impartial advice linked to high quality training that is delivered in the workplace, wherever and whenever best meets the needs of the company. As at March 2007 a total of 135,860 employees were in programmes of learning, of which 23,610 (18 per cent.) were aged 50 or over. Plans are already under way to expand the Train to Gain service and the Leitch Review has recommended a significant further expansion of the programme. The Government response to the Leitch Review will be published this summer.

More widely, older people benefit from the skills strategy, in particular our priorities to help people without the foundation of employability represented by basic skills and a first full level 2 qualification.

Aggresive Children Pupils

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* training and *(b)* guidance is provided to teachers on the physical restraint of aggressive pupils. [141922]

Jim Knight: Individual schools are best placed to make decisions about the training needs of their staff. A number of organisations offer training in physical restraint and related techniques such as de-escalation. With funding from the Department of Health and Department for Education and Skills, the British Institute of Learning Disabilities has established an accreditation system for organisations offering such training.

DFES Circular 10/98 provides schools with general guidance on the use of force to control or restrain pupils. This is currently being reviewed with the aim of publishing revised guidance later this term. The Department also provides more specialised guidance on physical intervention with pupils with special educational needs.

Young People: Unemployment

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to tackle the number of 16 to 18-year-olds not in employment, education or training undertaking apprenticeships. [140574]

Phil Hope: Our 14-19 implementation plan commits us to making an offer of learning to every young person on completion of year 11 ensuring that they can progress to further study. In addition the Connexions Service supports 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training and will advise them on a range of options, including apprenticeships. A quarter of a million apprentices are currently in learning. We are introducing an entitlement to funding for an apprenticeship place so that every young person leaving school who wants to continue their learning in a work-based environment should be able to. We expect to offer this entitlement at the same time as that to study any one of the 14 diplomas, in 2013.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 14 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average band D council tax set by parish and town councils was in 2006-07. [141822]

Ruth Kelly: An estimate of the average Band D council tax set by parish and town councils in 2006-07 is to be found in table A2b of "Local Government Financial Statistics England No. 17" which was published on 30 April 2007.

A copy can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/lgfs/2007/lgfs17.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* average Band D council tax and *(b)* average council tax per dwelling in (i) each government office region in England, (ii) two-tier areas, (iii) unitary areas, (iv) metropolitan areas and (v) London boroughs is for 2007-08. [142388]

Ruth Kelly: Details of the average Band D council tax and average council tax per dwelling for 2007-08 were published in a statistical release "Levels of council tax set by local authorities in England—2007-08" on 27 March 2007.

The release can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax067.htm

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology is used by her Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140782]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government calculates its carbon emissions from buildings by establishing energy consumption in kilowatt hours, through either automated meter reads, manual meter reads or utility billing information. The resultant energy consumption figures are then multiplied by the relevant carbon emission factors.

All carbon conversion factors are provided by the Department for Environment and Rural Affairs, and the resultant emissions data are submitted to the Sustainable Development Commission as part of the Sustainable Development in Government Report. Last year's report is available on the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) Report 2006 website:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/sdig2006/.

Departments: Church of Scientology

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local government institutions have contacted her Department for guidance on visits from *(a)* Narconon and *(b)* the Church of Scientology in the last two years; and what guidance has been issued by her Department. [141162]

Mr. Woolas: No local government institutions have contacted the Department for guidance on these matters during the last two years, nor has any such guidance been issued.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the outside *(a)* agencies and *(b)* consultancies which are undertaking work commissioned by her Department; and what the (i) purpose and (ii) cost is of each commission. [138466]

Angela E. Smith: This question can be fully answered only at disproportionate cost.

Communities and Local Government has engaged consultants to support policy development in response to the need to develop sustainable homes and communities. The skills required for these programmes were not available from civil servants.

In addition, specialist skills including project management, finance, engineering, technology specification, building specification and design, security and resilience have been procured to support the delivery of projects to enhance the ability of the Fire and Rescue Service to respond to major incidents.

The work undertaken includes provision of radio engineering expertise for the new radio systems for the Fire and Rescue Service; also, logistical support and design for responding to chemical, biological, radioactive or nuclear incident, and search and rescue incidents.

However the following table lists the 10 highest consultancy costs incurred by the Department.

Vendor name	*Programme*	*Value of supply 1 April 2003-30 March 2007 (£ million)*
PA Consulting	FireControl	18.6
Mott McDonald	FireLink	12.7
SERCO	New Dimensions	7.2
IBM	Planning Portal	6.0
CapGemini	Supporting People	5.5
Collective Enterprises	Home Improvement Advice	3.1
Xansa	LogasNet	2.8
Turner Townsend	Fire Control	2.5
Xansa	Hub Project	1.9
Ernst Young	FireLink	1.1

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued to local authorities on their duties in respect of regular rubbish collection. [141777]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

My Department has funded research and guidance through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to assist local authorities in carrying out their waste collection operations in their chosen manner efficiently and effectively. However, decisions on the best way to collect waste are rightly a matter for local authorities, not central government.

European Regional Development Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the action plan produced by her Department and the Government offices in response to the decision of the European Commission to suspend European Regional Development Fund funding. [141869]

Ruth Kelly: I have placed a copy of the Roadmap to Assurance in the Library of the House, which sets out the Department's response to the EC decision to delay payment to five English ERDF programmes and one urban programme. The roadmap supplements and strengthens guidance already issued by the Department.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which programmes within the European Regional Development Fund the European Commission has *(a)* called for more site checks and *(b)* held back payments. [141870]

Ruth Kelly: The following English ERDF programmes have had payments held back by the European Commission:

Objective 1 Merseyside
Objective 1 South Yorkshire
Objective 2 West Midlands
Objective 2 Yorkshire and The Humber
Objective 2 North East of England
Objective 2 London
Stockwell
Burnley, Blackburn and Darwen
Halifax in Calderdale
Hetton and Murton
Peterborough

These programmes have increased the number of on site checks as part of a robust action plan to address the Commission requirements. We are confident that payments can resume quickly after we have submitted our reports to the Commission at the beginning of July.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many zero-carbon homes the Government forecasts will be built in each of the next three years. [141927]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the comments made by my hon. Friend the Economic Secretary, on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 142.

Immigration

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from local authorities on the Government's estimates of numbers of immigrants; and what discussions she has had with the Office for National Statistics on this issue. [141733]

Ruth Kelly: Communities and Local Government receive representations from local authorities about the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) population estimates and population projections used in the local government finance settlements on a range of issues.

Officials meet with ONS officials regularly and discuss a variety of issues including population estimates.

Local Authorities: Committees

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has produced on the balance of political representation within local authority area committees. [141871]

Ruth Kelly: The Department issued the New Council Constitutions Guidance Pack to local authorities in 2000, which includes reference to the rules relating to the political balance of area committees. The documents are available in the Library of the House and can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1133792.

Non-domestic Rates

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average business rates bill was in England in each year since 1996-97; and what it is expected to be in 2007-08. [141872]

Ruth Kelly: The average business rates bill in England in 2007-08 is expected to be £10,817.

For details of previous years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 238W.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the effect on revenue of removing the relief for empty property from business rates. [141645]

Ruth Kelly: The Government estimate was published in the Red Book alongside the Budget Report 2007.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual premises are classified by the Valuation Office Agency for business rates purposes as golf courses. [141815]

Ruth Kelly: The number of properties described as "golf course" in the 2005 Rating Lists for England, at 31 March 2007, is 1,928.

In addition to the number shown, there may be other golf courses that are secondary to a main assessment (e.g. with hotels). There may also be courses that are exempt from rating, if held as part of a larger public park and available for free and unrestricted use by the public.

Regional Housing Boards: Freedom of Information

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the regional housing boards will remain subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 when they are merged with the regional assemblies in England; and if she will make a statement. [141734]

Ruth Kelly: As voluntary bodies, Regional Assemblies are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Nevertheless the Government expects the Assemblies to comply with the spirit of the Act when they perform their designated functions, as set out in "Guidance on the General Principles of Designation of Voluntary Regional Assemblies".

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the arrangements are for local authorities to withdraw from joint waste management authority arrangements that they have previously joined. [141713]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1641W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the introduction of joint waste authorities. [141729]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

It will be for interested local authorities to submit proposals for joint waste authorities (JWAs) to the Secretary of State for approval and implementation through secondary legislation.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, which contains the Government's proposals to allow the creation of joint waste authorities, is scheduled to receive Royal Assent in the autumn. Following Royal Assent, the Government will undertake a consultation on draft Regulations which will set out what authorities' proposals must address. Any proposals will also be subject to a local public consultation. It is therefore estimated that the first JWAs may be established at the end of 2008 at the earliest, depending on the wishes of local authorities.

Waste Management: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1736W, on waste management: cost effectiveness, which local authorities have listed moving from weekly to alternative weekly collections as an efficiency gain in their annual efficiency statement submitted to her Department or its predecessor. [141760]

Ruth Kelly: The following councils have included alternative waste collections in their annual efficiency statement:

2004-05 Backward Look

Babergh district council, Mid Bedfordshire district council, North Norfolk district council, Rossendale borough council, South Cambridgeshire district council.

2005-06 Backward Look

Broadland district council, Canterbury city council, Charnwood borough council, Chorley borough council, Crewe and Nantwich borough council, Mid Bedfordshire district council (included above), Mole Valley district council, North Shropshire district council, Rossendale borough council (included above), South Cambridgeshire district council (included above), Wycombe district council.

2006-07 Forward Look

Bridgnorth district council, Canterbury city council (included above), Charnwood borough council, Chichester district council, Crewe and Nantwich borough council (included above), Hertsmere borough council, Kennet district council, Rotherham metropolitan borough council, Salisbury district council, Shrewsbury and Atcham borough council, South Kesteven district council, Suffolk Coastal district council, Tewkesbury district council, West Lancashire district council, Wycombe district council (included above).

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Buildings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost of leasing buildings and office space was for *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139474]

Mr. Lammy: Information on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Royal Parks Agency does not lease any buildings or office space.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff funded by the public purse in *(a)* the Royal Parks, *(b)* Ofcom and *(c)* the British Library are classified as people without posts. [142201]

Mr. Lammy: Both the Royal Parks Agency and Ofcom have no staff funded by the public purse classified as people without posts.

The British Library has five members of staff whose position may be deemed pertinent to the classification in question. These five employees have all been affected by recent restructuring in their area or the completion of projects on which they were engaged. Therefore, appropriate action is being implemented in each individual case to arrive at a satisfactory outcome, in terms of redeployment or a suitable settlement, to their current situations.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received by her Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139339]

Mr. Lammy: The Department received the sums recorded as follows for the letting of its properties in each of the last five years.

	£
2002-03	1,915,250.00
2003-04	1,841,425.00
2004-05	1,627,000.00
2005-06	1,679,262.17
2006-07	482,000.00

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139361]

Mr. Lammy: The following properties were *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in each of the last five financial years.

(a) The Department owns the freeholds to the following properties in Windsor:

21, 22, 23, 29 Park Street and St. Mark's Place.

During the period in question the Department sold hitherto owned properties as follows;

the freehold with vacant possession to 10 Chantry Close Windsor in 2003-04;

freeholds to 30, 31 and 32 Park Street, Windsor were sold in 2004-05;

The freehold to the North East corner of the Royal Garden Hotel was sold in 2005-06.

the freehold to 20 Park Street Windsor was sold in 2006-07 and in the same year Fairview Cottage was sold as freehold with vacant possession.

The Department owns an area of land to the north of the British Library in London.

(b) The Department rents the following properties—all in London and has done so throughout the period in question;

2-4 Cockspur Street;

Oceanic House;

Grove House;

Queen's Yard.

The Department rented floor space at Woburn Place, London until the end financial year of 2004-05 and rented a floor at 55 Blandford Street, London during financial years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139383]

Mr. Lammy: The freeholds of certain properties in Windsor are held in the name of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. These are leased on a long term basis by private individuals.

The latest estimated value held in the Department's asset register for these properties is £140,000.

One other property in Windsor cannot be sold as it is within the security compound of Windsor Castle.

The Department owns an area of land to the North of the British Library in London. There are plans to sell this land: it is currently valued in our asset register at £26.6 million.

Digital Broadcasting: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the same number of people in Copeland who can currently receive analogue television signals will be able to receive digital television signals in October this year; and if she will make a statement. [142758]

Mr. Woodward: The Whitehaven, Gosforth and Eskdale Green transmitters will switchover to digital in October this year. The technical characteristics for each transmitter have been chosen to allow their predicted digital coverage levels to match current analogue coverage levels.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will make a statement on the status of the preparations for the digital television switchover in Copeland. [142764]

Mr. Woodward: The switchover will begin in Whitehaven and the surrounding area on 17 October and in the rest of Copeland as part of the wider border region in late 2008.

Public awareness of switchover in Copeland is now 97 per cent. and 71 per cent. of primary sets have already been converted in advance of the area switching in October.

The contractor for operating the help scheme in Copeland, Capita, has now been appointed.

In addition, of those asked none has stated that they will not convert at least one set prior to switchover.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance is being provided by her Department to assist television licence fee payers in Copeland who are deaf, partially sighted or living with other forms of sensory or physical disability or impairment in successfully adapting to digital switchover in October this year. [142756]

Mr. Woodward: Households in the Whitehaven area where at least one person is registered blind or registered partially-sighted or with a severe disability will be provided with the appropriate equipment to

convert one TV set and, where necessary, the relevant help to install and use such equipment and an aerial installation.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people in Copeland will receive assistance from the targeted help scheme with regard to the digital switchover in Whitehaven; and how many people are eligible, broken down by each of the qualifying categories of recipient. [142765]

Mr. Woodward: We estimate that around 8,500 households will be eligible for assistance from the digital switchover help scheme (DSHS) in the Copeland constituency. The vast majority will be eligible for help when the Whitehaven transmitters are switched over in between October and November 2007. All others will be eligible when the Caldbeck transmitter switches in early 2009.

We estimate that around 36 per cent. of those eligible, will be eligible for free assistance on the grounds of receiving pension credit, income support and income based job seeker's allowance. 64 per cent. of those eligible, will be eligible for assistance subject to a charge of £40.

European Capital of Culture: Liverpool

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* UK Government and *(b)* EU funding has been made available to support Liverpool's Capital of Culture festival. [142763]

Mr. Lammy: DCMS and Arts council have committed £10 million over the period 2005-09 to support Liverpool's Capital of Culture. In addition Liverpool received a grant of £1,200,000 from the Urban Cultural programme; and the North West Development Agency has approved £2 million.

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) has approved £10 million funding and in addition provided Phase 1—£946,000 ERDF pre 2008 approval and Phase 2—£2.63 million ERDF post approval.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the estimated running costs are of *(a)* mandatory ceremonies, *(b)* bid projects and *(c)* the UK-Wide Cultural Festival during the Cultural Olympiad in 2012. [137492]

Tessa Jowell: The mandatory ceremonies will be directly funded from the London 2012 Organising Committee's budget for the 2012 games. It is confident that the mandatory ceremonies will be funded within its £2 billion revenue budget. The bid projects and signature events and the UK-wide cultural festival will be delivered and funded in partnership with a range of public and private partners. For example, the £40 million Legacy Trust will fund cultural and sporting activity in the run up to the 2012 games.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games will shortly set out more detail on the bid projects and the UK-wide Cultural Festival. The Cultural Olympiad is an opportunity for exciting proposals to be generated in the regions over the four-year period with funding being drawn in from a number of sources.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, what the dates were of the meetings chaired by the Minister of Sport as part of the separate cost review set up to take forward the work of the Olympic Cost Review Steering Group. [141371]

Tessa Jowell: Meetings of the cost review group which took forward the work of the steering group were held on:

26 January 2006;
7 February 2006;
21 February 2006;
9 March 2006; and
25 April 2006.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, which external consultancy companies were involved in the separate cost review set up to take forward the work of the Olympic Cost Review Steering Group. [141372]

Tessa Jowell: KPMG were commissioned in October 2005 to provide advice on the cost of the Olympics. That advice was provided on an ongoing basis; and included KPMG being involved in the cost review set up to take forward the work of the cost review steering group.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, who the members were of the separate cost review group chaired by the Minister for Sport to take forward the work of the Olympic Cost Review Steering Group; and who the members were of the original steering group. [141373]

Tessa Jowell: The cost review steering group included membership from DCMS, HMT, ODPM (now DCLG), GLA, LOCOG, the interim ODA and KPMG. These organisations were also represented in the cost review group that was chaired by the Minister for Sport.

Dependent on the subject under discussion, representatives from HO, DfT, British Olympic Association (BOA), the Olympic Board Secretariat (now the Olympic Programme Support Unit) and Sport England were also invited to attend these meetings.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, what reports were prepared *(a)* for and *(b)* by the separate cost review chaired by the Minister of Sport to take forward the work of the Olympic cost review steering group. [141374]

Tessa Jowell: The cost review group chaired by the Minister for Sport assessed opportunities for reducing costs. This included the consideration of alternative options for the configuration of the Olympic park, alternative locations for venues, and for rationalising the design of supporting infrastructure. The group did not produce a report, although the output of its work informed decisions on the new Olympic park master plan announced on 7 June 2006.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, on what date discussions of VAT with HM Treasury in relation to the proposed Olympic Delivery Authority *(a)* commenced and *(b)* concluded. [141376]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 21 November 2006, reported in paragraphs 48 to 50 of the Committee's report, published on 24 January 2007, where I stated that it was known at the time of the bid that the bid did not include VAT. The basis for that was the understood and agreed assumption that it was not possible to sort out the tax treatment until the delivery structures were in place, and that matter could not be known before the bid was won. This issue was taken forward as part of the cost review work, and I announced the VAT position in respect of the Olympic Delivery Authority in my statement to the House on 15 March 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department received representations before 15 March 2007 from *(a)* the Olympic Delivery Authority and *(b)* other bodies involved in the delivery of the 2012 Olympics on the need for swift agreement on a revised Olympics budget in order to avoid increased costs. [141902]

Tessa Jowell: Following London winning the bid, I instituted a thorough review of costs and provisions for the Olympic games. This included consultations and discussions within Government, with the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) and with other delivery partners. This also incorporated consideration of what funds needed to be available, and by when. Following the conclusion of this cost review, I announced on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, a budget for the ODA and on a number of issues including wider security, tax and contingency provision.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she plans to publish the Memorandum of Understanding on profit-sharing arrangements in respect of the 2012 Olympics agreed between her Department and the Mayor of London. [142164]

Tessa Jowell: The work to develop the revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Government and the Mayor of London is progressing well. The revised Memorandum will be published as soon as possible, following its agreement.

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what consideration was given to matters of specifically Scottish interest when drafting the terms of reference of the Olympic cost review steering group; [142342]

(2) what provision is made for consideration of impacts on Scotland in the contractual specification and terms of reference governing KPMG's provision of on-going advice on the cost of the Olympic games in 2012. [142344]

Tessa Jowell: After winning the bid to host the 2012 Olympic games, I instituted a thorough cost review. This cost review, to which KPMG provided advice, was overseen by the Olympic cost review steering group.

No specific assessment of the interests or impact to Scotland formed part of the drafting of the terms of reference of the Olympic cost review steering group, or the contractual specification and terms of reference governing KPMG's provision of on-going advice on the cost of the Olympic and Paralympic games.

The Government are committed to ensuring that people across the UK, including Scotland can benefit from, and participate in, the 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games. We are working closely with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) and the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), chaired by Charles Allen, which brings together representatives from every Nation and region. Each Nation and region is finalising its own plan to maximise the impact of the games in their area, as well as the wider opportunities to deliver a sustainable legacy from the games.

Further detailed information regarding Scotland's plan can be provided by the relevant NRG Coordinator, Ian Campbell (Scottish Executive, Sports Division, Room 1-B(N), Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ).

In addition, Hampden Park in Glasgow will host group stages of the Olympic football competition. This will add significant strength to Scotland's potential to benefit from the games.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what date her Department became aware that the budget for the 2012 Olympics would have to include VAT. [142420]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid-Kent (Hugh Robertson) on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 565W and in my evidence to the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on 21 November 2006. My response sets out the basis on which VAT was dealt with in the candidature file prepared in 2004, and the action I took to initiate a review of costs and funding following the success of the bid in autumn 2005. This is also summarised in paragraphs 48 to 50 of the Committee's report published on 24 January.

Tourism: Greater London

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment her Department has made of the UK's ability to encourage overseas visitors visiting London to visit the rest of the UK; and if she will make a statement. [141838]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS provides funding of around £50 million per annum to VisitBritain, which promotes Britain as a whole. The Department's funding agreement with VisitBritain includes a target that, of the additional expenditure by inbound visitors generated by VisitBritain, a specified percentage should be achieved outside London. For 2005-06, the target was 55 per cent. and VisitBritain exceeded this by achieving a regional spread of 61 per cent.

Campaigns run by VisitBritain and enjoyEngland highlight attractions across the country to both inbound and domestic visitors. They target, for example, the growing demand for city breaks and the lifestyle market (including the appeal of food, sport, culture and family friendly attractions).

VisitBritain also co-funds (with Visit London) the Britain and London Visitor Centre. This acts as a gateway for visitors to learn about, and set out to explore, the rest of the country. VisitBritain's quality assessment schemes for accommodation and visitor attractions ensure uniform national standards for visitors.

The Department, along with our partners, will shortly publish a strategy to ensure that the tourism sector makes the most of the opportunities provided by the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. One of the principles of this will be that the benefits of the games are felt as widely as possible throughout the UK.

VisitBritain

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1180W, on VisitBritain, how the changes referred to will improve VisitBritain's ability *(a)* to promote Britain to overseas visitors and *(b)* to support the tourism industry's progress towards the target of £100 billion turnover. [141626]

Mr. Woodward: VisitBritain has restructured to meet the challenges posed by market trends, such as the move away from printed consumer literature and towards online marketing. VisitBritain will focus its activities on developing new and growing markets, including proposed increases in staffing levels in the Asia-Pacific region.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much revenue her Department received from advertisements on her Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [142728]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office does not keep central records of such revenue. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff funded by the public purse in the Central Office of Information are classified as people without posts. [141636]

Hilary Armstrong: The Central Office of Information has no staff classified as people without posts.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on Departments: manpower, what the estimated annual cost is to the public purse of employing the members of staff without posts. [141726]

Hilary Armstrong: All members of staff in the Department's Priority Talent Pool are engaged in work to deliver the Department's business objectives to ensure that there is no additional cost to the public purse.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister without Portfolio what visits she has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government car service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government was reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142661]

The Minister without Portfolio: All travel is undertaken in accordance with Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Energy: Environment Protection

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if she will post each of the policy papers drafted for the Energy and Environment strand of the policy reviews, as referred to in paragraph 9.3 of the Prime Minister's strategy unit report on building on progress: energy and environment, dated 5 June, on the Cabinet Office website. [142443]

Mr. McFadden: Information relating to the policy review is available on the Cabinet Office website http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy_review/index.asp. Papers were drafted for working group meetings of each strand of the policy review. However, these were working papers prepared for internal discussion by Ministers and have not been disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussions in future.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been assisted through the National Youth Volunteering Service; how many regional outlets have been set up; and what proportion of the £100 million budget has been spent. [142596]

Edward Miliband: The independent youth-led charity v has created nearly 120,000 volunteering opportunities for young people.

In addition to the grant funded and match funded projects, v has commissioned 20 teams based within local communities with the aim of creating a further 22,800 local opportunities over the next two years.

A detailed breakdown of expenditure will be in v's annual report which will be published later this year.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Advertising

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* print and *(b)* online campaign advertising and sponsorship related to *The Guardian* newspaper Side by Side supplement. [129955]

Alan Johnson: Sponsorship costs for running the supplement were £50,000. There were no additional costs for print or online advertising to promote the supplement.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how much his Department has spent on *(a)* sponsoring newspaper and publication supplements and *(b)* funding advertorials in newspapers or publications in the last year for which figures are available; and what the topic of each was; [129957]

(2) when he expects to answer Questions *(a)* 129957 on publications tabled on 22 March 2007 and *(b)* 129955 on advertising and sponsorship tabled on 21 March 2007 by the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire. [142390]

Alan Johnson: In financial year 2006-07, the following activity was placed:

(a) Sponsorship of supplements in newspapers and publications.

	£000
Evening Standard (London Challenge)	60.0
The Guardian (Every Child Matters)	[1]120.0
TES (14-19 reforms)	51.4
The Guardian (14-19 reforms	42.0

[1] Covers two supplements in Guardian Education and Guardian Society

(b) Advertorials in newspapers and magazines.

	£000
Kerrang (Student finance)	2.3
NME (Student finance)	15.6
More (Student finance)	9.6
Daily Mirror (Childcare)	13.0
The Voice (Childcare)	1.5

Animal Experiments

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what official information is distributed to schools regarding vivisection. [141926]

Jim Knight: The Department has not distributed any information to schools regarding vivisection.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Leicester

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when his Department was informed that the company Centerprise had made the decision not to provide computer equipment in Leicester under the Building Schools for the Future projects. [138152]

Jim Knight: The DFES was informed of Centerprise's voluntary withdrawal from providing ICT equipment as part of Leicester's BSF programme on 12 March 2007.

Children: Protection

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent on training on multi-agency safeguarding for all services working with parents and children in 2006-07. [141004]

Beverley Hughes: The core statutory guidance document 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' sets out the way in which the training and development of staff and volunteers should be undertaken to help them safeguard and promote the welfare of children effectively. The guidance states that it is the responsibility of employers to identify adequate resources and support for multi-agency training. It is the responsibility of the local authorities (LAs), with their partners in children's trusts, and in discussion with the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) to decide, which bodies should commission or deliver the training. In some local areas it is the LSCB themselves who are commissioned to deliver the multi-agency training.

The Department only has data on this final type of training—delivered by LSCBs themselves. LSCBs were invited to take part in a voluntary survey in December 2006. In those survey returns, planned expenditure on the delivery of training in 2006-07 across those LSCBs for which we have data—around two thirds of all LSCBs in England—totalled around £2 million. If this is representative of all LSCBs then across the whole of England we could expect LSCBs to have spent around £3 million on safeguarding training in 2006-07. However this LSCB expenditure will be only part of the overall expenditure on multi-agency safeguarding training.

City Academies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the cost was of each completed academy; and what contribution was made by the Government to each. [140973]

Jim Knight: There are 26 Academies open where construction work has been completed. The cost of each is detailed in the chart. These figures presented are as at May 2007 and are subject to change as final accounts have yet to be agreed.

£ million (rounded to nearest half million)

	Academy	Cost	DfES Contribution
1	Bexley Business Academy[1]	38.5	36
2	Walsall City Academy	17.5	15
3	Greig City Academy, Haringey	16.5	14.5
4	Capital City Academy, Brent	27.5	25.5
5	Lambeth Academy	25.5	23.5
6	King's Academy, Middlesbrough	22.5	20.5
7	Unity City Academy, Middlesbrough	22.0	18.5
8	The West London Academy, Ealing[1]	32.5	30.5
9	Stockley Academy, Hillingdon	28.0	25.5
10	Djanogly City Academy, Nottingham	23.5	23.5
11	The Academy at Peckham, Southwark	30.0	28
12	Bristol City Academy	27.5	25
13	Manchester Academy	20.0	18
14	Mossbourne Community Academy, Hackney	28.5	26.5
15	The Academy of St. Francis of Assisi, Liverpool	21.0	19
16	Northampton Academy	27.5	25.5
17	City of London Academy, Southwark	33.5	31.5
18	Trinity Academy, Doncaster	25.0	23
19	Marlowe Academy, Kent	28.0	25
20	London Academy, Barnet	33.5	32
21	Sandwell Academy	27.0	24.5
22	Grace Academy, Solihull	31.5	29.5
23	Salford City Academy	16.5	15
24	David Young Community Academy, Leeds	23.5	21.5
25	Dixons City Academy, Bradford[2]	6.5	6
26	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy, Lewisham[2]	7.0	6.5

[1] The Business Academy, Bexley and West London Academy, Ealing are "all through" Academies catering for pupils from age 3 to 19. This cost includes the cost of both the primary school and secondary school.

[2] Dixons and Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham are both conversions from City Technology Colleges.

City Academies: Finance

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average private sector capital contribution has been to new city academies established over the last 12 months. [141024]

Jim Knight: When the academy programme was launched in 2000, sponsors were required to provide 10 per cent. of the capital costs of a new building up to a maximum of £2 million. We have since moved to an endowment model of sponsorship, and sponsors will, as the norm, establish an endowment fund worth £2 million (or £1.5 million for the fourth or subsequent academy for sponsors of multiple academies). The Department does not distinguish between sponsorship commitments made by private sector donors and those made by charitable organisations.

There are at present 47 open academies. Of these: two academy trusts had met their full sponsorship commitments before May 2006; one is a former city technology college which is not required to provide sponsorship in the form of a capital contribution; and one is providing sponsorship under the endowment model of sponsorship, leaving a total of 43 academies with commitments to provide a contribution to capital costs.

Over the 12 months ending 31 May 2007 sponsor contributions to capital costs amounted to £13,202,000, an average of £307,023 over the 43 open academies described above.

Sponsors' donations contributing to capital costs are normally made over the lifetime of the building costs of the project, so in the majority of cases a number of payments towards capital costs remain to be made.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142492]

Mr. Dhanda: We always consider the needs of minority audiences, including those for whom BSL is a first language, when developing communications campaigns for external audiences, working closely with the Central Office of Information (COI) Diversity Unit. Decisions about the scale and shape of campaign activity need to reflect our responsibility to get the best possible value for money from our marketing budgets.

In recent years, we contributed to a cross-Whitehall BSL video magazine, distributed by COI, which has now been discontinued. The increasing public access to digital media has helped us to respond to accessibility issues around provision of our information. We are committed to including all our public information campaigns on our website in plain English, which helps to overcome many barriers for those with impaired hearing

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139909]

Alan Johnson: Details of payments of travel agencies' fees incurred by the Department over the last eight years are set out in the following table.

£

	Hotel contract	Business travel contract
2006/07	169,864	447,131
2005/06	129,224	422,565

	Hotel contract	£ Business travel contract
2004/05	142,697	396,225
2003/04	98,107	381,192
2002/03	87,541	385,627
2001/02	100,746	441,353
2000/01	97,738	425,770
1999/2000	92,753	399,975

The Department has engaged an agent to arrange hotel accommodation for DfES staff that stay overnight when on official business. The Department has also engaged an agent to arrange all travel tickets for both domestic and foreign travel. The fees stated above form part of the contract of both agents.

The Department does not have any executive agencies.

Departments: Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which grants for which his Department is responsible have been made to Westminster city council since 1997-98; and what the value was of each grant. [137760]

Alan Johnson: The grants made to Westminster city council in each year since 1997-98 by this Department, as recorded by the council in the Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns, are as follows.

	£000
1997-98	
Standards Fund	545
Section 11 (Ethnic Minorities) Grant (excluding SRB) 1363	
1998-99	
Standards Fund	809
Under-5s Specific Grant	460
Ethnic Minorities Achievement Grant	1,539
1999-2000	
Standards Fund	1,879
Nursery Education Grant for four-year-olds	64
Ethnic Minorities Achievement Grant	1,398
2000-01	
Standards Fund	3,650
Nursery Education Grant for four-year-olds	47
Provision for three-year-olds	30
Ethnic Minorities Achievement Grant	1,249
Sure Start	2
Child Care and Early Years	360
2001-02	
Standards Fund	7,478
Teachers Pay Reform	867
School Standards Grant	1,469
Child Care and Early Years	678
2002-03	
Standards Fund	9,555
Nursery Education for three-year-olds	915
Teachers Pay Reform	1,083
School Standards Grant	1,540
Child Care and Early Years	593
2003-04	
Child care	865
Excellence in Cities	1,065
School Standards	1,967
Standards Fund	8,223
Teachers' Pay Reform	2,073
Children's Services	5,706
2004-05	
Adoption Support and Guardianship Special Orders	189
Choice Protects	246
General Sure Start Grant	15
Education Actions Zones	10
Excellence in Cities	1,119
Safeguarding Children	739
School Standards	2,125
Standards Fund	8,472
Teachers' Pay Reform/Threshold	2,415
Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation	65
2005-06	
Adoption Support and Guardianship Special Orders	314
Choice Protects	530
General Sure Start Grant	3,877
Change Fund	43
Safeguarding Children	862
School Standards	2,286
Standards Fund	10,465
Teachers' Pay Reform/Threshold	2,402
Transforming Youth Work Development Fund	17
Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation	115
2006-07	
Children's Services	901
General Sure Start Grant	2,366
Standards Fund - School Standards Grant	2,420
Standards Fund—Other	8,725
Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation	140

This table sets out the specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services) paid to Westminster and exclude grant outside AEF such as capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities, European funding; or where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area. Revenue support grant and other elements of formula grant (such as redistributed business rates and police grant) have also been excluded.

Revenue outturn data have been used from 1997/98 to 2005/06 (the last year available) and Revenue Account (RA) data have been used for 2006-07.

Dedicated schools grant (DSG) started in 2006/07 and this has been recorded by Westminster council on their RA return. However, it has been excluded from the above table as prior to 2006-07 this funding was part of RSG, and the question excludes the funding from RSG. The Department can confirm that £86,014 of DSG was paid to Westminster in 2006/07.

There are a number of smaller grants included in an 'Other' category on the revenue returns submitted by local authorities. It is possible that there may be some DfES grants within this category, but it is not possible to identify these separately within the return.

Examinations: Fees and Charges

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what examination fee will be charged to *(a)* schools and *(b)* further education colleges and institutions for the provision of Diploma examinations in each Diploma subject in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [138760]

Jim Knight: The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is currently consulting on the principles which should inform the setting of fees for the Diploma.

Free School Meals: Lone Parents

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of children entitled to free school meals in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools lived with a parent who had sole custody in each year since 1997. [142654]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Further Education: Finance

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made towards closing the gap between the average annual per capita funding from Government for full-time equivalent learners aged 16, 17 and 18 years in further education colleges and those in sixth forms; and if he will make a statement. [138759]

Bill Rammell: As the Secretary of State confirmed in his speech to the Association of Colleges annual conference in November 2006 we have, by 2006/7, reduced the funding gap between school sixth forms and FE colleges for comparable 16 to 18 provision by 5 per cent.. We committed in the FE White Paper to take further steps to narrow this funding gap by a further 3 per cent. by 2008 and beyond that to take steps to narrow the gap further as resources allow. For the longer term we plan to establish common funding arrangements for all 16 to 18 provision with comparable funding for comparable activity, irrespective of the type of institution providing the education and training. Our recent consultation on the creation of a demand led system included proposals for this common 16 to 18 funding approach. We are currently considering responses to the consultation and plan to implement changes in time for the 2008/09 academic year.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average annual per capita funding from Government for full-time equivalent learners aged 16, 17 and 18 years in *(a)* further education colleges and *(b)* school sixth forms was in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and (iii) 2007-08. [138761]

Bill Rammell: Per capita funding for full-time equivalent 16, 17 and 18-year-old learners in further education colleges in 2005-06 was £5,000. In 2006-07 we estimate this will rise to £5,100 but this will not be confirmed until final student numbers are available later in the year.

For 16, 17 and 18-year-olds in school sixth forms the level of funding per pupil was £4,900 in 2005-06, this rose to £5,200 in 2006-07.

Figures for school sixth forms and colleges are not directly comparable as a range of factors affects them including the mix of provision offered, achievement and retention levels and the location in which the provider is based. It is also impossible to get an entirely accurate full time equivalent learner figure for college students whereas for schools, as almost all pupils study full time in sixth forms, the pupil count is precise.

Data for 2007-08 will not be available until autumn 2007.

Heartease High School

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which company has the contract to develop the programme for the feasibility study on the proposed academy at Heartease high school; how much has been allocated by his Department for the feasibility study; and if he will take steps to ensure that the articles of memorandum of association of the company are freely available before the consultation process is complete. [139086]

Jim Knight: Cambridge Education (CE Ltd) has been appointed to manage the feasibility study; the cost of this work is £323,000, which is in line with the average cost of a nine-month feasibility phase on other academy projects. As a limited company the articles and memorandum of association for CE are available from Companies House.

Literacy: Computer Software

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance his Department provides to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* schools on the use of reading and literacy software in schools. [139132]

Jim Knight: There is extensive guidance on the use of reading and literacy software for local authorities and schools on the TeacherNet website (www.teachernet.gov.uk) for both primary and secondary education. This includes the practical support pack which is an online collection of high quality lesson content, lesson plans, multimedia resources and ICT support materials designed to help teachers develop their teaching practice using ICT. It shows the role that ICT can play in teaching and learning objectives as a practical approach.

The practical support pack will soon be replaced by a new CPD microsite contained within TeacherNet, called 'Reach'. Reach will contain all of the PSP materials and more within a new design.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average education funding was per pupil in England, broken down by local authority area in each year since 1979. [140561]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many parents made appeals against the allocation of their child to a school in each local education authority in each year since 1997; how many of these were upheld; and if he will make a statement. [142150]

Jim Knight: Data on heard and successful admissions appeals for all local education authorities in England, covering the years 1997-98 to 2005-06, have been placed in the Library.

Schools: Choirs

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many schools have joined the £10 million initiative to encourage choral singing; how many extra students the initiative has assisted; and what proportion of the budget has been spent. [142590]

Jim Knight: The £10 million is not being devolved to schools at this stage. There has been huge interest in the national singing campaign and Howard Goodall, the singing ambassador, has received hundreds of messages from schools, organisations and individuals asking how they can become involved or providing details of the work they already do. Plans are being made to allocate the funding to major national initiatives to achieve the widest possible impact. This will include the production of a major song resource to be made available to every school and every child and the training of vocal leaders for schools.

Schools: Church of Scientology

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many schools have contacted his Department for guidance on visits from *(a)* Narconon and *(b)* the Church of Scientology in the last two years; and what guidance has been issued by his Department; [141161]

(2) what assessment he has made of the success of the Narconon programme in schools; [141163]

(3) what contact his Department has had with *(a)* Narconon and *(b)* the Church of Scientology in the last two years. [141164]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has had no contact with Narconon or the Church of Scientology in the last two years, nor have schools contacted the Department for guidance on visits by these organisations.

The Department's guidance, "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" (DFES 2004) is clear that teachers should be the main providers of drug education and maintain responsibility for the overall drug education programme in their school. External contributors can be used where they add to the drug education programme a dimension that the teacher alone cannot deliver.

The Department has not assessed the Narconon drug programme for schools as it is for schools and local authorities to decide whether to use the services of an external contributor to assist with their drug education programme, and if so who this should be.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many representations he has received in response to the school, early years and 14-16 funding consultation; what assessment he has made of the responses; if he will put a summary of the responses in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [143037]

Jim Knight: By 1 June 2007, the closing date of the consultation, my Department had received a total of 1,163 representations about our proposals for the school, early years and 14-16 funding arrangements for 2008-11. This includes 651 representations made as part of six campaigns including 542 letters supporting the position of the F40 group of authorities of which the hon. Member for Stafford is chair.

We are now considering the responses. The final total, including a number received since the closing date, will be set out in a report summarising the responses to the consultation to be published on the TeacherNet website when we announce our decisions on the proposals in the summer. A copy of the report will be placed in the Library.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding was allocated to *(a)* special educational needs and *(b)* gifted and talented learning in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [141220]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding is available for schools to access swimming facilities. [138804]

Jim Knight: Swimming activities and water safety is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum for physical education in primary schools and schools can choose it as a programme of study in secondary schools. Funding for schools to deliver the National Curriculum is part of their core funding through the Dedicated Schools Grant—£28.3 billion in total in 2007-08.

In addition, £5.5 million in 2006-08 is being targeted at supporting pupils to reach the Key Stage 2 requirements for swimming, including being able to swim at least 25 metres.

Teachers: Vacancies

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teaching posts have been vacant in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142149]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of full-time vacant teaching posts in local authority maintained nursery/primary, secondary and special schools in each January from 1997 to 2007. Vacancy rates as a percentage of full-time teachers in post are also included.

A full-time teacher vacancy refers to a full-time appointment of at least one term's duration that, on the survey date, had been advertised but not filled. Vacancies include those filled on a temporary basis unless filled by someone with a fixed term contract of one term or more.

Full-time vacancy[1] rates in local authority maintained schools in England by grade, January of each year

	Vacancies as a percentage of teachers in post[2]											*Number of vacancies*
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[3]*	*2007[3]*
Nursery and primary												
All vacancies												
Number	1,090	1,390	1,370	1,420	2,110	1,800	1,110	780	740	710	660	—
Rate	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	—
Grade[4,5]												
Head or deputy/ assistant	0.9	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7	230
Head	0.6	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.6	100
Deputy head/assistant head	1.3	2.0	1.7	1.3	1.8	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.7	130
Classroom teacher	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.2	1.1	0.6	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	430
Secondary												
All vacancies												
Number	730	970	940	1,250	2,590	2,450	2,050	1,630	1,550	1,340	1,220	—
Rate	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.7	1.4	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	—
Grade[4,5]												
Head or deputy/ assistant	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	80
Head	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.5	20
Deputy head/assistant head	0.7	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.4	60
Classroom teacher	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.5	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	1,130
Special												
All vacancies												
Number	200	230	220	240	280	290	240	220	190	180	170	—
Rate	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.6	1.4	—
Grade[4,5]												
Head or deputy/ assistant	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.5	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.3	1.5	1.3	40
Head	1.2	1.1	2.0	2.5	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.9	1.6	1.2	10
Deputy head/assistant head	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.6	2.3	2.0	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.4	1.4	30
Classroom teacher	1.4	1.8	1.6	1.8	2.3	2.6	2.2	2.0	1.7	1.6	1.4	130
Nursery/primary, secondary and special												
All vacancies												
Number	2,020	2,590	2,530	2,910	4,980	4,540	3,410	2,630	2,480	2,230	2,040	—
Rate	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.8	1.4	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	—

Full-time vacancy[1] rates in local authority maintained schools in England by grade, January of each year

	Vacancies as a percentage of teachers in post[2]											*Number of vacancies*
	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007[3]*	*2007[3]*
Grade[4,5]												
Head or deputy/ assistant	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.6	350
Head	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	130
Deputy head/assistant head	1.2	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.6	220
Classroom teacher	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.8	1.4	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.5	1,690

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.
[2] Teachers in post include full-time qualified regular teachers in (or on secondment from) maintained nursery and primary schools, plus the primary portion of full-time regular divided service, peripatetic, advisory and miscellaneous teachers.
[3] Provisional.
[4] The number of teachers in post by grade is from the 618g survey for 2001 onwards, previous years were estimated using the Database of Teacher Records.
[5] The role of assistant head was created in 2001.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because of rounding.
Source:
618g survey

Teachers: Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students on teacher training courses did not complete such courses in each year between 1997 and 2006. [142522]

Jim Knight: The following tables show the number of final year initial teacher training (ITT) trainees for each year between 1998-99 and 2004-05 who did not gain qualified teacher status (QTS) in their final year of training and of these the number who left their course before completion and the number where the outcome of QTS is unknown for:

1. Mainstream initial teacher training (ITT) trainees

2. Employment based routes (EBR) trainees

Table 1. Mainstream final year ITT trainees

			Number of mainstream final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of mainstream trainees in their final year	*Number of mainstream final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
1998/99	27,200	24,070	1,310	460	1,350	3,130
1999/2000	24,650	21,690	1,290	350	1,330	2,960
2000/01	25,720	22,640	1,350	480	1,250	3,080
2001/02	26,350	23,280	1,130	0	1,940	3,070
2000/03	28,570	25,430	1,050	10	2,090	3,140
2003/04	30,970	27,340	1,470	0	2,160	3,630
2004/05	31,360	27,150	1,410	20	2,780	4,210

Notes:
1. Includes trainees from universities and other higher education (HE) institutions, school centred initial teacher training (SCITT) and open universities (OU), but exclude employment based routes (EBR).
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).
Source:
TDA performance profiles.

Table 2. Employment based routes (EBR) trainees

			Number of EBR final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of EBR trainees in their final year	*Number of EBR final year trainees gaining QTS*	*Known not to have completed course*	*Undefined outcome*	*Other outcome*	*Total*
2001/02	2,440	2,210	30	0	190	230
2002/03	4,030	3,670	340	0	20	360

Table 2. Employment based routes (EBR) trainees

			Number of EBR final year trainees who have not gained QTS			
	Total number of EBR trainees in their final year	Number of EBR final year trainees gaining QTS	Known not to have completed course	Undefined outcome	Other outcome	Total
2003/04	4,950	4,470	440	0	30	470
2004/05	7,220	6,600	260	0	350	610

Notes:
1. Includes trainees through employment based routes (EBR) only.
2. Numbers are individually rounded to the nearest 10, therefore may not sum.
3. 'Other outcome' includes final year trainees who are yet to complete their course, those with withheld QTS (including those where their skills test was not met, their standards were not met and where both their standards and skills test were not met) and those where the skill test has not been taken (include those whose standards were met and those whose standards were not met).

Source:
TDA performance profiles.

Train-to-Gain Programmes

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many employees within the public sector had enrolled in train-to-gain programmes by the end of February 2007 in public sector employers with *(a)* fewer that 250, *(b)* between 250 and 1,000, *(c)* between 1,000 and 5,000 and *(d)* more than 5,000 employees. [139511]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Train to gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); Mark Haysom the LSC Chief Executive has written directly to the hon. Member with the available information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 June 2007:

I am writing in response to your question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills about how many employees within the public sector had enrolled in train to gain programmes by the end of February 2007. In public sector employers with *(a)* fewer than 250 *(b)* between 250 and 1,000, *(c)* 1,000 and 5,000, *(d)* more than 5,000 employees

The LSC employer database structure does not report all of the size bands requested. However, the following information should be helpful.

Employer size	Number of learners
1 to 49	5,225
250 to 4,999	2,052
5,000 +	255

Aggressive Pupils

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what *(a)* counselling and *(b)* legal support has been provided by his Department to teachers in circumstances where aggressive pupils have been physically restrained in each of the last three years. [141923]

Jim Knight: The provision of counselling and legal support is a matter for the local authorities and schools that employ teachers and for teachers' professional associations. Teachers who have been subjected to physical aggression should report incidents to their employer, who has a duty of care to support them.

The Department has issued new guidance, Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education which gives advice about dealing with allegations against teachers. This came into force on 1 January 2007.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Bees

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the contribution of pollination activity by bees to British agriculture since 2000. [142276]

Barry Gardiner: A 2001 Economic Evaluation of DEFRA's bee health programme estimated the value of honey bees to commercial pollination at approximately £120 million, although changes in crop areas and values suggest that the value may now be lower. No valuation of the role of honey bees in relation to the pollination of wild plants is available.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farmers in *(a)* Gravesham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* England have not yet received single farm payments for (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [140803]

Barry Gardiner: In England, as of 6 June 2007, 24 claimants have not received a payment for the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and approximately 4,400 claimants have not yet received a payment for the SPS 2006.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the Single Payment Scheme is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Bees: Diseases

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the development of Colony Collapse Disorder among honey bees in each of the last five years for which records are available. [142279]

Barry Gardiner: The term Colony Collapse Disorder is being used in the USA to describe cases in which some very large scale commercial operations have lost a high percentage of their hives. A wide range of possible causes are being investigated by researchers in the USA. The National Bee Unit at DEFRA's Central Science Laboratory is maintaining close contact with researchers from the USA.

There have been widely reported, but isolated, cases in the UK in which beekeepers have lost a high percentage of their bee colonies. However, overall percentage losses are similar to previous years, albeit reflecting the gradual increase seen in the last five years.

Bees: Research

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received in the last three years on funding of research into bees. [142278]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA has received a small number of representations in the last three years regarding funding of research into bees.

Biodiversity

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of *(a)* priority habitats and *(b)* priority species under the Biodiversity Action Plan are decreasing; and which habitats and species are involved. [137856]

Barry Gardiner: There are 373 single species action plans and 45 habitat action plans under the UK biodiversity action plan. These are referred to as the priority species and habitats. Reporting on the status and trends of these priorities is done every three years. The latest available figures are for 2005. The next and final figures before the 2010 biodiversity target will be made available in February 2009. In 2005, the information below was reported:

175 species (47 per cent.) are either increasing or are stable, which is an improvement on the 2002 figures. Similarly, the number of species assessed as 'declining or lost' fell between 2002 and 2005. For habitats, 35 per cent. are now increasing or stable.

102 species (27 per cent.) are thought to be declining, but the decline is slowing for 36 species (10 per cent.). Although 17 habitats (39 per cent.) are thought to be declining, this decline is slowing for 11 habitats (25 per cent.).

Declining habitats

Chalk rivers;
Coastal and floodplain grazing marsh;
Littoral and sublittoral chalk;
Sheltered muddy gravels;
Modiolus modiolus beds;
Coastal saltmarsh.

Declining habitats but slowing

Fens;
Lowland dry acid grassland;
Purple moor grass and rush pastures;
Eutrophic standing waters;
Blanket bog;
Lowland wood-pasture and parkland;
Upland hay meadows;
Upland calcareous grassland;
Lowland calcareous grassland;
Lowland meadows;
Limestone pavements;

Declining species	
Thlaspi perfoliatum	Cotswold Pennycress
Silene gallica	Small-flowered Catchfly
Ranunculus tripartitus	Three-lobed Water-crowfoot
Pyrrhula pyrrhula	Bullfinch
Pallavicinia lyellii	Veilwort
Orthotrichum pallens	Pale Bristle-moss
Mentha pulegium	Pennyroyal
Luronium natans	Floating Water Plantain
Liparis loeselii	Fen Orchid
Limoniscus violaceus	Violet Click Beetle
Juncus pygmaeus	Pygmy Rush
Idaea ochrata cantiata	Bright Wave
Harpalus froelichi	a Ground Beetle
Gentianella uliginosa	Dune Gentian
Galium tricornutum	Corn Cleavers
Galeopsis angustifolia	Red Hemp-nettle
Formica candida	Black bog ant
Ditrichum plumbicola	Lead-moss
Cicindela sylvatica	Heath Tiger Beetle
Cerastium nigrescens	Shetland Mouse-ear
Bidessus unistriatus	a Diving Beetle
Anostirus castaneus	Chestnut coloured click beetle
Eunicella verrucosa	Pink Sea-fan
Zygodon gracilis	Nowell's Limestone Moss
Weissia multicapsularis	Moss
Tetrao tetrix	Black Grouse
Streptopelia turtur	Turtle Dove
Squamarina lentigera	Scaly Breck-Lichen
Sium latifolium	Greater Water Parsnip
Sciurus vulgaris	Red Squirrel
Schismatomma graphidioides	a Lichen
Rheumaptera hastate	Argent and sable
Raja batis	Common Skate
Potamogeton compressus	Grass-wrack Pondweed
Oria musculosa	Brighton Wainscot
Muscicapa striata	Spotted Flycatcher
Miliaria calandra	Corn Bunting
Melanitta nigra	Common Scoter
Margaritifera margaritifera	Freshwater Pearl Mussel
Lycopodiella inundata	Marsh Clubmoss
Lycia zonaria britannica	Belted Beauty
Linnaea borealis	Twinflower
Leptopsammia pruvoti	Sunset Cup Coral
Leptodontium gemmascens	Thatch Moss
Juniperus communis	Juniper
Jodia croceago	Orange Upperwing
Hydroporus rufifrons	a Diving Beetle
Heliophobus reticulata	Bordered Gothic
Formica rufibarbis	Red Barbed Ant
Donacia bicolora	a Reed Beetle
Damasonium alisma	Starfruit
Cotoneaster integerrimus	Wild Cotoneaster
Chrysotoxum octomaculatum	a Hoverfly

Declining species	
Chaenotheca phaeocephala	a Lichen
Carduelis cannabina	Linnet
Caloplaca luteoalba	Orange-Fruited Elm-lichen
Calicium corynellum	a Lichen
Bryoria smithii	a Lichen
Boloria euphrosyne	Pearl-bordered Fritillary
Bidessus minutissimus	a Diving Beetle
Austropotamobius pajlipes	Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish
Aspitates gilvaria gilvaria	Straw Belle
Anisus vorticulus	Ramshorn snail
Alauda arvensis	Skylark
Acrocephalus palustris	Marsh Warbler

Declining species but slowing	
Zygaena loti scotica	Slender Scotch Burnet
Woodsia ilvensis	Oblong Woodsia
Triturus cristatus	Great Crested newt
Tolypella intricata	Tassel Stonewort
Segmenting nitida	Shining ram's-horn snail
Potamogeton rutilus	Shetland Pondweed
Polia bombycina	Pale Shining Brown
Plebejus argus	Silver-studded Blue
Perdix perdix	Grey Partridge
Pechipogo strigilata	Common Fan-foot
Ostrea edulis	Native Oyster
Osmia xanthomelana	a Mason Bee
Odontomyia hydroleon	a Soldierfly
Muscardinus avellanarius	Dormouse
Mejiicta athaila	Heath Fritillary
Lejeunea mandonii	Atlantic lejeunea
Jynx torquilla	Wryneck
Hemaris tityus	Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth
Hammerschmidtia ferruginea	a Hoverfly
Graphoderus zonatus	Spangled Water Beetle
Formica exsecta	Narrow-headed Ant
Eurodryas aurinia	Marsh Fritillary
Eristalis cryptarum	Bog hoverfly
Enterographa elaborate	New Forest beech-lichen
Dicycla oo	Heart Moth
Coiletes floralis	The Northern Colletes
Coenagrion mercuriale	Southern Damselfly
Cephaloziella nicholsonii	Greater Copperwort
Carterocephalus palaemon	Chequered Skipper
Bufo calamita	Natterjack Toad
Athetis paijustris	Marsh Moth
Asparagus officinalis ssp. prostratus	Wild Asparagus
Asilus crabroniformis	Hornet robberfly
Arvicola terrestris	Water Vole
Argynnis adippe	High Brown Fritillary
Agabus brunneus	a Diving Beetle

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent policy is on payment of compensation to farmers whose cattle contract tuberculosis; and if he will make a statement. [141240]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Since 1 February 2006, compensation in England for bovine tuberculosis (TB) has been determined primarily using table values, which reflect the average sales price of bovine animals in 47 different categories. The categories are based on the animal's age, gender, type (dairy or beef) and status (that is, pedigree or non-pedigree).

The Government are obliged to pay compensation for cattle that are culled as a result of TB. However, we believe that table valuations provide a fairer balance between the costs that are expected to be carried by the taxpayer and those that are expected to be carried by the farmer than was provided by the previous system of individual valuation.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Testing

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce lay testers for bovine tuberculosis following the recent pilot study. [141100]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are considering how to introduce lay testing for bovine tuberculosis. However, final decisions have still to be taken on whether to proceed.

Details of the Animal Health pilot study have been circulated and discussed with interested parties. The pilot has demonstrated that lay staff can successfully be trained to carry out this work under veterinary supervision. However, we recognise that extending the principle of lay testing raises some important issues. These need to be fully explored with the veterinary profession and other interested parties before firm proposals can be developed.

BSE: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the scientific rationale is for continuing to cull bovine spongiform encephalopathy cohort cattle. [141101]

Mr. Bradshaw: A Veterinary Risk Assessment (VRA), published on 21 May 2007, concluded that culling cohorts of cattle affected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) as soon as possible:

(i) supports the Government's challenging target of eradicating BSE in Great Britain by 2010;

(ii) promotes consumer confidence in UK beef; and

(iii) avoids the need for expensive additional control measures to monitor cohorts.

The VRA is available on the DEFRA website.

Dairy Farming: Republic of Ireland

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the Irish Government's support for rationalisation of its dairy industry on the UK dairy industry. [142135]

Barry Gardiner: The Irish Government announced a dairy processing industry investment package in 2006. Following commercial and technical evaluation of the applications, the announcement of grant awards was made in April 2007. A total of 19 capital investment

projects were approved and awarded Government grant assistance of €114 million. Industry will fund an additional €172 million to generate an estimated capital spend of €286 million.

The UK Government have made no assessment of the impact on the UK dairy industry as the details of the proposals have only recently been announced. Proposals for research to assess the impact will be evaluated alongside competing proposals in line with Government's priorities. It is, of course, open to the UK dairy sector to fund its own research into the likely effects of the Irish dairy package so that it can respond appropriately.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140791]

Barry Gardiner: The information requested is as follows.

1. Carbon emissions from buildings

Carbon emissions from buildings are calculated from total kilowatt hour energy use (electricity and fossil fuel) in all buildings on the estate. Conversion factors to convert kilowatt hours into tonnes carbon/carbon dioxide are provided by the Sustainable Development Commission in accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) return.

2. Carbon emissions from travel

Carbon emissions from official travel within DEFRA are calculated using engine size, total mileage and fuel type. Conversion factors to convert fuel type into tonnes carbon dioxide are provided by the Sustainable Development Commission in accordance with the requirements of the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) return.

Departments: Guildford

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the planned date is for the closure of his Department's site at Epsom Road, Guildford. [138982]

Barry Gardiner: The planned date for closure of the Epsom road, Guildford site is 30 December 2007.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to ensure that its site at Epsom road, Guildford is replaced with a residential development that *(a)* is low or zero carbon and *(b)* meets high environmental standards. [138983]

Barry Gardiner: The Department is conscious that any development scheme for which planning consent is submitted should comply with all available sustainable energy and environmental standards.

The Department confirms that the application for planning that is to be submitted is for residential property and as such will attract the relevant policy (SE2) within the Surrey structure plan relating to sustainable energy and the level three standard for sustainable homes as detailed by Department for Communities and Local Government.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department and its representatives have had with Guildford borough council on placing tree protection orders on trees at the Department's site at Epsom road, Guildford. [138984]

Barry Gardiner: The Department and its agent have had extensive discussions with Guildford borough council's Trees and Woodlands Officer. The officer is satisfied that there is no threat to the trees under the Department's planning proposal and no Tree Preservation Orders have been made.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science are classified as people without posts. [141646]

Barry Gardiner: No staff in CEFAS are classified as people without posts.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139379]

Barry Gardiner: The most recent valuation of the Department's property portfolio was on 1 April 2005. The estimated total value at that date was £490,224,550.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139520]

Barry Gardiner: From its inception in 2001 to 2003-04, the Department did not record separate advertising costs as part of its overall communications expenditure. The figures for key advertising campaigns from 2004-05 are as follows.

	Advertising campaign	*Amount (£)*
2004-05	Personal food imports	92,343
2005-06	Personal food imports	94,278
2006-07	Personal food imports	81,732
2005-06	Avian flu	185,976

The Department undertakes all of its advertising through the COI's rosters of advertising agencies.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 81W, on Domestic Wastes: Waste Management, whether a local authority within a group of authorities that has chosen to pass its waste collection functions to a joint

waste authority (JWA) will be able to leave the JWA unilaterally and take back responsibility for waste collection. [142397]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 March, *Official Report*, column 1641W.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place a copy of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) 2005 guidance on alternate weekly collections in the Library. [142404]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) 2005 guidance on alternate weekly collection of waste is currently being updated and has been withdrawn. Copies of the new guidance will be placed in the House Library as soon as it is available.

Environment Protection: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what additional ongoing funding and resources have been given to local authorities to implement the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. [142378]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department does not provide any additional funding to local authorities to implement the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 (CNEA).

A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) published in July 2004 concluded that, taken as a whole, the measures introduced in the CNEA do not involve significant additional costs for local authorities. Indeed, the RIA concluded they could well lead to overall savings in local authority costs through increased efficiency and effective, well publicised enforcement.

Local authorities themselves asked for these new powers to combat the minority who continue to fly-tip, drop litter and behave in an antisocial manner and the Government have now provided them.

In most cases, local authorities also have the flexibility to set their own fixed penalty rates for offences under the Act and, since November 2003, have been able to retain receipts from fixed penalties issued for local environmental crimes. Poor performing local authorities must re-direct this money into their street cleansing service, although those awarded an 'excellent' or 'good' rating are free to use the penalty receipts as they wish.

Comprehensive guidance has been issued to all local authorities to help them implement the CNEA. This includes specific guidance on developing an enforcement strategy and making the most effective use of available enforcement tools. DEFRA has also produced guidance on how local authorities can make efficiency savings in street cleansing and related services. Copies of all guidance can be downloaded from DEFRA's website.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which quota swaps he has made to support the inshore under-10 metre fleet in each month since January 2005. [142305]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fisheries Administrations regularly undertake quota swaps to support the diverse needs of our inshore fleet. The following table sets out details of the numbers of quota swaps undertaken on their behalf by Fisheries Administrations since January 2005. The monthly breakdown relates to the month the swaps were attributed to the 10 metre and under allocation:

	March	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*End year swaps*	*Total*
2005												
Tonnes gained	—	137	37	136	338	172	343	135	171	134	47	1,650
Number of swaps	—	15	3	5	25	7	18	9	11	3	9	105
2006												
Tonnes gained	10	741	258	163	64	194	165	85	78	134	144	2,036
Number of swaps	1	13	16	17	4	14	18	7	10	18	23	141
2007												
Tonnes gained	—	700	117	[1]12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	829
Number of swaps	—	19	16	[1]2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	37

[1] Completed as of 12 June 2007.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his *(a)* Scottish, *(b)* Welsh and *(c)* Northern Ireland counterparts on the Marine Bill since May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [142307]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA Ministers will meet Ministers from the new administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to discuss a range of issues, including the Marine Bill, in the week commencing 18 June.

As with the previous administrations, there will continue to be regular contact on the Marine Bill between DEFRA and the devolved administrations. I am committed to working with the devolved administrations to bring a joined-up approach, through the Marine Bill proposals, to the delivery of our shared vision for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he intends to discuss the quota situation for the inshore under 10 metre fleet with his European counterparts at the forthcoming Agriculture and Fisheries Council meeting. [142315]

Mr. Bradshaw: No. The arrangements for allocating quota to inshore and other vessels are a matter for individual member states. In the UK the management of the inshore fleet, including these vessels' access to quota, is being considered in the context of the current quota management change programme, with a view to public consultation later this year.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to instituting a days at sea formula for the inshore under 10 metre fleet fishing inside the 12 mile limit. [142546]

Mr. Bradshaw: The issue of the application of days at sea limits to under 10 metre vessels has already been considered in the context of the cod recovery plan. The conclusion at Community level was that this was not appropriate, since the large number of these vessels in the UK and other fleets made both the administration and enforcement of the controls potentially extremely difficult and resource intensive. We were supportive of this line and remain so.

Fisheries: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the carbon footprint of the inshore under 10 metre fishing fleet. [142548]

Mr. Bradshaw: Shipping from UK based vessels in territorial waters, is included in the UK greenhouse gas inventory, under national navigation. DEFRA does not produce specific figures on emissions from the fishing industry.

Fisheries: Devon

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given a Devon-based scheme for the inshore, under 10 metre fleet. [142669]

Mr. Bradshaw: Future management arrangements for the inshore fleet are being considered in the context of the UK's current quota management change programme. Issues being examined include access to quota and fleet capacity: the case for region-specific measures, for example in terms of localised management, may also be addressed.

Fishing Catches

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the tonnage of fish which was *(a)* landed and *(b)* caught and thrown back because of quota allowances by inshore under 10 metre fishing vessels in the latest period for which figures are available. [142547]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2006, the UK 10 metre and under fleet landed 7,286 tonnes of fish subject to quotas. Estimates of the level of fish discards are made by scientists involved in the assessment of the state of fish stocks. However, these are made at the level of the overall fish stock rather than for individual segments of the fleet. In addition, such estimates are not made for the full range of fish stocks caught by the 10 metre and under fleet. As such, an estimate of the level of discards attributable to this fleet is not available.

Fly Tipping: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each London borough in each of the last four years; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents; [140080]

(2) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were in each London borough for fly-tipping in each year since 2004; and how much has been recovered through related fines in each London borough. [140083]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 5 June 2007]:* Flycapture, the national fly-tipping database was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, to record the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities.

The following tables show the number of incidents and prosecutions recorded by each local authority in Greater London on Flycapture for 2004-2005 and 2005-06. Data recorded in square brackets have been reported by the Environment Agency, who deal only with larger-scale fly-tipping incidents. Data for 2006-2007 are not yet available but will be published in the summer.

Flycapture does not record details of any costs awarded to local authorities by courts following successful prosecutions.

Greater London Flycapture data for 2004-05

London borough	*Total number of incidents*	*Estimated clearance costs recorded*	*Number of prosecutions taken to court*	*Number of successful prosecutions*
Corporation of London	171	9,132	0	0
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	No Data Supplied (11)	No Data Supplied (2,841.83)	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied
London Borough of Barnet	5,726 (14)	273,780 (4,050)	16	15
London Borough of Bexley Council	175 (5)	263,90 (1,170)	0	0
London Borough of Brent	969 (17)	33,037 (2,625)	0	0
London Borough of Bromley	1,913 (5)	157,848.31 (635)	0	0
London Borough of Camden	24,287 (2)	704,323 (150)	0	0
London Borough of Croydon	6,801 (5)	427,877 (505)	2	2
London Borough of Ealing	1,848 (13)	52,375 (2,102.50)	0	0
London Borough of Enfield	2,509 (91	122,050 (1,920)	9	9
London Borough of Greenwich	156 14)	17,930 (325)	4	4
London Borough of Hackney	63 (8)	1,827 (865)	2	2
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	8,099 (7)	381,327 (1,527.50)	0	0
London Borough of Haringey	52,006 (2)	1,508,358 (210)	1	1
London Borough of Harrow	248 (8)	8,333 (775)	0	0
London Borough of Havering	4,943 (6)	284,200 (580)	0	0
London Borough of Hillingdon	2,128 (11)	Data not Supplied (4,592.31)	4 (2)	2 (2)
London Borough of Hounslow	5,824 (9)	151,929 (1,625)	0 (1)	0 (1)
London Borough of Islington	5,196 (5)	232,872 (557.50)	2	2
London Borough of Lambeth	13,783 (2)	404,591 (150)	24	24
London Borough of Lewisham	20,171 (4)	1,441,300 (350)	48	47
London Borough of Merton	5,155 (8)	272769 (585)	5	5
London Borough of Newham	9,069 (11)	584,741 (1,532.50)	0	0
London Borough of Redbridge	5,864 (5)	299,575 (640)	2	2
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames	899 (2)	39,91 1 (355)	0	0
London Borough of Southwark	23,006 (1)	994,263 (360)	40	34
London Borough of Sutton	227 (5)	13,319 (583.56)	0	0
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	3,109 (6)	144,998 (862.50)	0	0
London Borough of Waltham Forest	8,304 (7)	539,174 (647.50)	1	1
London Borough of Wandsworth	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	39,677	1,428,542	6	6
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames	No Data Supplied (1)	No Data Supplied (105)	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied
Westminster City Council	8295 (2)	338,678 (210)	0	0
Totals	260,621	10,895,449.31	166	156
EA Totals	195	33,707.70	3	3

Greater London Flycapture data for 2005-06

London borough	*Total number of incidents*	*Estimated clearance costs recorded*	*Number of prosecutions taken to court*	*Number of successful prosecutions*
Corporation of London	675	31,899	0	0
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	3,481 (1)	234,117	9	8
London Borough of Barnet	4,843 (7)	236,961(3,750)	32 (1)	32 (1)
London Borough of Bexley Council	407 (2)	43,809 (187.50)	0	0
London Borough of Brent	5,233 (4)	311,456	1	1
London Borough of Bromley	4,697 (2)	342,797.90	0	0
London Borough of Camden	170,28 (1)	493,812 (75)	6	6
London Borough of Croydon	8,355 (2)	372,734 (75)	3	3
London Borough of Ealing	9,044 (8)	263,076 (150)	0	0
London Borough of Enfield	5,772 (11)	312,835 (6,750)	4 (7)	4 (7)
London Borough of Greenwich	3,233 (2)	124,582 (280)	8	8
London Borough of Hackney	770 (2)	2,5508 (300)	1	1
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	6,017 (1)	528,014	0	0
London Borough of Haringey	63,767 (3)	1,849,243 (150)	11	11
London Borough of Harrow	3,843 (4)	171,150	0	0
London Borough of Havering	9,629 (3)	529,783 (150)	0	0
London Borough of Hillingdon	2,384 (4)	14,596 (225)	39 (2)	39 (2)

Greater London Flycapture data for 2005-06

London borough	*Total number of incidents*	*Estimated clearance costs recorded*	*Number of prosecutions taken to court*	*Number of successful prosecutions*
London Borough of Hounslow	7,345 (4)	210,972 (375)	0	0
London Borough of Islington	8,812 (2)	459,431	16	16
London Borough of Lambeth	10,434 (2)	307,672 (75)	31	31
London Borough of Lewisham	18,987 (3)	941,536 (215)	64	64
London Borough of Merton	3,330 (3)	190,121 (225)	9	9
London Borough of Newham	3,527	401,100	0	0
London Borough of Redbridge	4,455	184,582	6	6
London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames	1,771 (1)	95,709 (75)	0	0
London Borough of Southwark	24,852 (1)	1 ,089,995	49	39
London Borough of Sutton	2,762 (2)	152,555 (70)	5	5
London Borough of Tower Hamlets	5,681 (1)	217,502 (75)	4	4
London Borough of Waltham Forest	8,566 (2)	385,563 (75)	0	0
London Borough of Wandsworth	166,195 (1)	3,655,746	8	8
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	58,374	1 ,876,596	2	2
Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied	No Data Supplied
Westminster City Council	10,365 (2)	420,222	0	0
Total	484,634	16,475,674.9	308	297
EA Totals	81	13,277.50	10	10

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to answer the letter dated 27 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms Wendy Owen. [142347]

Mr. Bradshaw: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend's letter. A response was issued on 8 June.

Packaging: Waste Disposal

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of packaging used for fresh produce which is *(a)* recycled and *(b)* disposed of in landfill sites. [139254]

Mr. Bradshaw: Food-related packaging makes up an estimated 18-20 per cent. of household waste and around 3.3 per cent. of the controlled waste which is sent to landfill[1]. No estimate is currently available of the proportion of food packaging waste landfilled or recycled specifically relating to sales of fresh produce.

However, the Packaging Regulations, which place requirements on obligated businesses to recover and recycle a certain amount of the packaging waste they handle, have so far helped to raise the UK packaging recycling rate from around 27 per cent. in 1997 to around 56 per cent. in 2006. In real terms, the total amount of packaging waste recovered or recycled has increased from 3.3 million tonnes in 1998 to around 6.3 million tonnes in 2006.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme is currently working with all leading supermarkets through the Courtauld Commitment to achieve a standstill, and then a reduction, in the amount of packaging waste. A number of retailers are considering the role that the selling of loose fruit and vegetables could make to those objectives, without increasing the amount of damaged produce which is then discarded.

[1] Figures are based on estimates of waste composition contained in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit 2002 report, "Waste Not Want Not", and information from WasteDataFlow for 2005-06.

Recycling: Business

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of recycling by businesses in each region in England. [141224]

Mr. Bradshaw: The most recent survey on industrial and commercial waste was carried out in 2002-03 by the Environment Agency. Information was collected from approximately 4,500 businesses and included the type, quantity and form of the waste, as well as the disposal or recovery method used. Data collection was limited to controlled waste and related to England only. The information is available, broken down by region, from the Environment Agency's website and is shown in the following table.

Management of commercial and industrial waste

Thousand tonnes

	Disposal/recovery option						
Region	*Land disposal*	*Land recovery*	*Re-used/ recycled*	*Thermal*	*Treatment and transfer*	*Not recorded*	*Total per subregion*
Industry							
East Midlands	2,550	152	2,555	145	170	198	5,771
East of England	857	193	1,461	202	271	272	3,256

Management of commercial and industrial waste

Thousand tonnes

Region	Disposal/recovery option: Land disposal	Land recovery	Re-used/ recycled	Thermal	Treatment and transfer	Not recorded	Total per subregion
London	482	6	1,027	88	89	210	1,902
North East	1,293	76	1,671	181	104	76	3,400
North West	1,867	269	1,669	226	317	154	4,502
South East	1,310	63	1,257	192	345	414	3,581
South West	802	114	1,174	63	256	179	2,589
West Midlands	1,457	74	2,133	135	277	170	4,246
Yorkshire and the Humber	2,574	377	4,588	89	507	204	8,339
Total	13,194	1,324	17,536	1,321	2,335	1,877	37,589
Commerce							
East Midlands	1,178	33	863	113	67	69	2,322
East of England	1,389	24	1,248	111	287	248	3,308
London	2,520	21	2,281	285	215	282	5,604
North East	589	5	408	121	30	45	1,199
North West	2,035	90	1,245	133	241	88	3,833
South East	2,547	59	1,565	223	354	523	5,271
South West	1,549	62	1,051	47	188	70	2,967
West Midlands	1,457	6	1,221	99	140	97	3,019
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,261	20	1,221	64	153	78	2,797
Total	14,524	320	11,104	1,196	1,675	1,500	30,320
Grand total	27,718	1,645	28,640	2,518	4,011	3,377	67,907

Source:
C and I survey 2002-03: England region and disposal/recovery option.

Recycling: Licensing

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many licences have been issued by the Environment Agency for green waste recycling centres in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [141682]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency (EA) does not have a specific category for green waste recycling centres. As of 8 June 2007, the EA's records show a total of 211 licensed composting facilities and 524 licensed civic amenity/household waste sites, which generally accept green waste from the public.

In 1998-99, there were 108 EA licensed composting sites and 458 licensed civic amenity/household waste sites. A breakdown of the number of licences issued per year is not available.

The number of composting facilities processing green waste has steadily increased since 1998, in line with the Government's strategy to promote the reuse, reduction and recycling of waste.

Smoking: Public Places

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department and its agencies have made of the likely effect of the public smoking ban on levels of cigarette litter in public places. [142252]

Mr. Bradshaw: Smoking-related litter is one of the most prevalent types of litter. Each of the last three local environmental quality surveys of England showed that smokers' materials were present on 79 per cent. of survey sites. Without action, the introduction of smoke free legislation in July this year is likely to increase this problem. However, the Government are taking steps to tackle this form of littering through a combination of regulatory options, partnership work, guidance and awareness-raising.

Smoking-related materials were clarified as litter in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, in order to encourage greater enforcement against this offence. Street litter control notices may also be issued by local authorities where there is a significant problem with litter on the street. Notices can be used to place requirements on the occupiers (or owners) of premises to take steps to reduce litter outside their premises, such as the installation of litter bins.

Following a consultation that closed on 8 May, DEFRA is also extending these provisions to allow notices to be issued for eating and drinking establishments where food is consumed on the premises. A legislative opportunity will be sought to extend the list of premises further to include office buildings, aimed particularly at helping to deal with smoking litter dropped by customers and employees. This forms part of a package of tools already available to local authorities for tackling litter problems, including the use of on-the-spot fixed penalty notices for individuals caught dropping litter.

In order to raise public awareness, the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign, run by Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS), launched a poster campaign earlier this month to encourage all smokers and businesses to take responsibility for cigarette ends, with posters appearing

on bus stops, billboards and telephone boxes across England. A number of councils across the country are supporting the campaign.

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided by the Waste and Resources Action Programme to each local authority in England since the inception of the programme; and what the purpose was of each item of funding. [142259]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is currently being collated by the Waste and Resources Action Programme. I will write again to the hon. Member when it has been prepared and place a copy in the Library of the House.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Azerbaijan: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is in response to President Putin's suggestion at the G8 summit that a ballistic missile defence system could be based in Azerbaijan. [142801]

Mr. Hoon: President Putin's offer to include the radar at Qabala in Azerbaijan in the US ballistic missile system is a policy issue for the United States government and is subject to the agreement of the government of Azerbaijan. The UK, however, welcomes this constructive Russian approach; and welcomes the US's continuing commitment to discuss with Russia its co-operation in their ballistic missile system.

British Nationality: Armed Forces

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the policy of the Government is towards UK citizens who *(a)* join the official armed forces of foreign states engaged in military operations abroad and *(b)* join armed organisations not under the direction of a state which are engaged in military operations abroad. [142695]

Dr. Howells: There are no restrictions on UK citizens joining the armed forces of a foreign state other than those related to the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870. This Act makes it an offence for a British subject without licence from Her Majesty the Queen to enlist in the armed forces of a foreign state at war with another foreign state, which is at peace with the UK.

There is no general restriction on UK citizens joining armed organisations that are not under the direction of a state. However, in certain circumstances, a UK citizen engaging in military-style operations as part of such an organisation might be in breach of, and hence liable to prosecution under, specific UK legislation. A case in point would be counter terrorist legislation, which enables the prosecution of those who commit terrorist offences overseas.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much revenue her Department received from *(a)* advertisements in her Department's public information leaflets and *(b)* advertisements on her Department's public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [140613]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not receive any revenue from advertisements placed in public information leaflets or on the FCO's websites in the United Kingdom. Some overseas posts may receive advertising revenue from their own publications or websites, but this information is not held centrally and to obtain the information from each post would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on her departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142494]

Mr. Hoon: We have made no formal assessment of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office websites. There are, however, plans to translate two pages of our travel advice into BSL for our Deaf Awareness Day this year (18 September) as an initial trial.

Libya: Foreign Relations

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will meet the Cabinet Secretary for Justice in the Scottish Government at an early date to discuss the implications of the recently signed memorandum of understanding between the UK and Libya. [142646]

Dr. Howells: Officials in Government Departments are consulting with their counterparts in the Scottish Executive, according to the principles set out in the memorandum of understanding with the devolved administrations of 2001. It sets out how the Government and the devolved administrations should interact in the conduct of international relations.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what her Department's policy is on the Arab League's peace plan for Israel and Palestine of 2002; and if she will make a statement. [142462]

Dr. Howells: The Arab League's re-endorsement of the 2002 Beirut Declaration at the Arab Summit in Riyadh is a welcome step. The Arab League has a key role to play in promoting reconciliation between the Israelis and Palestinians and moving forward the peace process. We support the Arab League's engagement with the parties and welcome the meetings since the re-endorsement of the Arab League Initiative.

The Arab Peace Initiative offers Israel comprehensive peace with all member states of the Arab League. In exchange, it calls on Israel to withdraw fully from all territories occupied since 1967; to agree to "a just resolution" of the refugee problem; and to accept a sovereign Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. Any final status issues will need to be negotiated directly between the parties. The Arab Peace Initiative offers a framework to move towards these discussions.

Pakistan: Human Rights

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will raise with the Government of Pakistan the case of Younis Masih, a Christian who has been sentenced to death under section 295C of the Pakistan penal code; and if she will urge the Pakistani authorities to ensure that he is able to access a fair appeals process and proper protection to prevent attacks from extremists while he is appealing the sentence. [142644]

Dr. Howells: We do not usually raise individual cases and have not recently made any representations to the Pakistani authorities concerning Younis Masih. However, we are aware of this case and regularly raise our concerns about the treatment of religious minorities in Pakistan both bilaterally and with our EU partners. We oppose the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will raise with the Government of Pakistan the case of four female student nurses, a member of staff and the Principal at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Nursing School who have been suspended on suspicion of desecration of the Koran; and if she will urge the Pakistani authorities immediately to reinstate them and to ensure that there is an independent inquiry into the matter. [142645]

Dr. Howells: Although we do not usually raise individual cases, we regularly raise our concerns over the situation of religious minorities with the Government of Pakistan. Most recently, in May, we again voiced our concerns over the treatment of religious minorities in Pakistan, together with our EU partners.

Pakistan: Politics and Government

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to urge the Pakistani authorities to address extremism and threats to religious minorities. [142717]

Dr. Howells: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Musharraf reiterated in their joint declaration in November 2006, the UK and Pakistan share a common agenda to promote enlightened moderation and to combat the forces of extremism. To this end, the two leaders agreed to support civil society and youth interaction between Pakistan and the UK. We fully appreciate the personal risks taken by President Musharraf when he took his position against extremism.

Bilaterally and together with EU partners, we continue to regularly raise our concerns with the government of Pakistan over the situation of religious minorities. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Trade (Mr. McCartney) also raised this issue in correspondence with the Pakistani Prime Minister in February.

Pakistan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has made to the government of Pakistan on the treatment of Christians in Charsadda and other parts of the North West Frontier Province. [142885]

Dr. Howells: I am aware of the continuing problems faced by minority groups in Pakistan, including the Christian community in the North West Frontier Province. We regularly raise our concerns with the government of Pakistan, bilaterally and together with our EU partners, and will continue to encourage Pakistan to pursue its vision of enlightened moderation for the benefit of all its citizens.

Palestinian Authority: Finance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the revenue of the Palestinian National Authority for the financial year 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [141659]

Dr. Howells: The Palestinian Authority is facing a severe fiscal crisis in 2006-07, mainly caused by a collapse in revenues. This fall has largely occurred as Israel has withheld the revenues, such as VAT receipts and customs payments, that it collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. These resources typically made up around a third of the Palestinian Authorities domestic revenues and have been withheld since March 2006. Precise figures for the amounts are not available but the International Monetary Fund recently estimated they may be in the order of US$750 million. Other sources of tax finance have also fallen as a consequence of the broader collapse in economic activity in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. External funding from donors (including to the Palestinian Authority and the Office of the President) has risen since 2005 but this has been insufficient to offset the reductions elsewhere. Overall revenues for 2006 are estimated at US$1.4 billion, down from almost US$2.2 billion in the previous year. The EU has provided more financial assistance (over €680 million) to the Palestinian people in 2006 than it did in previous years. During financial year 2006-07 the UK gave over £70 million to the Palestinian people, £30 million bilaterally and an additional £40 million through our EU contributions.

Sailesh Vithlani

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions her Department has had with Sailesh Vithlani since 1 January 2007; and if she will make a statement. [141512]

Mr. McCartney: No Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers or officials have had any discussions with Sailesh Vithlani since 1 January 2007.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of human rights abuses in Saudi Arabia since 1997; what representations her Department has made to Saudi Arabia on human rights issues since 1 May 1997; and if she will make a statement. [143055]

Dr. Howells: We regularly discuss the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia with the Saudi authorities at all levels. Human rights are also raised on our behalf by the European Union, which has decided to keep the details of these discussions confidential.

We are committed to encouraging Saudi Arabia to improve its human rights record and adhere to international human rights standards. The hon. Member may also welcome the recent increase in activities by the National Society on Human Rights (NSHR). In May 2007 the NSHR published its first annual report on the human rights situation in Saudi Arabia, since it was established in 2004. This is a significant step forward.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration she has made of the merits of the proposal to impose a no-fly zone in Darfur. [142558]

Mr. McCartney: We are considering a number of measures to improve air monitoring in Darfur, from enhanced monitoring on the ground to a no-fly zone and we rule out nothing. We need to assess the logistical challenges of implementation and impact on the humanitarian effort of any measures. We are working with partners in the UN Security Council to press both the African Union and the Panel of Experts to notify the UN Sanctions Committee of any instances of offensive military flights in Darfur.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the international community's policies on the imposition of sanctions on the Sudanese Government with regard to the conflict in Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [142560]

Mr. McCartney: We believe sanctions have contributed towards containing the crisis in Darfur, for example in the Government of Sudan's acceptance of the UN's Heavy Support Package to the African Union peacekeeping force in Sudan. However, we want a solution to the crisis which may require further sanctions.

We are concerned that sanctions should not impact on those in Sudan who have no responsibility for violence in Darfur, or on the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, thus damaging the south. We are therefore pressing for further targeted sanctions on individuals and an extension of the UN arms embargo from Darfur to all of Sudan, in line with the EU embargo, if the Government of Sudan and the rebel movements fail to honour their commitments.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budget and support the Government are providing to the African Union peacekeepers in Darfur. [142557]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is a leading provider of financial support to the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). We have committed 373 million since AMIS was set up in July 2004. UK funds have helped to provide the force with vehicles, ground fuel and airlift of troops into Darfur, as well as funding for personnel costs such as troop salaries. We also contribute through the EU Africa Peace Facility that has so far committed €242 million to AMIS and is about to commit an additional €40 million. We are also pressing for others to do more.

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to send troops to Darfur as part of the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force. [142559]

Mr. McCartney: The UK will be a strong supporter of the African Union (AU)-UN hybrid force, both politically and financially through our contributions to UN assessed funding for peacekeeping, currently set at 7.9 per cent. of the total. We are providing police and military advisers to assist the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) with planning for the hybrid operation. We have also deployed a military officer to Sudan to assist with the transition from the AU Mission in Sudan to the hybrid force. We will consider requests for troop contributions as and when we receive them from DPKO. The details of the force have now been agreed between the AU and UN and we are pressing the Sudanese Government to accept them and facilitate its deployment. A significant part of that agreement is that troops should be to the greatest possible extent contributed by African states.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with the United Nations on democracy in Zimbabwe. [142461]

Mr. McCartney: The Government's concern relating to human rights abuses, governance and democracy in Zimbabwe were most recently raised this week at the fifth session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. The EU and UK asked a number of questions of the UN special rapporteurs on the rights to food and housing concerning the impact of the denial of both for the human and political rights of ordinary Zimbabweans. In March, 50 UN member states supported a statement at the Human Rights Council by the EU presidency, on behalf of all EU member states, expressing concern at the situation in Zimbabwe. The UK also continues to raise these concerns in dialogue

with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, and to press for her and other UN rapporteurs to have access to Zimbabwe. Other recent discussions with the UN have taken place with senior officials in the Department for Humanitarian Affairs, following on from the briefing in March to the UN Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe which was given by the Office of the Commissioner for Humanitarian Affairs at the UK's request. Our embassy in Harare is in regular discussion with the UN Development Programme Office regarding human rights, democracy and good governance.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-semitism

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many anti-semitic attacks were recorded in the UK in each year since 2001. [142124]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally in the recorded crime series.

The recorded crime statistics only hold data for racially or religiously aggravated offences as defined by statute. Specific details relating to the victim or alleged offender are not collected.

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1422W, on ultrasonic antisocial behaviour deterrent devices, if he will place in the Library copies of the report from the Health and Safety Executive. [141787]

Mr. Coaker: The information from the Health and Safety Executive concerning the safety of the mosquito device derives from a letter written to the Welsh Assembly from the HSE. I have placed a copy in the Library.

Arrests

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of arrest rates for police officers. [141589]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 11 June 2007]*: Information is not collected centrally on arrest rates. Numbers of arrests are collected on a recorded crime basis only.

Asylum

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a decision will be made in the case of Mr. Minnain Privat Aristide Henri's outstanding asylum application, which was submitted in March 2004. [140651]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency wrote separately to my hon. Friend in relation to this matter on 7 June 2007.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of outstanding case files for asylum seekers held by his Department, *(b)* the number of those of whose whereabouts his Department knows and *(c)* the time he expects it to take to clear the backlog at present rates. [118863]

Mr. Byrne: The Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate (now Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency) wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February and updated them on, among other matters, the legacy programme. A copy of her letter is in the House Library.

Asylum: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are living in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [141826]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives.

The following table shows the number of asylum seekers recorded as receiving asylum support in Eastbourne and the local authorities within East Sussex as at the end of March 2007. This figure excludes those asylum seekers who are living in these local authorities but are not receiving support.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support, by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

Local authority	*In dispersed accommodation*	*In receipt of subsistence only support*	*Total in receipt of support*
Brighton and Hove	15	40	55
Eastbourne	—	20	20
Hastings	60	—	60
Lewes	—	—	—
Rother	—	—	—
Wealden	—	—	—
Total	75	60	135

Note:
All figures are rounded to the nearest 5.

Asylum: Northern Ireland

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of failed asylum seekers were removed from Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [136826]

Mr. Byrne: As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case. The Home Secretary has set a clear goal of reintroducing systems to count everyone in and out of Britain.

Bokhari Family

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much time he spent considering the case against the deportation of the Bokhari family; what evidence he was given on the case by his Immigration and Nationality Directorate officials; and whom he consulted in making his decision. [118849]

Mr. Byrne: The decision to remove a person from the United Kingdom (UK) is only taken after full and careful consideration of individual circumstances and in accordance with Home Office guidelines. When a decision is to be made by the Secretary of State personally, he is provided with all available evidence and is fully briefed by Border and Immigration Agency officials.

Cleveland Police

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police time was spent on front-line duties by Cleveland Police in each year since 2001, broken down by basic command unit. [142199]

Mr. McNulty: Information on time spent by police officers on front-line duties has only been collected since 2003-04 and is not available at basic command unit level. The available data for the Cleveland Police for each year since March 2004 is set out in the following table. The Cleveland Police has set a target for 69.9 per cent. of police officer time to be spent on front-line duties by March 2008.

Cleveland Police—time spent on front-line duties

	Percentage of police officer time spent on front-line duties
2003-04	58.50
2004-05	53.60
2005-06	55.20

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were received by his Department and its executive agencies in *(a)* 1997-98, *(b)* 2001-02 and *(c)* 2005-06; and how many have been received in 2006-07 to date. [121665]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office does not record complaints received in writing or over the telephone. These separately are received and recorded as part of overall correspondence figures. Once received, all correspondence including any complaints is either sent to individual policy units to be dealt with or is dealt with centrally. They are not tracked separately.

The Identity and Passport Service recorded 8,597 complaints in 2005-06 and 9,410 complaints in 2006-07.

Since 2001, the Borders and Immigration Agency have been recording complaints about the misconduct of staff, and recorded 555 complaints in 2001-02; 240 complaints in 2005-06 and 326 complaints in 2006-07. During 2005-06, the Border and Immigration Agency also began recording operational complaints (about service delivery). The figure for 2006 is 8,966.

Border and Immigration Agency are planning a complete overhaul of the system under their complaints change programme.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government have a strategy to protect Government websites from *(a)* denial of service and *(b)* other cyber attacks. [141637]

Mr. McNulty: The Government's Central Sponsor for Information Assurance within the Cabinet Office is responsible for the Government's strategy to protect the public sector and those services forming the Critical National Infrastructure from cyber attacks.

CESG (the Information Assurance arm of GCHQ) is the National Technical Authority for Information Assurance and develops Government advice for protecting data in partnership with the Central Sponsor for Information Assurance and advises on its implementation. CESG manages the Government's UK computer emergency response team heads of Departments and agencies are individually responsible for engaging with CSIA/CESG to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to protect against any risks to business continuity.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information his Department has provided to HM Treasury as part of the comprehensive spending review policy review of counter-terrorism and security. [141311]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office continues to exchange information with HM Treasury on matters relating to the development of the comprehensive spending review 2007. It is not appropriate to comment in detail on these exchanges.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142495]

Mr. Byrne: We have not made an assessment. The vast majority of our content is text and is therefore read by the hearing impaired. Any video content has a textual transcript attached.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many telephone helplines are sponsored by his Department with the prefix *(a)* 0870 and *(b)* 0845; and whether alternative geographic numbers are available in each case. [138485]

Mr. Byrne: The number of telephone lines with the prefix 0870 and 0845 used by the Home Office was printed in answer to a question from the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 8 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 672W. Of the 63 listed, 27 (42.9 per cent.) have geographic alternatives.

Departments: Websites

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135738]

Mr. Byrne: Since publication of the Transformational Government Strategy in November 2005, the Home Office has been actively engaged in developing an e-communications strategy that centralises the operation and management of all Home Office websites.

The names of all sites managed by the Home Office, as per the Transformational Government annual report published December 2006, will be placed in the Library of the House.

In May 2007, following the handover of 13 websites to the new Ministry of Justice (MOJ), the Home Office reported:

52 closing sites (39 already earmarked for closure and a further 13 moving to MOJ)

33 remaining of which:

One is the main Home Office departmental site

10 are sub-domains of this site

Three agencies

15 NDPBs

One inspectorate

Three extranets

Of these websites, only about half are managed by the central Home Office web team. The others are all operated by the web team or agency of the Home Office entity, agency or NDPB responsible.

Departments: Westminster City Council

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which grants for which his Department is responsible have been made to Westminster city council in each year since 1997-98; and what the value was of each grant. [137759]

Mr. Byrne: The grants made to Westminster city council in each year since 1997-98 by this Department, as recorded by the council in the Communities and Local Government Revenue returns, are as follows.

Grants	*£000*
1997-98	
Asylum seekers: various grants	7,166
1998-99	
Asylum seekers: various grants	10,403
1999-2000	
Asylum seekers	12,912
2000-01	
Asylum seekers	15,394
2001-02	
Asylum seekers	12,987
2002-03	
Asylum seekers	12,454
2003-04	
Asylum seekers	8,948
2004-05	
Asylum seekers	5,697
2005-06	
Asylum seekers	3,698
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership	527
2006-07	
Asylum seekers	1,373
Young People Substance Misuse Partnership	458

This table sets out the specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services) paid to Westminster and excludes grants outside AEF such as capital grants, funding for local authorities' housing management responsibilities, European funding; or where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area. Revenue support grant and other elements of formula grant (such as redistributed business rates and police grant) have also been excluded.

Revenue outturn data have been used from 1997-98 to 2005-06 (the last year available) and revenue account data have been used for 2006-07.

Deportation: Sudan

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he last conducted an in-country assessment of Sudan in relation to the safety of rejected asylum seekers from Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [142253]

Mr. Byrne: Information about the conditions in Sudan including the security situation is obtained from a wide range of governmental and non-governmental sources, human rights organisations and the media.

This information is utilised by case owners responsible for decision making on asylum claims and is published in regularly updated Home Office country of origin information reports. The latest country of origin information report on Sudan was published in January 2007 and can be accessed on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html.

An updated report containing the most recent information available will be published later this month.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug-related offences have been committed in each police authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142140]

Mr. Coaker: Data collected centrally on recorded crime do not identify whether offences are drug related. The recorded crime statistics do include the number of specific drug offences which are given in the tables.

Table 1: Drug offences recorded by the police—1997

Police force area	*Number*
Avon and Somerset	484
Bedfordshire	223
Cambridgeshire	205
Cheshire	635
Cleveland	227
Cumbria	222
Derbyshire	302
Devon and Cornwall	637
Dorset	183
Durham	404
Dyfed-Powys	374
Essex	401
Gloucestershire	210
Greater Manchester	1,051
Gwent	389
Hampshire	770
Hertfordshire	215
Humberside	444
Kent	790
Lancashire	554
Leicestershire	309
Lincolnshire	235
London, City of	46
Merseyside	694
Metropolitan Police	4,695
Norfolk	337
Northamptonshire	286
Northumbria	445
North Wales	238
North Yorkshire	171
Nottinghamshire	373
South Wales	525
South Yorkshire	535
Staffordshire	389
Suffolk	333
Surrey	163
Sussex	695
Thames Valley	566
Warwickshire	136
West Mercia	436
West Midlands	828
West Yorkshire	1,807
Wiltshire	191
Total	23,153

Note:
Prior to April 1998, 'trafficking in controlled drugs' was the only drug offence included in the recorded crime series.

Table 2: Drug offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	2,145	2,017	1,990	1,860
Bedfordshire	1,141	1,081	896	1,009
Cambridgeshire	1,166	1,011	829	798
Cheshire	2,470	1,854	1,644	1,591
Cleveland	1,120	992	952	1,109
Cumbria	1,621	1,360	949	925
Derbyshire	1,689	1,659	1,374	1,635
Devon and Cornwall	3,873	3,784	3,374	4,079
Dorset	1,102	1,379	1,237	1,390
Durham	1,388	1,259	1,207	1,317
Dyfed-Powys	2,483	2,030	1,690	2,407
Essex	2,312	2,421	2,208	2,212
Gloucestershire	1,152	1,285	1,293	1,223
Greater Manchester	5,439	4,919	4,932	4,698
Gwent	2,447	2,214	2,196	1,729
Hampshire	4,195	4,155	3,464	3,449
Hertfordshire	1,197	1,180	1,441	1,350
Humberside	1,639	1,534	1,342	1,513
Kent	3,891	3,644	2,940	3,051
Lancashire	4,117	3,135	3,124	3,169
Leicestershire	1,433	1,478	1,395	1,705
Lincolnshire	1,229	975	906	1,116
London, City of	504	357	296	469
Merseyside	5,620	4,838	4,421	4,390
Metropolitan Police	32,152	26,233	23,626	26,204
Norfolk	1,534	1,561	1,160	1,211
Northamptonshire	1,285	1,157	967	958
Northumbria	3,934	4,209	4,238	4,804
North Wales	1,885	1,586	1,427	1,382
North Yorkshire	1,560	1,408	1,259	1,491
Nottinghamshire	2,004	1,846	2,028	2,070
South Wales	2,934	2,690	3,038	3,907
South Yorkshire	3,983	3,614	3,521	3,408
Staffordshire	1,915	1,650	1,623	2,186
Suffolk	1,581	1,410	1,178	1,292
Surrey	1,557	1,510	1,858	1,872
Sussex	2,235	2,323	2,002	2,602
Thames Valley	3,838	3,635	3,364	4,093
Warwickshire	683	776	629	659
West Mercia	2,393	2,137	2,073	2,109
West Midlands	7,180	6,536	7,519	7,578
West Yorkshire	6,720	5,852	4,820	4,297

Table 2: Drug offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Wiltshire	1,199	1,172	1,028	1,076
Total	135,945	121,866	113,458	121,393

Note:
The introduction of the revised counting rules in April 1998 expanded the offence coverage. This included the addition of 'possession of controlled drugs' and 'other drug offences'. These data are not comparable with earlier years.

Table 3: Drug offences recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2005-06

Police force area	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Avon and Somerset	2,308	2,457	2,739	4,642
Bedfordshire	1,069	1,130	1,131	1,228
Cambridgeshire	904	1,047	1,174	1,442
Cheshire	1,717	1,695	1,546	1,748
Cleveland	1,685	1,368	1,451	1,822
Cumbria	1,038	1,189	1,321	1,576
Derbyshire	1,877	1,932	2,023	1,680
Devon and Cornwall	4,516	4,826	4,356	4,147
Dorset	1,371	1,455	1,577	1,703
Durham	1,289	1,205	1,062	1,299
Dyfed-Powys	2,978	2,420	2,327	2,495
Essex	2,377	2,295	2,328	2,889
Gloucestershire	1,311	1,288	1,218	1,352
Greater Manchester	5,667	5,981	6,703	8,843
Gwent	1,585	1,422	1,332	1,412
Hampshire	3,938	3,967	3,773	4,037
Hertfordshire	1,553	1,678	1,754	2,044
Humberside	1,883	1,874	2,048	2,127
Kent	3,236	2,795	2,170	2,713
Lancashire	4,084	3,640	3,411	3,245
Leicestershire	1,629	1,821	1,942	2,747
Lincolnshire	1,060	1,061	951	1,230
London, City of	790	744	876	1,023
Merseyside	5,419	5,497	5,649	11,952
Metropolitan Police	33,311	32,332	33,011	42,681
Norfolk	1,392	1,508	1,602	1,821
Northamptonshire	979	971	1,477	1,394
Northumbria	6,040	5,414	4,636	5,159
North Wales	1,830	1,830	1,834	2,120
North Yorkshire	1,582	1,624	1,690	1,915
Nottinghamshire	2,352	2,830	2,667	3,301
South Wales	3,872	3,837	3,705	3,483
South Yorkshire	3,448	3,191	3,013	3,283
Staffordshire	2,264	2,586	2,689	3,242
Suffolk	1,689	1,923	1,974	2,015
Surrey	1,934	1,689	1,904	1,787
Sussex	2,665	3,050	3,343	4,276
Thames Valley	4,903	5,404	6,167	7,515
Warwickshire	751	944	914	1,313
West Mercia	2,053	2,218	2,278	2,537
West Midlands	8,828	8,656	7,840	10,035
West Yorkshire	5,015	5,295	5,666	6,739
Wiltshire	898	971	1,066	1,340
Total	141,090	141,060	142,338	175,352

Note:
Numbers of recorded crime were affected by changes in reporting and recording following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These data are not comparable with earlier years.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discretionary powers are available to him to permit individuals to enter the UK in exceptional circumstances. [141395]

John Reid: Normally any request to enter the United Kingdom must be made within a category within the Immigration Rules. However, it is possible to grant someone limited leave to enter the United Kingdom under the category of 'Leave Outside the Rules'.

There are two circumstances in which "Leave Outside the Rules" will be considered in non-asylum and non-protection cases:

where someone qualifies under one of the immigration policy concessions; or

for reasons that are particularly compelling in circumstance.

There are currently 25 immigration policy concessions which are outlined in chapter 1, section 14 of the Immigration Directorate Instructions, which may be found at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk

Cases where there are particular compelling circumstances will be considered on their individual merits and in line with any relevant policy at that time. The decision to grant leave outside the rules in such cases will only follow in rare circumstances where there are genuinely compassionate and circumstantial reasons and no other option is available.

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many firearms offences have been committed in each police authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142139]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used, by police force area: England and Wales 1997 to 2005-06

Police force area	1997	1998-99[1]	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02[2]	2002-03[3]	2003-04	2004-05	Recorded crime 2005-06
North East Region									
Cleveland	18	20	26	16	24	18	45	37	41

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used, by police force area: England and Wales 1997 to 2005-06

Police force area	1997	1998-99[1]	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02[2]	2002-03[3]	2003-04	2004-05	Recorded crime 2005-06
Durham	17	13	40	18	19	16	15	21	18
Northumbria	78	76	107	99	86	103	169	182	137
North West Region									
Cheshire	22	32	22	44	50	31	44	61	71
Cumbria	8	11	5	13	9	13	11	26	18
Gtr. Manchester	620	647	875	935	1,361	1,240	1,275	1,268	1,200
Lancashire	71	50	78	59	103	66	58	259	372
Merseyside	127	286	240	278	299	318	483	491	485
Yorkshire and the Humber									
Humberside	83	76	61	69	63	68	68	174	108
North Yorkshire	28	11	8	9	28	18	23	13	15
South Yorkshire	80	75	114	129	170	153	127	185	301
West Yorkshire	162	193	191	335	332	333	289	318	335
East Midlands Region									
Derbyshire	69	52	65	72	58	73	75	149	109
Leicestershire	48	98	71	58	74	174	141	123	89
Lincolnshire	5	16	19	24	22	37	26	90	72
Northamptonshire	40	54	48	40	55	107	123	113	128
Nottinghamshire	120	112	173	157	204	264	233	305	277
West Midlands Region									
Staffordshire	36	23	53	108	116	131	108	144	128
Warwickshire	20	20	14	39	53	62	102	73	76
West Mercia	36	38	36	41	54	48	62	151	115
West Midlands	428	407	664	816	1,289	1,101	1,138	959	946
East of England Region									
Bedfordshire	43	46	56	48	82	86	89	94	103
Cambridgeshire	34	35	43	31	49	57	34	50	34
Essex	58	47	61	77	98	148	145	193	280
Hertfordshire	45	30	36	36	69	139	138	139	114
Norfolk	20	34	24	20	26	36	33	23	29
Suffolk	5	15	18	22	15	28	45	59	58
London Region	1,960	2,034	2,945	3,036	4,197	4,202	3,891	3,697	3,884
South East Region									
Hampshire	29	38	52	49	58	97	130	148	85
Kent	100	76	109	108	60	64	65	100	142
Surrey	31	35	42	52	40	34	88	63	87
Sussex	107	115	119	110	155	136	82	67	85
Thames Valley	109	96	107	198	267	362	421	437	401
South West Region									
Avon and Somerset	55	71	103	100	131	119	123	196	167
Devon and Cornwall	40	75	81	64	52	36	84		174
Dorset	25	11	12	14	34	17	43	49	27
Gloucestershire	23	22	21	23	89	92	108	87	77
Wiltshire	19	19	10	13	26	60	53	49	43
Wales									
Dyfed Powys	13	16	13	26	26	17	37	40	21
Gwent	19	26	19	11	18	52	74	85	53

Crimes recorded by the police in which firearms (excluding air weapons) were reported to have been used, by police force area: England and Wales 1997 to 2005-06

Police force area	*1997*	*1998-99*[1]	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*[2]	*2002-03*[3]	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
								Recorded crime	
North Wales	19	27	10	6	6	18	11	60	88
South Wales	34	31	52	67	56	74	47	104	71
England and Wales	4,904	5,209	6,843	7,470	10,023	10,248	10,338	10,882	11,084

[1] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.
[2] Numbers of some recorded crimes may have been inflated by some police forces implementing the principles of the National Crime Recording Standard before 1 April 2002.
[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this

Identity Cards

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on identity cards, what estimate he has made of the total savings from the cost of identity fraud which will be realised as a result of the introduction of identity cards in each of the first five years following their introduction. [136234]

Joan Ryan: A precise estimate of the impact of identity cards in combating identity fraud is difficult to quantify. However, in the Identity Cards Scheme Benefits Overview, published in June 2005:

http://www.identitycards.gov.uk/downloads/2005-06-27_Identity_Cards_Scheme_Benefits_Overview.pdf

it was estimated that the benefits arising from reduced fraud overall would be in the range of £310 million to £570 million per annum once the identity cards scheme is rolled out.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what his policy is on the confiscation of identity cards once issued. [141357]

John Reid: The circumstances under which an ID card must be surrendered are set out in section 11, subsections (3) and (4), of the Identity Cards Act 2006. In particular, someone who is in possession of an ID card without lawful authority would be required to surrender the card as soon as is practicable to do so and a person who is in possession of an ID card that had expired, been cancelled or was invalid may be required to surrender it.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration he has given to how those with diseases such as Alzheimer's will be accommodated within the identity card application and issuing system, with particular reference to informed consent. [141358]

John Reid: The Identity Cards Act 2006 has been designed to allow for flexibility in the identity card application process. For example, in the case of an applicant who was unable to give informed consent or to sign an application form, it would be possible to provide in regulations for an authorised third party to make an application on the person's behalf, as happens currently with passport applications.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to make provision for those physically unable to travel to interview centres in the identity card issuing system. [141359]

John Reid: The Identity Cards Act 2006 has been designed to provide flexibility in the identity card application process. Regulations will be able to allow the Identity and Passport Service to accommodate the special needs of applicants, such as those unable to travel, either by making special arrangements or excluding particular individuals from the normal requirements.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account has been taken of those individuals who work under a professional name in the development of the identity cards system. [141360]

John Reid: Schedule 1 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 sets out the information that may be held on the national identity register (the register will include details of those persons issued with identity cards). This information includes a person's full name, together with names by which a person is or has been known. It will therefore be possible for an alternative name, such as a stage name or maiden name, to be registered.

Illegal Immigrants: Faroe Islands

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of whether illegal migrants are avoiding border checks at ports by entering Scotland via the Faroe Islands. [142050]

Mr. Byrne: All passengers arriving from the Faroe Islands at Lerwick are subject to immigration control.

An additional route to Scrabster becomes operational on 18 June and all passengers arriving there will also be subject to immigration control.

Border and Immigration Agency officials advise there is no evidence to support speculation that this route is used for clandestine entry to the UK.

Immigrants

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to reduce the time taken to process applications for indefinite leave to remain. [134117]

Mr. Byrne: Following the IND review there is an ongoing programme of improvement activity across the whole of the Border and Immigration Agency including all migration casework areas. Resources have been diverted to some areas where backlogs exist in order to improve performance.

Immigrants: Unemployment

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department provides any support to unemployed *(a)* A2 and *(b)* A8 nationals who have come to the UK to work but who do not have access to benefits as they have not completed 12 months of work. [134316]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency does not provide support to unemployed A2 and A8 nationals who have come to the UK to work but who do not have access to benefits as they have not completed 12 months of continuous employment in the UK. In work and contributory benefits are available to some migrants who meet the relevant DWP tests.

As for all EEA nationals, migrants from the A8 and A2 countries that come to the UK are expected to be self-sufficient if they are not working or self-employed.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the staff/detainee ratio is at *(a)* Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, *(b)* Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre, *(c)* Dover Immigration Removal Centre, *(d)* Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, *(e)* Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, *(f)* Haslar Immigration Removal Centre, *(g)* Lindholme, *(h)* Oakington, *(i)* Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre and *(j)* Yarls Wood Immigration Removal Centre. [136973]

Mr. Byrne: The staff to detainee ratios at the contracted out immigration removal centres are shown in the following table.

Any part of an operating contract can be changed through the 'Notice of Change' process which can be initiated by either side. This allows changes in operating circumstances to be recognised and resources added or reduced according to need, usually following informal consultation. This process is regularly used and contractors are fully familiar with it.

The agency does not provide guidance on staff to detainee ratios to HM Prison Service as they have vast experience in operating custodial environments.

Ratio security staff to detainees—IRC estate

Centre	*Ratio—detainees per officer*
Campsfield	
(1) Day shift	7.6
(2) Night shift	15.2
Colnbrook	
(1) Early shift	10
(2) Late shift	8.7
(3) Night shift	17.8
(4) Mid shift	26.3
Dungavel	
(1) Day shift	5.5
(2) Night shift	9.1
Oakington	
(1) Day shift	6.5
(2) Night shift	8.8
Tinsley	
(1) Day shift	5.5
(2) Night shift	9.1
Yarl's Wood	
(1) Weekdays	11.6
(2) Weekends	13.06
Harmondsworth	[1]

[1] Average across all shifts converts to 16.7 detainees per officer

Immigration: Judgments

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance has been issued to immigration officers in light of the ruling by the House of Lords in *(a)* Huang and *(b)* Kashmiri *v.* Secretary of State for the Home Department. [141400]

John Reid: The House of Lords ruling related specifically to the considerations given by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). This advised that, when assessing proportionality, the AIT was required to weigh up all relevant competing considerations and was not required to establish that the circumstances of a case were truly exceptional in order to find that removal would give rise to an unlawful interference with article 8 rights. As no specific findings were made to considerations given by immigration officers, no general guidance has been issued. Where article 8 claims are made the Border and Immigration Agency do consider all factors raised.

National Policing Improvement Agency

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of the National Policing Improvement Agency since becoming fully operational on 1 April. [141778]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) began its work on 1 April this year and its published Business Plan for 2007-08 includes 15 delivery statements reflecting the strategic priorities of the Police Service and of the tripartite partners in policing—the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and the Home Office. Some good progress has already been made on a number of these, for example:

The national strategic assessment has been completed and will now be used as a key underpin for the NPIA's work.

The IMPACT programme has successfully progressed to the stage where it can now proceed with the procurement of the first stage of the police national database.

Leadership: a major review of the entirety of the NPIA's leadership approach and training has been completed. The next step is to bring the work on leadership and workforce strategy together.

Serious Crime Analysis Section (SCAS): There is now a nominated senior lead in each force for SCAS. ACPO and NPIA will bring them together to agree a renewed national approach to maximising the way the service is used.

Diversity impact assessment: an impact assessment of the DMA database is underway and NPIA is working closely with the Commission of Racial Equality (CRE) on this work.

There has also been progress in other areas of NPIA's work. Key performance indicators have been established for both the external and internal strategic priorities of the organisation. The Chief Executive will be providing regular reports of performance and issues facing the Agency.

North Wales Police

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police time was spent on front-line duties by North Wales Police in each year since 2001. [142210]

Mr. McNulty: Information on time spent by police officers on front-line duties has only been collected since 2003-04. The available data for the North Wales Police for each year since March 2004 is set out in the following table. The North Wales Police has set a target for 66.6 per cent. of police officer time to be spent on front-line duties by March 2008.

North Wales Police—time spent on front-line duties

	Percentage of police officer time spent on front-line duties
2003-04	53.34
2004-05	63.37
2005-06	63.50

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were transferred to immigration removal centres *(a)* before the end of their sentence and *(b)* after the end of their sentence in each of the last five years, broken down by the number of weeks before or after their sentence that the transfer occurred. [135831]

John Reid: The information requested is not available.

Foreign national prisoners are only transferred into the Border and Immigration Agency's removal estate when their sentences have expired.

Offensive Weapons: Custodial Treatment

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people convicted of carrying a knife in each of the last three years were given *(a)* a non-custodial sentence and *(b)* a custodial sentence; [135582]

(2) how many people convicted of carrying knives received the maximum custodial sentence available in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [135584]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested, for England and Wales, for the years 2003 to 2005, is contained in the table.

Court proceedings statistics for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Persons[1] sentenced for offences of carrying knives or offensive weapons, by outcome, England and Wales

Offence	*Statute*	*Year*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Non-custodial sentence*	*Custodial sentence*	*Persons given maximum custodial sentence[2]*
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec 139 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 3	2003	5,311	4,556	755	1
		2004	5,802	4,999	803	—
		2005	5,957	4,992	965	1
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec139A(1) and (5)(1) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	2003	88	82	6	—
		2004	106	94	12	—
		2005	45	40	5	—
Possession of offensive weapons[3] without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Prevention of Crime Act 1953 sec 1 as amended by Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 2(1)	2003	5,394	4,634	760	—
		2004	5,758	4,941	817	—
		2005	5,689	4,860	829	2

Persons[1] sentenced for offences of carrying knives or offensive weapons, by outcome, England and Wales

Offence	*Statute*	*Year*	*Total persons sentenced*	*Non-custodial sentence*	*Custodial sentence*	*Persons given maximum custodial sentence[2]*
Possession of offensive weapons[3] without lawful authority or reasonable excuse on school premises	Criminal Justice Act 1988 sec139A(2) and (5)(b) as added by the Offensive Weapons Act 1996 sec 4(1)	2003	21	17	4	—
		2004	33	29	4	—
		2005	30	27	3	—

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Two years for blade or point offences and four years for offensive weapon offences.
[3] Will include knives but information collected centrally does not provide a distinction between them and other offensive weapons.
Source:
RDS-NOMS, Home Office

Personation

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what role the Home Office Identity Fraud Steering Committee has undertaken in relation to the Confidential Access website; and if he will make a statement; [140918]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on the Confidential Access website; [140919]

(3) what categories of information his Department holds on the Confidential Access website. [141617]

Joan Ryan *[holding answers 7 and 11 June 2007]:* I will write to the hon. Member on these issues.

Police: Career Structure

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were promoted to the rank of chief inspector in each of the last three years; and what proportion were *(a)* members of an ethnic minority, broken down by ethnic minority, and *(b)* female. [141352]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The available data are given in the following table.

Police officers promoted to chief inspector rank (headcount) by ethnicity[1] and gender from 2003-04 to 2005-06[2]

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Number of promotions	486	376	331
Percentage of female promotions from total	10.5	14.6	14.8
Percentage of ethnic minority promotions from total	3.3	3.2	3.6
Relative proportion of ethnic minority promotions as a percentage of total ethnic minority promotions[3]			
Mixed	12.5	41.7	50.0
Black or black British	31.3	16.7	16.7
Asian or Asian British	50.0	33.3	33.3
Chinese or other	6.3	8.3	0.0

[1] There were also a number of cases where the ethnicity of the officer was "not stated".
[2] Data refer to the number of officers (headcount) promoted during the year.
[3] Rounded percentages that may not sum to total.

Police: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* full-time police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in each police authority are suspended on full pay as a result of (i) criminal allegations and (ii) other allegations made against them; and if he will make a statement. [141306]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) who have oversight of the police complaints system.

Police: Finance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average police precept on Band D council tax bills was in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* England and Wales in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2007-08. [142381]

Mr. McNulty: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to her question on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1639W.

Police: Road Traffic

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for roads policing in each police force was in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of the force's total budget each figure represents. [142960]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Religiously Aggravated Offences

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of religion-based hate crimes there have been against victims who were *(a)* Muslim, *(b)* Jewish and *(c)* Christian in the last 12 months. [142824]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics. The crime statistics have data for racially or religiously

aggravated offences as defined by statute but details of the victims of religious-based hate crimes are not available.

Road Traffic Act 1988

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the operation of section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988; what representations he has received since this section came into force; and if he will make a statement. [142815]

Mr. Coaker: Section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was inserted by the Road Safety Act 2006 and came into effect in February 2007. I have received no specific representations on this provision.

Section 41D provides for the punishment of offences relating to construction and use requirements in respect of having proper control of a vehicle and a full view of the road ahead or to use of a hand-held mobile phone or similar device while driving. Breach of any construction and use requirement was already an offence. This section makes specific provision for breach of these particular requirements by introducing a heavier penalty of obligatory endorsement, with disqualification at the court's discretion if the matter goes to court, or a fixed penalty of £60.

Enforcement of the provision is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. The likelihood of detection has been increased by the increasing numbers of police, including the deployment on roads of teams involved in the use of Automatic Number Plate Recognition equipment (ANPR). They can stop vehicles to deal with offences as the result of direct observation as well as an ANPR hit. The dangers of mobile phone use and the penalties associated with the offence are the subject of a publicity campaign by the Department for Transport.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual offences were committed in each police authority area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142151]

Mr. Coaker: The available data relate to sexual offences recorded by the police and are given in the tables.

Table 1: Sexual offences recorded by the police—1997

Police force area	*1997*
Avon and Somerset	1,000
Bedfordshire	344
Cambridgeshire	390
Cheshire	728
Cleveland	253
Cumbria	229
Derbyshire	528
Devon and Cornwall	808
Dorset	396
Durham	341
Dyfed-Powys	337
Essex	740
Gloucestershire	240

Table 1: Sexual offences recorded by the police—1997

Police force area	*1997*
Greater Manchester	1,634
Gwent	470
Hampshire	1,222
Hertfordshire	290
Humberside	758
Kent	770
Lancashire	928
Leicestershire	585
Lincolnshire	329
London, City of	46
Merseyside	906
Metropolitan Police	7,558
Norfolk	487
Northamptonshire	332
Northumbria	562
North Wales	480
North Yorkshire	262
Nottinghamshire	882
South Wales	587
South Yorkshire	611
Staffordshire	544
Suffolk	400
Surrey	499
Sussex	766
Thames Valley	731
Warwickshire	223
West Mercia	751
West Midlands	1,226
West Yorkshire	1,637
Wiltshire	355
Total	33,165

Table 2: Sexual offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Avon and Somerset	821	759	930	1,095
Bedfordshire	344	402	382	354
Cambridgeshire	431	418	464	560
Cheshire	625	379	423	384
Cleveland	369	414	354	442
Cumbria	200	224	168	199
Derbyshire	556	546	527	651
Devon and Cornwall	876	936	911	960
Dorset	314	306	327	434
Durham	243	251	238	333
Dyfed-Powys	317	292	304	292
Essex	877	975	852	887
Gloucestershire	344	323	348	267
Greater Manchester	2,142	2,258	2,154	2,466
Gwent	452	503	440	437
Hampshire	1,066	1,384	1,455	1,453
Hertfordshire	321	348	397	392
Humberside	743	717	694	816
Kent	924	872	974	1,003
Lancashire	879	754	936	992
Leicestershire	764	800	651	753
Lincolnshire	393	325	281	414
London, City of	31	21	10	33

Table 2: Sexual offences recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

Police force area	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Merseyside	1,019	935	982	1,018
Metropolitan Police	8,102	9,189	8,759	9,924
Norfolk	508	415	364	509
Northamptonshire	306	287	271	340
Northumbria	943	983	891	1,030
North Wales	334	373	406	466
North Yorkshire	297	294	289	346
Nottinghamshire	949	987	985	1,046
South Wales	715	581	552	541
South Yorkshire	654	645	624	605
Staffordshire	566	760	818	924
Suffolk	405	389	421	486
Surrey	579	505	653	547
Sussex	911	1,003	1,029	1,034
Thames Valley	879	1,002	1,010	1,099
Warwickshire	194	169	181	199
West Mercia	618	585	537	806
West Midlands	1,985	2,319	2,521	2,985
West Yorkshire	1,774	1,806	1,464	1,532
Wiltshire	404	358	334	378
Total	36,174	37,792	37,311	41,432

Note:
1. The introduction of the revised counting rules in April 1998 expanded offence coverage. These data are not comparable with earlier years

Table 3: Sexual offences recorded by the police—2002-03[1] to 2005-06

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Avon and Somerset	1,570	1,516	1,914	1,533
Bedfordshire	465	516	622	688
Cambridgeshire	694	736	766	799
Cheshire	537	696	927	979
Cleveland	519	767	805	725
Cumbria	214	293	337	358
Derbyshire	882	920	1,160	1,117
Devon and Cornwall	1,149	1,336	1,564	1,527
Dorset	498	579	689	802
Durham	341	362	397	694
Dyfed-Powys	274	434	503	440
Essex	1,165	1,296	1,347	1,371
Gloucestershire	409	403	539	670
Greater Manchester	2,819	3,200	3,470	3,319
Gwent	486	404	560	548
Hampshire	1,810	2,034	2,658	2,701
Hertfordshire	553	644	971	983
Humberside	1,095	1,269	1,403	1,413
Kent	947	1,220	1,766	1,900
Lancashire	1,069	1,337	1,632	1,505
Leicestershire	960	1,000	1,372	1,361
Lincolnshire	583	636	816	703
London, City of	34	30	50	55
Merseyside	1,277	1,284	1,442	1,390

Table 3: Sexual offences recorded by the police—2002-03[1] to 2005-06

Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Metropolitan Police	10,410	10,200	10,860	10,293
Norfolk	676	774	889	1,474
Northamptonshire	608	544	642	633
Northumbria	1,371	1,360	1,496	1,431
North Wales	555	569	666	628
North Yorkshire	448	502	557	637
Nottinghamshire	978	1,055	1,294	1,343
South Wales	717	714	866	1,054
South Yorkshire	851	938	1,382	1,543
Staffordshire	963	1,025	1,323	1,306
Suffolk	588	641	620	664
Surrey	598	585	820	765
Sussex	1,148	1,201	1,801	1,655
Thames Valley	1,469	1,618	2,096	2,123
Warwickshire	277	349	435	382
West Mercia	923	949	1,139	1,014
West Midlands	3,033	3,207	3,470	3,483
West Yorkshire	2,106	2,343	2,351	2,522
Wiltshire	558	584	525	580
Total	48,627	52,070	60,942	61,111

[1] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced in May 2004 altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences, in particular, it redefined indecent exposure as a sexual offence.

Note:
1. Numbers of recorded crime were affected by changes in reporting and recording following the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These data are not comparable with earlier years.

Counter-terrorism: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what counter-terrorist exercises took place in East Sussex in each of the last five years. [141830]

Mr. McNulty: Since 2002, the Home Office has sponsored two table-top (non-live play) exercises, in March 2004 and in December 2006, and one live-play exercise (in conjunction with Surrey police) during March 2007 (Exercise LION'S KEEP), in Sussex. Details of other locally organised counter-terrorism exercises in which Sussex may have taken part during this period are not held centrally by the Home Office.

Vehicle Crime Reduction Team

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect that the decision to close the Vehicle Crime Reduction team will have upon rates of theft of *(a)* motorcycles and *(b)* motorcycle parts; and if he will make a statement; [142411]

(2) what considerations were taken into account before taking the decision to close down the Vehicle Crime Reduction Team; and if he will make a statement. [142412]

Mr. Coaker: The decision to wind down the Home Office Vehicle Crime Reduction Team was taken as part of the Home Office Reform Programme and in the context of developing a new strategic approach to crime reduction.

We do not believe the decision to wind down the Home Office team will have an adverse impact on the theft rates of motorcycles or motorcycle parts. Front-line practitioners are experienced in implementing initiatives to deal with vehicle crime, including thefts of motorcycles. This includes providing relevant crime prevention advice and making use of the Motor Salvage (Operators) Regulations 2002 to drive criminals out of the motor salvage industry to prevent vehicles, including motorcycles, being stolen for their parts.

Performance management arrangements will ensure that the significant gains made to date in this area are sustained.

Written Questions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer Question 125175, on repatriation of failed asylum seekers, tabled by the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green on 28 February. [130618]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 March 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 609W.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer Question 126828, on migrant workers, tabled by the hon. Member for Chesham and Amersham on 7 March. [135525]

Mr. Byrne: I replied to the hon. Member on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 678W.

Young Offenders

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of *(a)* street crime, *(b)* burglaries, *(c)* car thefts and *(d)* criminal damage was carried out in each police authority area by 10 to 16-year-olds in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142154]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to determine the age of the alleged offender from the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Climate Change

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects have been funded by the Investment Climate Facility for Africa; and if he will make a statement. [142535]

Hilary Benn: The UK accords high priority to investment climate reform in Africa. An improved investment climate will stimulate increased private sector investment and higher rates of sustainable growth, enhancing job creation and enabling Africa to lift itself out of poverty. This is why DFID, along with several other donors and companies with a long-term interest in Africa, supports the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF). The G8 recently reaffirmed their continuing support for the ICF at their Summit meeting in Heiligendamm.

The ICF is an independent pan-African trust that brings together African governments and institutions, the private sector and donor agencies to work collectively to improve the investment climate in Africa.

The ICF's first major project, the Rwanda Investment Climate Project, was launched on 28 May 2007, encompassing commercial dispute resolution and business and land registration. It is a three-year project in partnership with the Rwanda Government. The ICF is contributing about $9 million to the project.

The ICF is also financing work on customs reform in East Africa in partnership with Business Action for Improved Customs Administration in Africa, as well as a project to speed up the payment of VAT refunds in Southern Africa. ICF expects to announce the approval of other projects under development in the coming months.

Departments: Dismissal

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions since 1st January 2000 his Department has summarily dismissed a member of its staff earning more than £40,000 per annum and serving overseas without there being any allegation either of misconduct or gross misconduct and without any written warning being given to the employee prior to dismissal. [141853]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has dismissed three employees since 1 January 2000 who fall within the criteria set out in the question. They were all dismissed following legal advice and in line with the terms of their contracts.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141987]

Hilary Benn: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial cars in line with the Ministerial Code and the Prime Minister's guidance Travel by Ministers'.

GCDA advises the Prime Minister on the suitability of cars for inclusion in his guidance, taking into account a number of criteria when assessing suitable cars including their environmental impact, running and maintenance costs and overall suitability as a ministerial car.

Ministers in the Department for International Development are provided with two Toyota Prius cars.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what visits he has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government car service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government were reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142660]

Hilary Benn: All travel is undertaken in accordance with 'Travel by Ministers' and the 'Ministerial Code', copies of which are available in the House Library.

Developing Countries: Climate Change

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to address the negative effects of climate change on low income countries. [140627]

Mr. Thomas: The UK is trying to limit the negative effects of climate change on low income countries by leading the call internationally for a global framework with ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The UK is leading by example in this, with a commitment to reduce emissions by 60 per cent. by 2050.

The UK is also at the forefront of supporting poor countries adapt. DFID's rapidly rising aid budget means we can spend more money than ever to lift people out of poverty which makes them less vulnerable to climate change. But there is still much more that needs to be done. The UK has pledged at least £75 million to support adaptation directly. For example, at the grass roots level we are investing in schemes such as safer flood resistant housing for thousands of people in Bangladesh. We are also contributing £5 million over five years to improving Africa's ability to get and use information on what future climate trends will be, so that countries can plan better for this. In the last budget the Chancellor announced a new £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund, which will include support for adaptation in developing countries.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects have been funded by the Governance and Transparency Fund; and if he will make a statement. [142534]

Mr. Thomas: The 2006 White Paper on International Development announced a new fund to support better governance and transparency in poor countries through working with civil society. Following a public consultation, the Secretary of State launched the five year £100 million Governance and Transparency Fund (GTF) in February 2007.

Applications are to be assessed through a fair and rigorous competitive process, with a commitment to begin spending before the end of this calendar year. We are on track to achieve that, anticipating all decisions on funding to be made in the autumn.

It is therefore too early for any projects to have been funded under the GTF. Once decisions have been taken, we will post details of all proposals supported on the DFID website.

HIV Infection: Medical Treatments

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what total Government funding for research into the development of anti-retroviral HIV/AIDS medication for use in developing countries was in the latest period for which figures are available; and to which bodies this funding was provided. [141111]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are not funding any research into the development of new oral anti-retroviral medication but is funding research into the development of microbicides (vaginal medication) against HIV and AIDS. The International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) has received £8.7 million between 2002-08 and the Microbicide Development Programme (MDP), a joint programme between the UK Medical Research Council and Imperial College London, has received £39.8 million between 2001-09.

The UK Government are providing £5.6 million for two clinical trials that are developing simplified treatment protocols to use existing oral anti-retroviral therapy in Africa. Both trials are coordinated by the Medical Research Council clinical trials unit—DART (ART for adults 2002-07) and ARROW (ART for children 2006-11).

International Assistance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the outcomes of the G8 meeting in respect of international development. [142298]

Hilary Benn: On climate change, the G8 summit made significant progress towards a new global agreement, which is very important for developing countries.

The summit also reaffirmed the Gleneagles commitments on development assistance, and set out how the fight against AIDS will be taken forward, with additional funding and help for vulnerable mothers and children. There has also been considerable progress on debt cancellation.

Overseas Aid

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the timescale is for conducting country governance analysis for all recipients of UK development assistance; and if he will make a statement. [142536]

Mr. Thomas: DFID introduced a new governance assessment tool, the Country Governance Analysis (CGA), in February 2007. It will help ensure that our aid strategy and programming better reflect governance context and trends. The CGA is mandatory for all countries where DFID is preparing 3-5 year Country Assistance Plans. Between 17 and 21 countries are likely to prepare CGAs in 2007. The rest will be done in 2008-09. To date, none have reached the final approval stage but several are near to finalisation, including Sierra Leone, Malawi, Mozambique and Ghana. CGAs are undertaken with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sierra Leone: Health Services

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to health systems in Sierra Leone in each of the last five years. [142760]

Hilary Benn: Since April 2002 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £5,284,945 to support health systems in Sierra Leone through direct projects.

Please see following table for a breakdown for each financial year.

	£
2002-03	1,038,361
2003-04	2,322,258
2004-05	320,302
2005-06	162,335
2006-07	1,441,689

Some of the projects we have funded include:

Support to UNICEF to help children, families and communities to provide care and protection for orphans and other vulnerable children;

Malaria prevention and treatment;

Support to UNICEF for Immunisation;

Reproductive health;

Rehabilitation of the Primary Health Care System in four Chiefdoms in Tonkolili District; and

Establishing access to emergency Primary Health.

DFID also supports health systems in Sierra Leone through Direct Budget Support to the Government. Of the £59.5 million that has been provided through Budget Support over the last five years, approximately 11 per cent. or £6 million has been spent on the health sector.

In addition, in 2006 DFID provided $30 million through the Africa Catalytic Fund to fund the World Bank's accelerated Child Survival Programme in Sierra Leone. This is in its early stages of implementation. DFID is also working with the Government of Sierra Leone to prepare a 10 year programme aimed at strengthening the Health System to increase access to quality sexual, reproductive and child health services. It is expected this programme working closely with the World Bank will begin in 2008 and DFID will contribute £50 million over 10 years.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to encourage the provision of healthcare free at the point of access in Sierra Leone. [142761]

Hilary Benn: The 2006 Department for International Development (DFID) White Paper commits the UK to "help partner Governments abolish user fees for basic health services". DFID is fully committed to supporting the Government of Sierra Leone to ensure that this is achieved.

DFID's position is shared by our partner agencies working in Sierra Leone, including WHO, European Commission, World Bank, United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Children's Fund, World Food Programme and International NGOs. Recent Health Development Partners meetings in country have established a common position: we would like to see user fees abolished and want to help the government to reach that position for themselves, including helping them to understand how to fund the cost of health services.

The first step towards abolishing user fees is to establish the cost of providing basic health services and how to make this cost sustainable when user fees are removed. Currently fees collected by the government go towards funding the provision of services.

DFID is therefore funding preparation of National Health Accounts through World Health Organisation (WHO) to help establish how much money is currently being spent on health services in Sierra Leone from all sources (donor, International non-government organisations, private sector etc.). In addition DFID, along with other Health Development Partners, is planning to finance a study on options for pro-poor health financing. Once DFID has this Options paper it will be able to discuss with government the best way forward.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to ensure that humanitarian relief funding to Somalia is reaching those who need it most. [141279]

Hilary Benn: In Somalia, DFID uses three principal mechanisms to ensure that humanitarian relief is reaching those who need it most. DFID is

only funding the most experienced international relief agencies;

obtaining regular and detailed reporting from the relief agencies, working with other donors where possible, backed up with visits in the field by DFID experts, where security permits;

supporting objectively targeted assistance, where possible, such as: emergency medical relief—people are assisted if they are seriously ill—or emergency nutritional support—where entry onto a feeding programme is decided on the basis of the weight and height of the child. There is less likelihood of abuse when entitlement is established in this way.

DFID provides a major proportion of our humanitarian funds to the International Committee of the Red Cross in southern Somalia, as they are experts at assisting victims of conflict and have good on-the-ground access.

During the drought in Somalia last year, DFID's humanitarian adviser for east and central Africa visited south central Somalia in April. Following this assessment, DFID was able to provide further targeted assistance.

As part of our ongoing humanitarian programme, DFID has committed £900,000 to International Medical Corps (IMC). Part of this support provides targeted assistance to malnourished children in the Bakool and Hiran regions.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of UK financial support for the Somali Transitional Federal Government. [141518]

Hilary Benn: DFID provides financial support to the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) through a strategic partnership with the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) and a separate UNDP Somali Institutional Support project.

Between July 2006 and December 2007, DFID has committed £5 million to the UNDP partnership to support the achievement of reconciliation, stability and improved governance, rule of law and assisting Somali Diaspora to return and use their skills in public service delivery. Activities are being carried out with the TFG and with the regional administrations in Somaliland and Puntland. DFID has also committed £2.5 million to the Somali Institutional Support Project (SISP) which focuses on supporting the key functions and actions to be performed by the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs).

Both the UNDP partnership and the SISP have provided technical and financial assistance to the Offices of the President, the Prime Minister, the Speaker, Supreme Court and other institutions. In the absence of a fully trained civil service, this assistance is enabling the Transitional Federal Institutions to have some technical capacity to function and interact with key stakeholders including the Somali people. Achievements include helping re-establish the National Civil Service Commission and providing management and financial training to civil servants. The UNDP partnership agreement has also been effective in helping the re-establishment of the Somali police force in South Central Somalia, through the training of 1000 cadets and the construction of Armo Police Training Academy and Hargeisa Central prison.

Zambia: Health Services

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to health systems in each of the last five years in Zambia; and if he will provide details of that support. [142759]

Hilary Benn: Strengthening the systems that deliver health services is a priority for DFID in Zambia. Under Zambia's Joint Assistance Strategy, DFID is the overall lead donor in the health sector during 2007 and has responsibility for coordinating the contributions of 15 multilateral and bilateral agencies.

In 2006-07, DFID provided an estimated £5.5 million to support health systems in Zambia, of which approximately £4.7 million was through Direct Budget Support.

DFID is also providing technical support to the implementation of the Zambian Government's human resources strategic plan which is working to address Zambia's severe human resource crisis in the health sector. In addition, we are supporting improvements to financial management, monitoring and evaluation, as well as timely procurement of drugs and supplies.

From 2002-03 to 2006-07, DFID provided a total of approximately £30.6 million to support health systems in Zambia.

DFID does not have a formal definition of "health systems" but the following table shows DFID spend in the health sector in Zambia. The top three rows relate most closely to health systems. Direct Budget Support means the funds have been provided directly to the Zambian Government's budget either for general or sector specific purposes. The data incorporate a notional allocation of 20 per cent. of Direct Budget Support for the health sector.

DFID bilateral expenditure in Zambia in health sector

£

Input sector	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[1]
Health sector: Notional allocation of direct budget support	—	—	1,833,043	4,215,999	4,745,544
Health Policy	8,366,796	4,991,898	2,797,303	2,837,159	810,833
Pro Poor Health Policy and Systems	—	—	—	13,846	—
Nutrition	—	—	13,212	426,551	3,970
Communicable Disease Control	—	—	—	12,813	—
Reproductive Health incl. Family Planning Activities	1,198,188	1,502,875	63,072	6,128	—
Health Research	97,865	49,926	—	—	—
HIV and AIDS	275,712	135,109	1,978,281	5,211,737	4,273,106
Health total	9,938,561	6,679,808	6,684,911	12,724,232	9,833,453
Of which:					
Estimated health systems	8,366,796	4,991,898	4,630,346	7,067,003	5,556,377

[1] Provisional.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to encourage the provision of health care free at the point of access in Zambia. [142762]

Hilary Benn: In April 2006, health user fees were removed in all Zambian government-funded health institutions in rural areas. This has made health care free at the point of access in 54 of Zambia's 72 districts. Overall, it is estimated that a third more people are being seen in health facilities. However, there has been concern about the quality of services. In many clinics, drugs ran out, and health workers become even more overworked than before. There is a plan to expand free care to peri-urban areas later in 2007. Expansion to urban areas is expected to follow in time; however this needs to be undertaken with care because of the limited capacity of current facilities such as numbers of clinics, health workers and drug supply systems to cope with additional use.

The Government of Zambia, together with DFID, has therefore prioritised improvements to drug procurement and supply chain systems, and the development of plans to address the human resource crisis. To assist, DFID plans to provide an additional £2.9 million per year for five years in general budget support, which will be used to increase the grants to districts, procure drugs, and recruit and retain more health workers.

JUSTICE

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, on Departments: Manpower, for what reasons, subject to personal confidentiality, the 67 employees are potentially without posts. [141735]

Bridget Prentice: The 67 employees referred to in the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, are from former DCA, the Criminal Injuries Complaints Authority and NOMS HQ. All are actively in employment, but due to business reasons, for example restructuring, relocation, closure of offices/courts, the end of projects/secondments etc, their posts are potentially coming to an end. The majority of the 67 employees comprise 39 members of staff from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, which is relocating to Scotland later this year. Their redeployment status is being managed in securing suitable alternative employment within the Ministry of Justice or the wider civil service.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, on Departments: Manpower, what the estimated yearly cost to the public purse is of funding the employees without posts. [141736]

Bridget Prentice: As the 67 employees referred to in the written PQ of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 783-84W, are actively in employment, and their redeployment status is being managed in securing suitable alternative employment within the Ministry of Justice or the wider civil service, there is no yearly cost to the public purse.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what visits she has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government car service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government were reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142662]

Ms Harman: All travel is undertaken in accordance with Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the House Library.

HM Courts Service: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff funded by the public purse in HM Courts Service are classified as people without posts. [141720]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently no employees who are funded by the public purse in HM Courts Service who are classified as people without posts.

Home Detention Curfews: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offenders convicted of child abuse were released on home detention curfews in the Metropolitan Police district in each London borough in each year since their introduction. [142626]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Child abuse is not a recorded offence type in itself.

Since March 2001 offenders required to register under the Sex Offender Act 1997 (now replaced by part 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) have been statutorily excluded from being considered for home detention curfew. Prior to March 2001 such prisoners were presumed unsuitable for release unless there were exceptional circumstances. Since July 2003 prisoners with any history of sexual offending and those serving a current sentence for offences involving child cruelty, neglect or similar offences involving violence against children have been presumed unsuitable for release unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Statistics which apply solely to offences against children of a violent or sexual nature would not be available without disproportionate cost and would not be available for each London borough in the Metropolitan area.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offenders were released on home detention curfews in the Metropolitan Police district in each London borough in each year since their introduction. [142629]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of prisoners released under the home detention curfew scheme from all prison establishments in England and Wales can be found in the following table:

Home detention curfew release[1] and population figures by sex, England and Wales

Number/percentage

	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Number released on:							
HDC	14,847	15,510	13,649	20,456	21,188	19,294	17,296
Males	13,523	14,005	12,121	18,509	19,050	17,159	15,392
Females	1,324	1,505	1,528	1,947	2,138	2,135	1,904
Population on HDC at end of year[2]	2,000	1,700	1,700	3,100	3,700	3,400	3,300

Notes:
1. This table is taken from table 10.3 in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005. Information showing the figures by individual London boroughs within the Metropolitan Police district is not held centrally.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Legal Services Bill

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations her Department has received from trade unions on their exemption from part 3 of the Legal Services Bill. [142330]

Bridget Prentice: We have discussed the Legal Services Bill with those representing both the Trades Union Congress and individual unions. While they have expressed support for the aims of the Legal Services Bill, they have been concerned to ensure that it does not inadvertently restrict trade unions from providing valuable support and assistance to their members.

Life Imprisonment

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to increase resources for life sentence plans at each prison where the number of prisoners exceeds the programme capacity; and if she will make a statement. [142458]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prisons receive funding to manage all prisoners, including those subject to the life sentence planning process. For 2007-08, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Board has allocated additional funding, specifically to provide for assessments of and programmes for prisoners sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of Imprisonment for Public Protection, who are also currently subject to the life sentence planning process. The additional funding will be distributed to prisons where such prisoners are held. The NOMS Board has also commissioned a 'service review' which is looking at the systems and services currently in place for indeterminate sentenced prisoners. The final report and recommendations are expected in August 2007.

Miscarriages of Justice: Compensation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether an estimate has been made of the total potential liability faced by the Government from claims before the Independent Assessor of Compensation for Miscarriages of Justice; what oversight mechanism is in place to review the assessor's work; what the budget of her office is for 2007-08; how many and what proportion of cases completed in 2006-07 took more than two years to conclude; what the average length of an independent assessment process was over the last five years; in how many open cases interim but not final payments have been awarded; how many cases are before the assessor as at 7 June; how much the assessor was paid in each of the last five years; and how much has been deducted for board and lodging in awards made by the assessor in each of the last five years. [141393]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It was estimated at 31 March 2007 that the potential liability in respect of compensation for miscarriage of justice was some £25 million. This estimate was based on the number of cases in which the Secretary of State had approved eligibility for compensation and in which the assessor was to make his final assessments. The performance of the independent assessor is monitored by the miscarriages of justice team in the Better Trials Unit of the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. A monthly audit of cases is carried out and regular meetings are held with the assessor. It is also open to any applicant who is dissatisfied with the assessor's handling of their case to seek a judicial review.

The independent assessor does not have a dedicated support office, but is able to look to the miscarriages of justice team to support him in administrative duties associated with his role. It is the responsibility of applicants to make written submissions to the independent assessor regarding the quantum of their claims, and he cannot make a final assessment until such time as those submissions have been made and agreed. Of the 38 cases in which a final assessment was made in 2006-07, 28 (76 per cent.) took more than two years from eligibility for compensation being approved to the final assessment. Over the five years from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2007, the average length of the independent assessment process, that is from eligibility being confirmed to final assessment, was three years. As at 7 June there were 116 cases in which eligibility for compensation has been approved but a final assessment not yet been made. In 79 of those cases (68 per cent.) one or more interim payments have been made, on application by the applicants. There were 16 cases with the independent assessor for final assessment and three cases in which applications for an interim payment have been made. The total fee payments to the independent assessor in each of the last five years were:

	£
2002-03	62,436
2003-04	24,246
2004-05	20,325
2005-06	77,874
2006-07	92,660

The independent assessor does not make deductions from assessments for 'board and lodgings'. In certain circumstances he makes deductions in respect of saved living expenses. This practice was upheld by the House of Lords in a recent appeal. Central records of the amount of such deductions are not kept.

Notaries

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will assess the merits of widening the range of professions which are permitted to become notaries. [142308]

Bridget Prentice: In England and Wales, qualification and regulation as a notary is governed by the Court of Faculties. No person in England and Wales is entitled to practise as a notary public, or do any notarial act unless he has been duly sworn, admitted and enrolled in this court. The Notaries (Qualification) Rules 1998 set out the qualification and admission requirements for becoming a notary.

The Legal Services Bill, which is currently before Parliament, introduces greater competition in the provision of legal services. Under the Bill, notarial services will become a reserved legal activity and it will become possible—subject to proper authorisation from the Legal Services Board—for other approved regulators to authorise and licence the provision of these services.

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff funded by the public purse in HM Prison Service are classified as people without posts. [141721]

Bridget Prentice: HM Prison Service does not hold central records on the number of staff classified as "without posts". It is a geographically widespread organisation and most aspects of personnel management are devolved to a local level.

HMPS redeploys staff on a temporary basis until a permanent position is found for them. There are no known instances where this has not occurred.

Prison Service: Vacancies

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff vacancies there are at each *(a)* prison establishment, *(b)* HM Prison Service area and *(c)* private sector prison; and if she will make a statement. [139571]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The shortfall against staffing requirements across the public and private sector Prison Service is shown in the following tables.

A. Shortfall of staffing availability against requirement by establishment 30 April 2007—Public Sector

Prison	Shortfall on unified[1] staffing requirement having included CSH[2]	Shortfall on non-unified staffing requirement having included agency staff
Acklington	—	—
Albany	—	13
Ashwell	5	13
Askham Grange	—	3
Aylesbury	5	8
Bedford	—	13
Belmarsh	—	36
Birmingham	10	23
Blakenhurst	6	18
Blantyre House	1	2
Blundeston	—	4
Brinsford	15	1
Bristol	7	6
Brixton	18	9
Brockhill	8	—
Buckley Hall	3	—
Bullingdon	1	5
Bullwood Hall	1	16
Camp Hill	4	—
Canterbury	2	8
Cardiff	6	10
Castington	6	6
Channings Wood	—	4
Chelmsford	9	10
Coldingley	3	6
Cookham wood/ East Sutton Park	2	11
Dartmoor	—	4
Deerbolt	4	2
Dorchester	4	3
Dover	6	—
Downview	3	1
Drake Hall	3	1
Durham	7	12
Eastwood Park	—	16
Edmunds Hill	1	6
Elmley	—	2
Erlestoke	5	15

A. Shortfall of staffing availability against requirement by establishment 30 April 2007—Public Sector

Prison	Shortfall on unified[1] staffing requirement having included CSH[2]	Shortfall on non-unified staffing requirement having included agency staff
Everthorpe	—	8
Exeter	5	4
Featherstone	10	—
Feltham	2	87
Ford	5	12
Foston Hall	5	4
Frankland	12	37
Full Sutton	18	2
Garth	—	30
Gartree	2	11
Glen Parva	8	25
Gloucester	6	—
Grendon	10	4
Guys Marsh	14	8
Haslar	2	3
Haverigg	—	—
Hewell Grange	1	3
High Down	31	19
Highpoint	7	9
Hindley	—	7
Hollesley Bay	—	4
Holloway	12	9
Holme House	—	—
Hull	13	—
Huntercombe	6	9
Kingston	3	1
Kirkham	5	19
Kirklevington Grange	—	1
Lancaster	—	—
Lancaster Farms	—	—
Latchmere House	1	10
Leeds	—	10
Leicester	—	10
Lewes	—	9
Leyhill	1	18
Lincoln	4	—
Lindholme	—	—
Littlehey	—	8
Liverpool	8	—
Long Lartin	3	9
Low Newton	—	5
Maidstone	—	10
Manchester	—	46
Moorland	—	—
Morton Hall	—	—
New Hall	2	3
North Sea Camp	2	1
Northallerton	5	3
Norwich	—	13
Nottingham	13	9
Onley	8	12
Parkhurst	4	6
Pentonville	—	3
Portland	1	—
Preston	—	—
Ranby	12	8

A. Shortfall of staffing availability against requirement by establishment 30 April 2007—Public Sector

Prison	Shortfall on unified[1] staffing requirement having included CSH[2]	Shortfall on non-unified staffing requirement having included agency staff
Reading	—	1
Risley	—	—
Rochester	—	—
Send	6	4
Shepton Mallet	—	1
Shrewsbury	3	—
Stafford	5	14
Standford Hill	—	—
Stocken	—	3
Stoke Heath	14	5
Styal	—	20
Sudbury	2	9
Swaleside	—	2
Swansea	3	—
Swinfen Hall	0	23
The Mount	6	9
The Verne	3	14
Thorn Cross	2	1
Usk/Prescoed	1	5
Wakefield	21	39
Wandsworth	6	84
Warren Hill	0	—
Wayland	—	2
Wealstun	—	5
Wellingborough	6	15
Werrington	6	4
Wetherby	11	12
Whatton	3	11
Whitemoor	—	49
Winchester	—	—
Woodhill	18	32
Wormwood Scrubs	4	—
Wymott	—	14
Sheppey Reducing Reoffending	18	—

B. Shortfall of staffing availability against requirement by operational area 30 April 2007—Public Sector

Area	Shortfall on unified staffing requirement having included CSH	Shortfall on non-unified staffing requirement having included agency staff
East Midlands	68	130
Eastern	22	91
High security prisons	71	249
Kent and Sussex	32	55
London	42	201
North East	17	26
North West	17	90
South Central	75	77
South West	44	92
Wales	10	15
West Midlands	77	89
Yorkshire and Humberside	31	42

[1] Unified staff are officer grade staff and operational managers.
[2] CSH—Contracted supplementary hours.

Notes on public sector prison figures:

1. The shortfall is shown after accounting for the contribution of contracted supplementary hours and agency staff.
2. The totals have not been offset by surpluses at other locations but have been offset by surpluses in individual grades within one site.
3. A dash represents an establishment that is either fully staffed or reporting a surplus. A zero represents a shortfall of a fraction of a post that rounds to zero.
4. The columns in the table cannot sensibly be added together to find an overall level of shortfall. This is because dashes represent either no shortfall or an unstated level of surplus that could be used to offset overall staffing variances.
5. The information is derived from the Personnel Corporate Database, Oracle HRMS and quarterly forecast change forms. These systems are liable to the normal inaccuracies associated with any large-scale reporting systems.

C. Short fall of staffing availability against requirement by establishment 31 March 2007—Private Sector

Prison	Shortfall on staffing requirement	
	Operational	Non-operational
Altcourse (GSL)	10	8
Ashfield (SERCO)	15	19
Bronzefield (KALYX)	11	4
Doncaster (SERCO)	6	12
Dovegate (SERCO)	12	4
Forest Bank (KALYX)	6	4
Lowdham Grange (SERCO)	9	12
PARC (G4S)	0	15
Peterborough (KALYX)	0	15
Rye Hill (GSL)	2	0
Wolds (GSL)	12	1

Public Guardianship Office: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many staff funded by the public purse in the Public Guardianship Office are classified as people without posts. [141719]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently no employees who are funded by the public purse in the Public Guardianship Office who are classified as people without posts.

Solicitors: North East Region

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Ministry of Justice what arrangements she has made for the provision of duty solicitor cover in Bridlington, Goole and Beverley in light of the decision of Hull firms to withdraw from the provision of such cover. [142349]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission has sufficient cover from other legal aid firms based in the region to provide full duty solicitor cover in Goole and Beverley magistrates courts. Hull firms have never provided duty solicitor cover in Bridlington magistrates court.

Young Offenders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of under 18 year olds convicted in each year since 1997 lived *(a)* with a parent who had sole custody, *(b)* with parents who had joint custody and *(c)* with parents who were married. [142653]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The individual circumstances surrounding convicted offenders are not held centrally.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139442]

Mr. Hain: The *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations who have supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) the Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; including the cost of these services are listed as follows:

		£
(i) Department		
2006-07	Genesis	5,028.90
(ii) Agencies		
2003-04	Anderson Spratt	61,454.06
2004-05	Anderson Spratt	77,231.90
2005-06	Anderson Spratt	69,591.97
2006-07	Anderson Spratt	29,310.10
	Direct Marketing Ltd.	2 937.50
	Ovation N.I	9,000.00

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140796]

Mr. Hain: Carbon emissions from the NIO's estate are calculated from energy data supplied by the NIO Energy Manager to Energy Branch in the Department of Finance and Personnel, which collates such data for all public sector bodies in Northern Ireland for publication in the annual Public Sector Energy Campaign Report. They use the following conversion factors (similar to those used by DEFRA) to calculate carbon emissions:

	Grammes per kWh
Electricity	430
Gas/diesel oil	250
Natural gas	190
Liquid propane gas	230
Heavy fuel oil	260

The Department also participates in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund, which aims to offset emissions from air travel. The emissions are calculated as follows:

For short haul each km flown equals 0.3kg CO_2

For long haul each km flown equals 0.22kg CO_2

Further information on the fund can be found at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climatechange/uk/carbonoffset/government.htm

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141988]

Mr. Hain: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given today (UIN 141990) by my hon. Friend the Minister of State for Transport.

Independent International Commission on Decommissioning

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Freedom of Information requests have been received by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) since the introduction of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will seek an amendment of the legislation to include the IICD. [129665]

Mr. Hain: The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) is not included within schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Organisations will be considered in the context of any review of extending the coverage of the Freedom of Information Act. We have no plans to review the coverage of the Act at present.

Local Government Re-organisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1211W, on local government re-organisation, when the copy of the consultants' report will be placed in the Library. [142398]

Mr. Hain: This has now been placed in the Library.

The full title of the report is:

Office of the First Minister Deputy First Minister

Exercise to Estimate the Costs and Efficiencies of the Review of Public Administration Proposals November 2005

Final Report 15 November 2005

Public Expenditure

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the operation of the Barnett formula as it affects Northern Ireland. [142518]

Mr. Hain: In the run-up to devolution I had a number of discussions with the Chancellor about the funding of programmes which, since 8 May, have become the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Valuation and Lands Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 568-9W, on the Valuation and Lands Agency, when the copy of the presentation will be placed in the Library. [142400]

Mr. Hain: This has now been placed in the Library.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Eligo International

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* date, *(b)* value and *(c)* purpose was of each payment made by his Office to Eligo International Limited since 1997. [141914]

The Prime Minister: My Office has made no payments to Eligo International Limited since 1997.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to him; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141973]

The Prime Minister: On the allocation of ministerial residences, I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 789W.

On costs, I refer the right hon. Member to the answers I gave the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1808W and on 30 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 150W. Expenditure on other official residences is a matter for the relevant Minister's Department.

East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has visited the East Riding of Yorkshire on official Government business in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142146]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Southend, West (Mr. Amess) on 2 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1385-87W.

Information on visits made in the UK during 2006-07 will be published by means of an annual list before the summer recess.

European Constitutional Changes

Mr. Hague: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Macclesfield of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 257W, on European constitutional changes, where the red lines have been set out before; what those red lines are; and if he will make a statement. [142647]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Macclesfield (Sir Nicholas Winterton) on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 256-7W.

Libya

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Prime Minister if he will publish the Memorandum of Understanding with Libya signed on 28 May 2007. [142752]

The Prime Minister: The Memorandum of Understanding is publicly available, and copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister whether he expects to receive a ministerial severance payment when he leaves office. [141389]

The Prime Minister: No. Severance pay is payable in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Prime Minister which Ministers have not been remunerated for their ministerial service since May 1997; and what the duration was of unpaid ministerial service in each case. [142858]

The Prime Minister: Details of all Ministers since 1997 are contained in editions of the "List of Ministerial Responsibilities", copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House. In addition, the press notices of ministerial appointments issued by my Office, note whether a particular appointment is unpaid.

Official Spokesman

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the responsibilities of his official spokesman will be after June 2007. [141913]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1096W.

Rendition

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister what discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with (i) President Bush and (ii) US officials on UK

assistance in relation to rendition flights since 1 May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [141836]

The Prime Minister: It is not the practice of the Government to make public details of all discussions with foreign Governments.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140795]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office subscribes to the principles of environmental performance and accounting methodology adopted by the Ministry of Justice.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on Wednesday 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140129]

David Cairns: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141971]

David Cairns: No Ministers in the Scotland Office are allocated a ministerial residence.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139370]

David Cairns: All Scotland Office property is rented and therefore the property portfolio value is nil. However, Dover House, which is held as an historic leasehold, is independently re-valued by the Valuation Office Agency, on the basis of existing use value, in accordance with the appraisal and valuation manual of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The most recent valuation undertaken in 2005-06 valued the building at £1,085,000.

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Office held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136865]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was formed on 1 July 1999. Since then, there have been no ministerial or official meetings with Sovereign Strategy.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Auctions: Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Office of Fair Trading *(a)* is investigating and *(b)* plans to investigate the online money transfer marketplace used by internet auction sites. [140752]

Mr. McCartney: I understand that the OFT are not investigating the online money transfer marketplace and have no current plans to do so. The use by the OFT of their powers under the Enterprise Act to conduct market investigations is a matter for the OFT.

Clothing: Fire Prevention

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to review the legislation governing the safety of children's nightwear. [132117]

Mr. McCartney: The Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985, which govern the fire safety of children's nightwear, are already the most stringent in Europe—most member states have no legislation in this area. There are no current plans, therefore, to review these regulations. In addition, manufacturers of clothing, including pyjamas, that do not meet the flammability standard of the regulations have a responsibility to ensure their products are safe under the General Product Safety Regulations 2005.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate he has made of the cost of improving the safety of nightwear; and what assessment he has made of the affordability of such improvements. [132118]

Mr. McCartney: My Department commissioned research into nightwear safety in 1994, which included looking at the costs of extending the scope of the Nightwear (Safety) Regulations to include cotton nightwear garments, e.g. pyjamas. It was found that, as well as the cost of testing a finished product adding up to £3 per garment, making it from chemically flame retardant cotton would add another £3-£4 per garment. The research did not assess affordability but any such assessment must also take into account that flame retardant chemicals can affect the feel and comfortability of cotton fabric, and could pose problems for allergy sufferers.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will list the official ministerial

residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141957]

Mr. Darling: The DTI does not have any official ministerial residences.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many civil servants, and of what pay grade, work on the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [142176]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The microgeneration team has responsibility for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 and 2, along with a range of other policy and delivery activities relating to micro generation. There are currently five Civil Servants (two Range 10s and three Range 8s) working in that team.

Official Cars: Ministers

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's policy is on the vehicle excise duty bands of Ministerial cars; and into which bands cars presently allocated to Ministers fall. [141340]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for Transport on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 728W.

Seals: Animal Products

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) if he will implement a national ban on the trade in seal products; [141581]

(2) what assessment he has made of the European Commission's position on the EU-wide ban on the import of seal products; and if he will make a statement. [141582]

Mr. McCartney: The European Commission is currently conducting a study of the Canadian seal hunt in order to assess the need for EU-wide action.

The Government decided to pursue EU-wide measures because national measures would be impossible to enforce under EU single market rules.

However we continue to believe that EU wide measures are the only effective way of banning seal products from the UK. The EU is a single trading market and therefore national bans could not prevent seal products being imported via other member states, such as Denmark and Finland. The UK does not intend to introduce a measure that could be so easily circumvented, as it would not prevent the cruelty that the public is concerned about. For these reasons the Government considered national ban and rejected it.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Noise

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how the Government are tackling problems of blight in respect of those living *(a)* in the vicinity and *(b)* under the flight paths of regional airports. [141861]

Gillian Merron: The Government's "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper invited airport operators to bring forward voluntary schemes to address generalised blight where runways are supported by the White Paper or where land is safeguarded for future development. Voluntary blight schemes have been introduced at Birmingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow airports. Home-owners directly and indirectly affected by airport development will also have access in due course to statutory blight provisions.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many airports in the UK have implemented voluntary plans to tackle noise pollution. [141862]

Gillian Merron: There are over 140 licensed aerodromes in the United Kingdom and the information about voluntary plans to tackle noise pollution is not collected or held centrally by the Department.

In the "Future of Air Transport" White Paper, we encouraged airport operators to have voluntary schemes to mitigate the impact of aircraft noise. We have therefore introduced statutory powers to strengthen the airport operators' powers to introduce noise control schemes and fine aircraft that breach noise controls. We hope that this will encourage larger airports to establish schemes where they do not already exist. We have recommended that airport consultative committees monitor how well these new powers are being implemented by airports. We propose to consult the committees in 2008 on progress made by airport operators.

Under the environmental noise directive, all airports with over 50,000 movements per year are required to produce strategic noise maps by 30 June 2007. The completion of these maps will need to be followed by action plans aimed at managing and reducing environmental noise. These action plans are required to be completed by 18 July 2008.

BAA: Secondment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people are seconded to his Department from BAA plc; what the roles are of such secondees; and if he will make a statement. [142882]

Gillian Merron: There are no BAA staff seconded into the Department for Transport.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141990]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial cars in line with the ministerial code and the Prime Minister's guidance Travel by Ministers'.

GCDA advises the Prime Minister on the suitability of cars for inclusion in his guidance, taking into account a number of criteria when assessing suitable cars including their environmental impact, running and maintenance costs and overall suitability as a ministerial car.

It is for individual ministers to account for their travel arrangements. Ministers in the Department for Transport are provided with three Toyota Prius and one Ford Mondeo for their official use.

Mobility: Finance

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department for Communities and Local Government on funding streams for charitable organisations providing accessible vehicles for elderly and disabled people; [142479]

(2) what future funding streams he has allocated for vehicles to assist the elderly and people with disability; and if he will make a statement. [142480]

Gillian Merron: The Department has regular discussions with colleagues in Communities and Local Government (CLG) on many issues including on the important role which local authorities play in acting as an essential conduit for Central Government funding.

The Government are committed to an accessible transport system in which disabled and older people have the same opportunities to travel as other members of society. Its overall transport strategy, as set out in the Transport White Paper "The Future of Transport", recognised the vital role that extending mobility plays in meeting the wider objectives for the economy and an inclusive society.

Transport provision is largely funded via local authorities who are best placed to deliver the solutions that best meet the needs of local people. For example, to assist these aims the West Midlands region were provided with over £155 million capital funding for both integrated transport and maintenance for 2007-08.

We have ensured, through the introduction of "accessibility planning" into the most recent round of local transport plans, that the needs of socially excluded groups are prioritised.

We have already achieved a great deal to make mainstream public transport more accessible (for example, all new trains, buses and coaches must be accessible to disabled people, including wheelchair users) but the Government's wider strategy is to devolve decision making responsibility about local service provision closer to where services are delivered, and to encourage the removal of ring fenced funding so that local decisions can increasingly be informed by local context, priorities and need.

Motorcycles: Theft

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to reduce the theft of motorcycle parts. [142413]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

The decision to wind down the Home Office Vehicle Crime Reduction Team was taken as part of the Home Office Reform Programme and in the context of developing a new strategic approach to crime reduction.

We do not believe the decision to wind down the Home Office team will have an adverse impact on the theft rates of motorcycles or motorcycle parts. Frontline practitioners are experienced in implementing initiatives to deal with vehicle crime, including thefts of motorcycles. This includes providing relevant crime prevention advice and making use of the Motor Salvage (Operators) Regulations 2002 to drive criminals out of the motor salvage industry to prevent vehicles, including motorcycles, being stolen for their parts.

Performance management arrangements will ensure that the significant gains made to date in this area are sustained.

Parking

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to publish guidance under the Traffic Management Act 2004 on enforcement over parking on grass verges; and if he will make a statement. [141188]

Gillian Merron: All local authorities outside London already have the power to make Traffic Regulation Orders which can, among other things, ban parking on grass verges. It is for the local authority to put a ban in place where they consider it appropriate. Pavement parking (which includes parking on grass verges) is banned in London apart from where signs indicate otherwise.

Parking: Schools

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to make changes to parking controls near schools. [142387]

Gillian Merron: There is a wide range of parking controls that a local authority can provide near schools. The Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) 2002 gives local authorities powers to implement yellow zig-zag and keep clear road markings. These markings indicate where vehicles should not stop outside a school entrance. The local authority can determine whether the markings are advisory or made mandatory with an appropriate traffic regulation order. There are no plans to change these controls.

Railways: Ashford Kent

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has received on the future of passenger train services to Brussels from Ashford International station. [142673]

Mr. Tom Harris: I have met a number of hon. Members to discuss the issue, which has also been the subject of two Adjournment debates in the last eight months. In addition, I have received a small number of

letters from hon. Members, and around another 30 letters from members of the public, local authorities and others.

Road Works

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the reasons for the time taken to implement the provisions of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in respect of permits for works in the highway. [142386]

Gillian Merron: Part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, permit schemes, is dependant upon part 4 of the Act, the notices, directions and restrictions regulations. As such the permit regulations cannot be laid prior to part 4.

I would refer the hon. Member to the written statement made to the House on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS, which set out the reasons for the time taken to implement Traffic Management Act regulations. All these reasons apply to part 4.

Roads: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the future costs of building the Hastings to Bexhill Link Road; [142671]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential environmental impact of the proposed Bexhill to Hastings Link Road. [142672]

Gillian Merron: The promoters of the scheme, East Sussex county council, have reported that the total cost of the scheme is now estimated to be £89.3 million. It is for the South East region to decide whether it still wishes to prioritise funding for this scheme at its higher cost within its regional funding allocation for major transport schemes. Should the region formally advise that it continues to be a funding priority, the scheme will then be subject to a re-appraisal and value for money assessment in accordance with the Department's guidance before a final decision on whether to provide additional funding to the scheme is taken. The environmental impact of the Link Road was assessed in accordance with our appraisal methodology, when the scheme was originally approved in December 2004.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statistics are collected by the Government on user satisfaction in relation to the condition of local authority-maintained highways. [141799]

Gillian Merron: The Government does not collect statistics on user satisfaction in relation to the condition of local authority-maintained highways.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what statistics are collected by the Government on the condition of local authority-maintained highways in England. [141814]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport collects statistics from local authority surveys of road conditions which are collated and published annually in the 'National Road Maintenance Condition Survey'. The latest of these reports relates to 2006 and a copy of the report, published on 10 May 2007, was placed in the House of Commons Library and it is also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/maintenance/nrmcs2006intro.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the causes of the deterioration in local authority highways in England. [142264]

Gillian Merron: The two most recent National Road Maintenance Condition Surveys (NRMCS), published in April 2005 and April 2006, both showed that the deterioration in the condition of local authority highways during the 1990s had been halted, and that there had been a significant improvement in local road conditions since 2000.

Taxis: Disabled

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department is taking to promote the provision of taxis accessible to disabled people including wheelchair users. [142004]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport issued advice to taxi licensing authorities on 9 September 2002 which included factors they should consider in relation to improving access for disabled people. In November 2006, the Department also issued Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance which contains a section on improving accessibility of taxis. Further announcements will be made in due course.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what provision his Department is making to ensure that disabled people are involved in an evaluation of options regarding his Department's policy on the provision of taxis that are accessible to disabled people. [142005]

Gillian Merron: The Department has received a number of representations from organisations representing disabled people, individuals, licensing authorities and vehicle manufacturers which will help to inform the development of the policy on improving access to taxis. In addition the Department has regular discussions with the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. Formal consultations will take place once options have been firmed up.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Government expect to introduce regulations on accessible taxis under the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. [142007]

Gillian Merron: The Government recognise the vital role taxis play in the transport of disabled people, and are committed to bringing forward requirements for accessible taxis.

Consideration is currently being given as to how best this might be achieved, and this will comprise evaluation of all of the options, including both regulatory and non-regulatory approaches.

Tolls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by his Department on developing policy on national road pricing in each of the last 10 years. [141864]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department does not have data in this form. Work to explore the potential of road pricing to address traffic congestion, most notably the 2003-04 Road Pricing Feasibility Study, was undertaken within overall departmental headcount and budgets.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the road pricing demonstrations project is estimated to cost. [141865]

Dr. Ladyman: The demonstration into Time-Distance-Place charging announced by the Secretary of State on 23 May is presently in the procurement stage, therefore it is not possible to state how much the project will cost until we have received proposals from bidders and evaluated them.

Tolls: Business

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to offer redress to businesses within the catchment areas of local authority pricing schemes who are able to demonstrate a loss of profit arising from the implementation of a scheme. [141498]

Dr. Ladyman: It is for local authorities to assess the impacts of their proposed schemes and consider what mitigation might be necessary or appropriate.

Tolls: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* within his Department and *(b)* on consultancy contracts are working on road pricing policy. [141863]

Dr. Ladyman: There are 22 members of departmental staff working primarily on the exploration of road pricing, and, in particular, work needed to make a success of schemes being developed by local authorities (e.g. on the provisions contained in the draft Local Transport Bill published for consultation on 22 May). This work also draws on expertise in other areas of the Department from time to time, for example, on legal, economic and scientific issues as necessary.

A consultancy framework has recently been put in place to secure external expert input for road pricing and there are currently 24 individual consultants engaged full or part-time, this number varying dependent on the expertise required.

Trains: Bicycles

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to secure the integration of rail transport with bicycle use. [141664]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bidders for the franchises that are out to tender currently (East Midlands, West Midlands, New Cross Country and Intercity East Coast) require bidders to consider bike-rail integration and facilities at stations in their bid submissions. The Government's aspiration is to see 95 per cent. of journeys originating from stations with adequate cycle parking facilities.

Last year, the Government asked Cycling England, our advisory group on cycling, to look into how we might better encourage bike and rail journeys. They have accepted this remit and are now looking to see where progress can best be made further to improve bike and rail integration. Officials here will assist them and we have written to all train operating companies who will be facilitating its work. I look forward to receiving the report from Cycling England.

Transport: Disabled

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received a request for a meeting from the Chairman of the Disabled Person's Transport Advisory Committee and the Disability Rights Commission. [142006]

Gillian Merron: A request for a meeting was sent to the Secretary of State on 4 April 2007 in a joint letter from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee and the Disability Rights Commission. A reply was sent on 10 May 2007.

TREASURY

No. 11 Downing Street

12. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place to ensure that additional costs associated with holding events at No. 11 Downing street are met by the organisers of those events. [142575]

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what procedures are in place to ensure that additional costs associated with holding events at No. 11 Downing street are met by the organisers of those events. [142579]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Clwyd, West (Mr. Jones) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Rail Projects

13. **Martin Linton:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the funding of rail projects. [142576]

Mr. Timms: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of

policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

World Trade

14. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the impact on the UK economy of trends in world trade; and if he will make a statement. [142577]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Chancellor gave to the hon. Member for Ipswich (Chris Mole) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Intellectual Property

15. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to implement recommendations made in the Gowers Report on Intellectual Property. [142578]

John Healey: In the 2006 pre-Budget report, the Government made clear that it intends to take forward all of the recommendations of the Gowers Review for which it is responsible. Significant progress has been achieved since then, and the Government is working to implement the majority of the recommendations by the end of 2008.

Public Expenditure

17. **Mr. Martlew:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effect on public expenditure of the fiscal rules; and if he will make a statement. [142580]

Mr. Timms: The fiscal rules have enabled the Government to make historic increases to investment in public services—overcoming the decades of underinvestment before 1997 and helping secure improvements in services—while simultaneously delivering a decade of sustained growth alongside low and stable inflation.

Saving Gateway Pilot

18. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what evaluation he has made of the outcome of the second Saving Gateway pilot. [142581]

Ed Balls: The final evaluation of the second Saving Gateway pilot was published on 25 May.

Overall the evaluation found that the pilots were very successful in generating savings and that the Saving Gateway encouraged some lower income participants, in particular, to save and to reduce their expenditure in order to save.

There was a positive impact on participants' attitudes to saving which was most marked among those who had little or no prior experience of saving. The findings also point overwhelmingly to the success of matching as a targeted incentive for lower income savers.

The pilots have provided a wealth of evidence for future policy development. The Government will need time to analyse this information and will make further announcements on next steps for the roll-out of the Saving Gateway in the pre-Budget report.

Child Tax Credit and Child Benefit

19. **Sir Robert Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the take-up levels are of child tax credits and child benefit. [142582]

Mr. Timms: The latest figures show that in 2004-05 take up of the child tax credit was 82 per cent. with over 90 per cent. of the money available being claimed, higher than any previous system of income-related financial support for in-work families. Precise figures are not available for child benefit, but it is estimated that approximately 98 per cent. of eligible families claim child benefit.

Savings Ratio

20. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the trend in the savings ratio. [142584]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for West Suffolk (Mr. Spring) on the Floor of the House earlier today.

Africa: Education for All Initiative

21. **Mrs. Hodgson:** To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the Education for All initiative for Africa. [142585]

Ed Balls: With 77 million children out of school, urgent action is needed to achieve universal primary education. The UK has made a long-term £8.5 billion commitment and is working with developing countries and other donors to develop and fund the long-term plans needed. The EC, World Bank, France, US, and Australia have all joined the international effort by committing new funds to education and private sector companies are working with African countries to support their efforts. Progress is being made: Enrolment in school in sub-Saharan Africa increased by 27 per cent. between 1999 and 2004. But more needs to be done.

Children

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of children under *(a)* three, *(b)* five, *(c)* 10 and *(d)* 14 years old were being brought up by (i) two parents who were both unemployed, (ii) two parents with one in full-time employment and one not in paid employment, (iii) two parents with both in full-time work, (iv) two parents with both in part-time work and (v) two parents with one in full-time work and one in part-time work in each year since 1979 for which figures are available. [141689]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 14 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of (a) children under three, (b) children under five, (c) children under 10 and (d) children under 14 years were being brought up by (i) two parents who were both unemployed, (ii) two parents with one in full time employment and one not in paid employment, (iii) two parents with both in full-time work, (iv) two parents with both in part-time work and (v) two parents with one in full-time work and one in part-time work in each year for which figures are available. I am replying in her absence. (141689)

A table showing the information requested is attached. The figures in the table are estimates from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) for the three months ending in June of 1997, 1999 and 2001-2006. Comparable information for 1998 and 2000 is not available.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Children who live with two parents by age of child and combined labour market status of parents[1] United Kingdom, April-June 1997, 1999 and 2001-2006[2], not seasonally adjusted

April-June 1997

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	324	511	1,006	1,530	18.1	17.1	16.7	18.4
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	598	1,064	2,351	3,315	33.5	35.7	39.1	39.9
Both parents employed part-time	10	22	49	75	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.9
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	631	1,017	1,828	2,305	35.3	34.1	30.4	27.8
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	55	89	203	280	3.1	3.0	3.4	3.4
Both parents unemployed	10	18	40	52	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.6
Both parents economically inactive	63	115	258	390	3.5	3.9	4.3	4.7
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	95	149	275	356	5.3	5.0	4.6	4.3
Total	1,786	2,984	6,011	8,305	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

April-June 1999

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	316	511	1,032	1,593	18.1	17.8	17.7	19.6
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	610	1,053	2,360	3,360	34.9	36.7	40.6	41.4
Both parents employed part-time	11	19	44	63	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	619	975	1,731	2,183	35.3	33.9	29.8	26.9
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	61	101	203	291	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.6
Both parents unemployed	7	15	30	41	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5
Both parents economically inactive	64	107	230	356	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.4
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	62	93	185	236	3.5	3.2	3.2	2.9
Total	1,751	2,874	5,815	8,123	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

April-June 2001

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	303	489	1,042	1,620	18.3	17.5	18.3	20.1
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	604	1,063	2,337	3,364	36.6	38.1	41.1	41.7
Both parents employed part-time	11	21	46	64	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	567	944	1,700	2,157	34.3	33.9	29.9	26.8
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	49	88	176	258	3.0	3.1	3.1	3.2
Both parents unemployed	5	8	17	21	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Both parents economically inactive	62	105	242	398	3.7	3.8	4.2	4.9
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	50	71	126	174	3.1	2.5	2.2	2.2
Total	1,652	2,789	5,686	8,058	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

April-June 2002

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	267	433	964	1,537	16.8	16.1	17.5	19.6
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	551	995	2,223	3,231	34.7	37.0	40.3	41.2
Both parents employed part-time	14	25	53	76	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.0
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	576	937	1,669	2,151	36.2	34.8	30.3	27.4
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	55	92	183	255	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.3
Both parents unemployed	7	10	23	28	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Both parents economically inactive	74	126	270	402	4.7	4.7	4.9	5.1
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	43	71	124	156	2.7	2.7	2.2	2.0
Total	1,589	2,692	5,512	7,841	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

April-June 2003

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	264	432	950	1,533	16.8	16.1	17.4	19.8
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	547	989	2,182	3,172	34.6	36.9	40.1	40.9
Both parents employed part-time	13	20	42	68	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.9
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	594	970	1,710	2,182	37.7	36.2	31.4	28.1
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	52	88	197	282	3.3	3.3	3.6	3.6
Both parents unemployed	6	10	18	20	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3
Both parents economically inactive	64	115	241	361	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.7
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	37	54	103	134	2.4	2.0	1.9	1.7
Total	1,577	2,679	5,445	7,757	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

April-June 2004

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	287	467	972	1,525	17.6	17.3	17.9	19.8
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	568	964	2,187	3,175	34.8	35.7	40.2	41.1
Both parents employed part-time	17	26	55	75	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.0
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	589	951	1,651	2,135	36.1	35.2	30.4	27.7
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	55	93	198	279	3.4	3.5	3.6	3.6
Both parents unemployed	4	7	16	22	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Both parents economically inactive	71	123	239	357	4.4	4.6	4.4	4.6
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	39	65	116	148	2.4	2.4	2.1	1.9
Total	1,631	2,698	5,436	7,720	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

April-June 2005

	Thousand				*Percentage*			
	Under 3	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*	*Under 3*	*Under 5*	*Under 10*	*Under 14*
Both parents employed full-time	320	479	1,008	1,592	19.3	18.0	18.8	20.8
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	599	988	2,140	3,085	36.2	37.1	39.8	40.3
Both parents employed part-time	19	28	55	79	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.0
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	555	906	1,607	2,100	33.6	34.0	29.9	27.4
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	51	87	192	265	3.1	3.3	3.6	3.5
Both parents unemployed	5	8	13	16	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2

	April-June 2005							
	Thousand				Percentage			
	Under 3	Under 5	Under 10	Under 14	Under 3	Under 5	Under 10	Under 14
Both parents economically inactive	60	102	234	366	3.6	3.8	4.4	4.8
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	43	66	122	149	2.6	2.5	2.3	1.9
Total	1,652	2,664	5,372	7,653	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

	April-June 2006							
	Thousand				Percentage			
	Under 3	Under 5	Under 10	Under 14	Under 3	Under 5	Under 10	Under 14
Both parents employed full-time	328	492	982	1,516	20.0	18.1	18.2	20.0
One parent employed full-time and the other part-time	591	1,018	2,168	3,067	36.0	37.5	40.2	40.5
Both parents employed part-time	17	26	56	82	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1
One parent employed full-time and the other not in employment	543	905	1,614	2,093	33.0	33.3	30.0	27.6
One parent employed part-time and the other not in employment	56	88	187	268	3.4	3.2	3.5	3.5
Both parents unemployed	5	8	15	21	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Both parents economically inactive	67	109	242	362	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.8
One parent unemployed and the other economically inactive	38	69	121	160	2.3	2.5	2.3	2.1
Total	1,644	2,716	5,386	7,573	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

[1] Estimates have been adjusted for children with parents who have unknown economic activity status.
[2] Comparable figures for April-June and 2000 are not available.
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the *(a)* dwelling house and *(b)* value significant codes in use by the Valuation Office Agency for valuation purposes. [142358]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 274W.

Councillors: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs has produced on the tax treatment of golden goodbye payments made to local councillors who are standing down. [142364]

John Healey: HMRC provides general guidance on the taxation of expenses and allowances payable to councillors and civic dignitaries in its employment income manual. The guidance also covers the tax treatment of termination payments and benefits. The employment income manual (EIM) is available to the public on the HMRC website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Crown Estate Commissioners: Land

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much Crown Estate land was sold for housing development in the last year for which figures are available. [141773]

John Healey: In 2005-06 the Crown Estate sold 30.3 hectares of land for residential housing development.

Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance the Office for Government Commerce has produced on the sale of Crown estate land. [142365]

John Healey: The Office of Government Commerce published the "Guide for the disposal of surplus property" in November 2005. This applies to central civil Government Departments, their Executive Agencies and sponsored bodies. It does not apply to the Crown estate, being property owned by the Sovereign "in right of the Crown", which is governed by the Crown Estate Act 1961. The guide is available at:

www.ogc.gov.uk.

Departments: Caparo Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Caparo Group or its subsidiaries since 1997. [141917]

John Healey: None of the Chancellor's Departments or their agencies has found any records of payments to Caparo Group or its known subsidiaries within the last five years. Changes in accounting systems mean that a positive confirmation for all bodies over the whole period since 1997 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Information Officers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press officers were employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies in each year since 1997. [141911]

John Healey: In 2006-07 the Treasury employed the full-time equivalent of nine press officers, the Debt Management Office employed two and the Office of Government Commerce employed three. Exact figures for previous years could be supplied only at disproportionate cost but there have not been significant variations in the past five years.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141992]

John Healey: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial cars in line with the Ministerial Code and the Prime Minister's guidance Travel by Ministers' which is available at;

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk

GCDA advises the Prime Minister on the suitability of cars for inclusion in his guidance, taking into account a number of criteria when assessing suitable cars including their environmental impact, running and maintenance costs and overall suitability as a ministerial car.

Direct Payments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which *(a)* bodies and *(b)* individuals his Department has discussed standardisation of the direct payments scheme. [142507]

Mr. Timms: Each local authority has its own direct payments service and it is their responsibility to develop services in consultation with their local populations and service users.

Gift Aid

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to publish the findings of his consultation with the charitable sector on measures to increase take up of Gift Aid. [142419]

Mr. Timms: The Government expect to report on the progress of the Gift Aid consultation by the end of the year.

Government Shareholding

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in which companies the Government holds special shares; and which departments are responsible for them. [142284]

John Healey: The Government holds the following special shares:

Responsible Department: Ministry of Defence

Devonport Royal Dockyard Ltd
Rosyth Royal Dockyard Ltd
AWE plc
AWE Pension Trustees Ltd
QinetiQ Group plc
QinetiQ Holdings Ltd
QinetiQ Ltd
BAE Systems Marine (Holdings) Ltd

Responsible Department: Department of Trade and Industry

Royal Mail Group plc
British Aerospace plc
British Energy Group plc
British Energy Holdings
British Energy Generation
British Energy Ltd
Nuclear Liabilities Fund Ltd
Rolls Royce plc

Responsible Department: Department for Transport

NATS Holdings Ltd,
Eurostar (UK) Ltd.
London and Continental Railways Ltd.
Union Railways (North) Ltd
Inter-Capital and Regional Rail Ltd

Responsible Department: Treasury

Partnerships UK Ltd

Responsible Department: Northern Ireland Department for Regional Development

Belfast International Airport Ltd

Informers

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what circumstances an uplift beyond the basic 5 per cent. reward is paid to an informer providing information which leads to recovery of money for the Crown. [142118]

John Healey: Each reward payment made by HMRC is calculated on the circumstances relevant to that case.

It would not be in the public interest to divulge the exact factors taken into account when calculating such payments, however all Law Enforcement agencies, in accordance with the relevant ACPO guidelines, apply similar considerations when determining levels of rewards payments

National Insurance Contributions

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the appropriateness of the age thresholds of national insurance contributions; and if he will make a statement. [142572]

John Healey: There are no plans to review the age thresholds of national insurance contributions.

Non-domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated *(a)* gross and *(b)* net increase in business rate revenues in cash terms arising from the Government's proposals to reduce business rate relief for empty properties is in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10; [142368]

(2) whether a regulatory impact assessment has been produced on the Budget 2007 proposals to reduce business rate relief for empty properties; and whether this move was planned to be revenue-neutral; [142369]

(3) whether the Government undertook consultation on their plans to reduce empty property business rate relief. [142371]

John Healey: The Government estimate that the impact on tax revenue of reforms to empty property relief will be £950 million in 2008-09, and £900 million in subsequent years. This estimate was published in the Red Book alongside the Budget Report 2007.

A regulatory impact assessment for this measure has been produced and is published on the Communities and Local Government website:

www.communities.gov.uk.

As part of the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government, Sir Michael Lyons consulted extensively on Kate Barker's recommendation that empty property relief be reformed. As announced in the Budget, we are taking forward legislation to reform the relief from April 2008.

The Government intend to publish a consultation document next month which will seek views on proposals for detailed reforms to secondary legislation, including the existing exemptions from empty property rates.

Pensions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on income tax revenue of pension income received through an alternatively secured pension rather than a payment from an annuity; and if he will make a statement. [142751]

Ed Balls: The impact on tax revenues of changes to the rules governing alternatively secured pensions, announced in the 2007 Budget, were set out in the regulatory impact assessment of tax relief for pensions, published on the Treasury website, available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

PFI

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of private finance initiative contracts were sold on by the original signatories to the contract in each year since 1997; and what assessment he has made of the profit made in each sale and the return to the taxpayer on each. [142373]

John Healey: The Treasury does not hold this information. Equity sales are private transactions between two private institutions; therefore the Treasury does not collate information on them. The Treasury does, however, and will continue more broadly to examine developments in the secondary equity market both through its relations with other Departments and key participants in the PFI market.

Suicide: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of victims of suicide under the age of 18 years in each year since 1997 lived *(a)* with a parent who had sole custody, *(b)* with parents who had joint custody and *(c)* with parents who were married. [142648]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 14 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many and what percentage of victims of suicide under the age of 18 years in each year since 1997 lived *(a)* with a parent who had sole custody, *(b)* with parents who had joint custody and *(c)* with parents who were married. I am replying in her absence. (142648)

Information on the marital status of parents of deceased children or their custodial circumstances are not collected at death registration and are therefore not available to tabulate. The table below therefore only contains numbers of suicides for those aged under 18 in England and Wales from 1997 to 2005, the latest available year.

It is assumed that most deaths from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent at ages 15 and over are cases where the harm was self-inflicted but there was insufficient evidence to prove that the deceased deliberately intended to kill themselves. This cannot be assumed in deaths at ages under 15 and therefore deaths from injury/poisoning of undetermined intent are not included when examining suicide (intentional self-harm) in children. As there were no deaths in children aged under 13 with a suicide verdict for the period requested, the table shows the number of suicides in children aged 13 to 14, and the number of suicide or injury/poisoning of undetermined intent deaths in those aged 15 to 17.

Number of deaths among people aged 13 to 17 years from suicide and injury/poisoning of undetermined intent, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[1]

	Aged 13-14	*Aged 15-17*
	Suicide[2]	*Suicide and injury/ poisoning of undetermined intent*[3]
1997	5	61
1998	3	68
1999	2	64
2000	3	69
2001	5	54
2002	5	62
2003	3	47
2004	5	50
2005	1	37

[1] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

[2] The cause of death for suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 for the years 1997 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2005, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84.

[3] The cause of death for injury/poisoning of undetermined intent was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E980-E989 excluding E988.8 for the years 1997 to 2000, and, for the years 2001 to 2005, the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes Y10-Y34 excluding Y33.9 where the Coroner's verdict was pending.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what percentage of mothers under the age of 16 lived *(a)* with a parent who had sole custody, *(b)* with parents who had joint custody and (c) with parents who were married in each year since 1997. [142657]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 14 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your request for how many and what percentage of mothers under the age of 16 lived *(a)* with a parent who had sole custody, *(b)* with parents who had joint custody and *(c)* with parents who were married in each year since 1997.I am replying in her absence. (142657)

Only a small proportion of births are to mothers aged under 16 and, of these, most are at age 15 (see table below). For this reason the only reliable source for the figures requested is the 2001 Census as there are relatively few mothers aged under 16 at any one time. There were 1,040 mothers aged under 16 recorded by the 2001 Census. The figures requested by you are being extracted and will be placed in the Library of the House at a later date.

Number of maternities[1] England and Wales

Age	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2005*
11	0	8	8	4
12	5	5	9	4
13	35	37	38	15
14	228	245	239	188
15	1,207	1,187	1,138	977
Total under 16	1,475	1,482	1,432	1,188

[1] A maternity is a confinement resulting in the birth of one or more live-born or stillborn children. There are only a small number of stillbirths to females under 16. In 2001 there were nine.

Source:
Birth statistics Series FM1 nos. 28, 29, 30 and 34

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much the Valuation Office Agency spent on speakers' fees for its North West Excellence Awards. [142375]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency has paid no speaker's fees for its North West Excellence Award in 2004.

Valuation Office Agency: Secondment

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff from overseas have been *(a)* seconded and *(b)* attached to the Valuation Office Agency in each of the last five years, broken down by country and agency of origin. [142357]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency has taken a total of three staff from overseas on secondment during 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 as follows:

7 November 2005 to 4 May 2006: One secondee from Australia, Australian Valuation Office;

3 July 2006 to 31 December 2006: One secondee from Hong Kong, Hong Kong Valuation Office;

10 April 2007 to 9 October 2007: One secondee from Hong Kong, Hong Kong Valuation Office.

The Valuation Office Agency is unable to provide any further information about any such secondments for earlier financial years without incurring disproportionate costs.

No overseas staff have been attached to the Valuation Office Agency in the last five years.

VAT: Electric Motors

Bob Russell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has received notification that the European Commission is to re-classify electric mobility scooters as the same category as golf caddies with a requirement that value-added tax should be levied; [142009]

(2) whether he has any plans to re-classify electric mobility scooters thereby attracting value-added tax to their sale. [142010]

John Healey: Electric mobility scooters and golf caddies are classified in the same tariff heading for customs purposes and have been since at least 2002 when the World Customs Organisation published its 'Classification Opinion' on the subject. We are not aware that the European Union has any plans to change that classification.

However, VAT and Customs are separate regimes. Classification for duty purposes under the Customs regime has no direct bearing on VAT liability, which is determined by VAT law.

For VAT purposes, mobility scooters may qualify for the zero-rating that applies when disabled people purchase certain "carriages" or other equipment specifically designed to meet their needs. The Government have no plans to change the scope of this VAT relief.

VAT: Repayments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claims for VAT repayment have been subject to the extended verification process. [142797]

John Healey: HMRC has a duty to protect the VAT system from fraudulent attacks. It has a risk-based approach. Verification of VAT repayment claims is an important part of the Missing Trader Intra-Community Fraud (MTIC) strategy.

Unfortunately it is not possible to disclose the numbers of claims that are subject to verifications, so the requested information cannot be disclosed. To do so would undermine the measure introduced by HM Revenue and Customs to counter MTIC fraud and as such prejudice the assessment and collection of tax.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Denham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to resolve the outstanding issues regarding the payment of tax credits to Mrs Shelagh House of Robert Cecil Avenue, Southampton. [140704]

Mr. Timms: The HM Revenue and Customs chairman wrote to my right hon. Friend about his constituent on 24 May 2007 and apologised for the delay in resolving the issues affecting his constituent's claim for tax credits.

WALES

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many officials work in his Department. [143174]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office publishes staff numbers in its annual departmental report. This document is available in the House Libraries and on the Wales Office website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what visits he has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government car service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government was reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142659]

Mr. Hain: All travel is undertaken in accordance with Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143084]

Mr. Hain: Figures relating to sickness absence are available for the last three years.

For each year, the average number of days sick absence recorded for each member of staff is as follows:

	Days
2004-05	4.61
2005-06	3.22
2006-07	4.73

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to ensure that the bereavement grant is made available to co-habiting partners of people in a situation where a spouse is still alive; and if he will make a statement. [142077]

Mr. Plaskitt: Bereavement benefits cannot be paid to cohabiting partners. There are no plans to change this.

It is a principle of the social insurance system that all rights to benefit derived from another person's contributions are based on the concept of legal marriage or, more recently, legal civil partnership.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much was raised from the sale of his Department's property in each of the last five years; [139305]

(2) what properties the Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years; [139343]

(3) what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139368]

Mrs. McGuire: The DWP estate (not including properties held by sponsored bodies) has been sold (freehold, freehold and long leasehold interests) or transferred (short leasehold interests) through its PFI Contract known as PRIME to Land Securities Trillium (LST). The proceeds were released to HM Treasury in April 1998 (for the original DSS estate) and further in December 2003 when PRIME was expanded to include the former Employment Service (ES) estate.

In 2003, the Department and LST agreed a vacant possession value of £140 million for the freehold and valuable leaseholds covered within the expanded PRIME Contract. The Department decided to receive this amount split into an up-front payment of £100 million after seeking variant bids and a reduction in the annual Unitary Charge over the life of the contract, equivalent in present value terms to the £40 million balance.

Following the expansion of the PRIME Contract, DWP retained two properties which for commercial reasons could not be transferred within the expansion. These two properties were subsequently sold in 2005-06 for £5.075 million.

Despite having already sold its property assets, DWP retains some 'claw back' rights in the form of what is called 'development gain'. Under this mechanism, if LST sells a property vacated after April 1998 for more than the price it paid at the start of the contract, then after the sale costs are deducted, DWP receives 50 per cent. of the uplift in value with LST. This applies to market driven value increase as well as LST's activities to enhance value such as obtaining change of planning use. For 2006-07, DWP will receive £2.8 million.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140044]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP has this information available only from 6 April 2004. The amounts given as follows represent the total value of the contracts awarded to recruitment agencies, rather than actual spend, for exercises to recruit staff into the Department within the periods shown.

The Department for Work and Pensions makes use of executive search consultants to provide expertise in executive search and selection, particularly for senior and specialist staff in circumstances where the relevant skills, qualifications and experience are not available or in very limited supply across the Department and Whitehall.

	Contracted spend (£)
2004-05	1,387,106
2005-06	3,265,273
2006-07	1,164,375
2007-08 (to date)	38,000

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 640, to the hon. Member for Ludlow, on the Financial Assistance scheme, if he will list those solvent schemes which will not be covered by the extension of the Financial Assistance scheme. [135137]

James Purnell: We announced an extension to FAS on 18 April 2007 to cover members of schemes that began winding up between 1 January 2007 and 5 April 2005, where a compromise agreement is in place, and where enforcing the debt against the employer would have forced the employer into insolvency. On 23 April 2007 we subsequently issued an indicative list of schemes potentially eligible for support from the FAS where a compromise agreement is understood to be in place.

We do not currently have any detailed information on schemes sponsored by other solvent employers.

On 28 March the Secretary of State announced a review to examine whether an alternative treatment of the residual funds in affected pension schemes and other non-public expenditure funding that have not already been allocated could be used to increase levels of assistance above the 80 per cent. provided by the financial assistance scheme. One objective for this review of scheme assets is to determine whether there are other pension schemes (in addition to those with compromise agreements) where although the sponsoring employer did not undergo an insolvency event, it would not be reasonable to expect the employer to have a continuing responsibility for supporting an under funded scheme. The review will provide an initial view in the summer, consult formally in the autumn and then report by the end of the year.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many previous participants of the new deal for disabled people not currently participating on the scheme are claiming incapacity benefit; and how many left the scheme for employment before returning to benefit. [141112]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 June 2007]*: Up to the end of November 2006, new deal for disabled people had been successful in helping 134,160 people into work.

A total of 15,640 people who had previously left new deal for disabled people and were not participating at the end of November 2006, were claiming incapacity benefit at the end of November 2006.

A total of 14,460 people who had left new deal for disabled people to employment had a subsequent out-of-work benefit claim at some point up to the end of November 2006.

Because some people are included in both totals there is overlap between the two sets of figures.

Jobcentre Plus: Christchurch

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people obtained advice on benefits from the Christchurch office of Jobcentre Plus in each of the last six months; [138911]

(2) where he proposes former clients using the Christchurch Jobcentre Plus office will be able to use jobpoints and free telephone services after the proposed closure of the Christchurch office; [138912]

(3) on what date Jobcentre Plus in Dorset and Somerset finalised its service delivery plan for the district; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the plan; [138913]

(4) whether he is now in a position to place in the Library a copy of the business case for the closure of the Christchurch Jobcentre Plus office; [138914]

(5) pursuant to the letter of 15 May 2007 from the Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform to the hon. Member for Christchurch, what assessment he has made of the ways in which closure of the Christchurch Jobcentre Plus office will enable his Department to provide a better service to the residents of Christchurch than it has been able to provide up to now. [138915]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answers 23 May 2007]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 14 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the consultation process on Christchurch Jobcentre. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

I am unable to provide details of customer usage in Christchurch Jobcentre in the last 6 months as this information is not recorded. I can tell you that Christchurch has a Jobseekers Allowance customer load of 277 customers and an Income Support/Incapacity Benefit customer load of 2,065, of which 1,720 are sick and disabled and 345 are Lone Parents. As part of the consultation period which began on 21 May 2007, for 6 weeks, we will be analysing usage in detail via a questionnaire to customers who visit the office.

Lesley Strathie's letter of 14 December referred to the Service Delivery Plan, which has yet to be finalised as we are just entering the consultation period. We are therefore unable to place a copy of the Business Case in the Library as it is not complete until after the consultation period when the Service Delivery Plan will be finalised.

If after the consultation period the decision is taken to close Christchurch Jobcentre customers will be able to use the facilities at Bournemouth Jobcentre Plus. All Jobcentre Plus customers can access 0800 and 0845 telephone numbers when making claims to benefit and benefit enquiries, in addition to the 0845 number for Jobseeker Direct. Additionally the Jobcentre Plus website is available to all 24 hours a day.

As you will know, we are continuing to develop our nationwide network of Jobcentres, and to review and improve our services. Advances in technology and increased availability of Contact Centre facilities mean that increasing numbers of customers—including employers—access our services by using the internet or telephone.

I hope this is helpful.

Learning Disability: Basic Skills

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the availability of literacy and numeracy basic skills training for people with a learning disability who are seeking or are in employment to ensure there are no special needs groups which are excluded from access to basic employment-focussed learning; and if he will make a statement. [138765]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 May 2007]:* All Jobcentre Plus customers, including those with learning needs, have access to a range of literacy and numeracy basic skills training. Jobcentre Plus fund training for customers eligible for the new deal programme or voluntary training funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The new Employability Skills programme, for Jobcentre Plus customers, will be introduced in August 2007 and will target help for customers for whom basic skills are the primary barrier to employment. It will also be possible for customers with learning needs to be referred to have their needs assessed and, if it is suitable, will be able to take up this training. If the Employability Skills programme is not suitable the LSC provider will refer them to other LSC courses.

Customers with a learning difficulty or disability who are registered on a LSC funded literacy and numeracy course are entitled, through the Skills for Life strategy, to free training. People with learning needs and in employment can also access a range of LSC provision either direct or via their employer.

Education and training is a devolved issue and these arrangements for training refer to Jobcentre Plus customers in England only.

We have no plans to review the availability of provision at this time.

Pensions Bill

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost to the Treasury of implementing the effects of Lords Amendments 68 to 76 to the Pensions Bill. [142568]

James Purnell: We have not worked out the exact cost of implementing the amendments as they are somewhat contradictory in effect and may be technically deficient. The intended effect would appear to be payment of PPF levels of benefit to those qualifying for FAS schemes (costs below). The amendments would also extend the level of benefits to an unspecified number of pension schemes in wind up with a solvent employer, costings for which will not be available until after the report of the review of FAS scheme assets. There would be very significant implementation costs in setting up and running the institutions proposed but these have not been costed.

Paying PPF level benefits to the current set of qualifying FAS schemes would cost around £2.5 billion in NPV terms (£640 million in addition to the budget extension) and £10.6 billion in cash terms (an additional £2.7 billion on the Budget extension).

Pensions: Bankruptcy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when he decided to include other sources of non-public funding in the review of pension scheme assets held by schemes in wind-up with a deficiency of assets; [140364]

(2) when he decided to publish an initial report in summer 2007 on pension scheme assets held by schemes in wind-up with a deficiency of assets in addition to a final report before the end of the year; for what reasons; and if he will make a statement; [140365]

(3) whether the initial report on pension scheme assets held by schemes in wind-up with a deficiency of assets is planned to be published before the summer parliamentary recess 2007. [140366]

James Purnell: On 28 March 2007 the Secretary of State announced a review to examine how the best use could be made of the assets in pension schemes that are winding up underfunded. He also said the review would consider any suggestions from interested and concerned parties.

On 23 April 2007 in a letter placed in the House, the Minister of State for Pensions Reform provided the full terms of reference which referred specifically to the review considering other sources of non-public expenditure funding (that have not already been allocated). It also stated

"The Review will provide an initial view in the summer, consult formally in the autumn and then report by the end of the year."

We expect that an initial report will be provided before the summer parliamentary recess of 2007.

Remploy

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the Remploy workforce is aged over 55 years. [140712]

Mrs. McGuire: *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* 29 per cent. of the Remploy workforce is aged over 55 years.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what consideration he has given to the option of joint ventures, including with local colleges, at any existing Remploy site. [140713]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* Remploy has contacted over 120 local organisations, including local colleges, providers and community groups to establish how they can work together.

Remploy has established national partnerships with four major charities and Social Firms UK to establish what they can do to support employees should a decision be taken to close any factories.

Remploy: Closures

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance is planned to be made available to workers affected by the closure of Remploy factories in finding alternative employment in a sector of their choice. [139200]

Mrs. McGuire: Remploy will provide a support package to help employees through the transition and ensure that disabled people will continue to be able to choose to maintain meaningful employment on Remploy's terms and conditions, including membership of Remploy's final salary pension scheme.

The Government will consider the Company's final proposals once they have been submitted later in the year following consultation. No decisions by the Secretary of State on the future of the Company will take place until then.

(The total retraining and job placement budget for dealing with those affected is £58 million).

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly amount of benefit was for an *(a)* single pensioner, *(b)* married pensioner, *(c)* single person under pensionable age, *(d)* married couple under pensionable age and *(e)* married couple with children (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest available date. [128541]

James Purnell *[pursuant to the reply, 18 May 2007, Official Report, c. 941W]:* The available information is in the following table.

Average (mean) weekly benefit payments to claimants in Great Britain

£

	1997-98	*2005-06*
Single pensioner	96	145
Married pensioner couple	134	192
Single non-pensioner	94	110
Married non-pensioner couple	53	61
Married non-pensioner couple with children	41	48

Notes:
1. Data for 1997-98 were collected between April 1997 and March 1998 and data for 2005-06 were collected between April 2005 and March 2006.
2. The Family Resources Survey (FRS) is a nationally representative sample of approximately 28,000 households.
3. Pensioner couple is defined as a couple where the head of the benefit unit is over pension age, defined as 60 for women and 65 for men.
4. Married couples include Civil Partnerships in 2005-06.
5. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
6. Figures are mean-averages of weekly benefits received by claimants only (i.e. excluding non-claimants) and have been rounded to the nearest £1. Figures for couples are average weekly benefit amounts per couple.
7. Figures for weekly benefits include both income-related and non-income related benefits but exclude tax credits.

Source:
Family Resources Survey: Great Britain 1997-98 and 2005-06.

Social Security Benefits: Prosecutions

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many prosecution cases were brought outside the 12 month limitation under section 112 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992 in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what percentage such cases represented of cases undertaken in each year. [142008]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 14 June 2007

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has conducted comparative research on the cost to the NHS of treating the effects of addiction to alcohol and tobacco. [138180]

Caroline Flint: The Department, in partnership with the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA), published Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers in November 2005. Models of Care was informed by the review of the effectiveness of treatment for alcohol problems commissioned by the NTA. Both publications have been placed in the Library and are available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Healthandsocialcaretopics/Alcoholmisuse/Alcoholmisusegeneralinformation/DH_4130659

www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/nta_review_of_the_effectiveness_of_treatment_for_alcohol_problems_fullreport_2006_alcohol2.pdf

The Health Technology Assessment Programme, part of the Department's National Institute for Health Research, is currently supporting two studies looking in part at the cost effectiveness of therapies designed to help people stop smoking. These are:

a systematic review of the effectiveness and an economic analysis of cut down to quit with nicotine replacement therapies; and

relapse prevention in NHS stop smoking services: a review of current practice, potential effectiveness and cost effectiveness.

Angina: Medical Treatments

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has made of the use of enhanced external counter pulsation treatment for angina; [140705]

(2) which primary care trusts fund the provision of enhanced external counter pulsation treatment; [140706]

(3) what assessment she has made of the availability of enhanced external counter pulsation treatment for individuals with angina in *(a)* South East Essex primary care trust and *(b)* primary care trusts which do not provide enhanced external counter pulsation treatment. [140707]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Enhanced external counter pulsation (EECP) is not routinely offered to patients with angina by the national health service. There is currently insufficient evidence on the benefits of using EECP to treat angina. Although there is currently insufficient evidence, should this situation change the position can be reviewed. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence were made aware of EECP in 2004, but were unable to pursue an appraisal.

Most central funding is allocated directly to local primary care trusts (PCTs) and health authorities. Individual PCTs are responsible for funding services that reflect the priorities and needs of the local population. The Department is unable to comment on the funding decisions each PCT makes.

Arthritis: Young People

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children under the age of 16 years in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England (i) were diagnosed with and (ii) required treatment for the juvenile form of rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997; [140827]

(2) how many adults in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England (i) were diagnosed with and (ii) required treatment for rheumatoid arthritis in each year since 1997. [140829]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available.

Bereavement Counselling: Buckinghamshire

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources and funding have been made available for bereavement services in 2006-07 in Buckinghamshire primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [141190]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is a matter for Buckinghamshire primary care trust (PCT). PCTs are responsible for the provision of local services, including bereavement services.

Blood Transfusions

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors she will take into account when making a decision on whether to instigate prion filtration in blood transfusion. [142831]

Caroline Flint: The Department will take advice on the use of prion reduction filters from independent evaluations recommended by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee to test the efficacy and reproducibility of the filters, an approach endorsed by Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood and Tissues and Organs. The Department will take the following factors into account when considering prion reduction filters: the results of clinical safety trials and whether they indicate no adverse effect on patients with the use of filtered blood; that filtered blood units meet the required product specification; the results of an independent evaluation of the efficacy of the filtered in reducing variant Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (vCJD) infectivity in blood; estimates of the prevalence of preclinical vCJD or a carrier state in the donor population and consequent estimates of infections prevented through filtration and the benefit of life years saved; the cost of implementation of filtration compared with the benefit received and the availability of other technologies to reduce infectivity in blood.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will introduce new treatments and technologies to reduce the risk to public health from blood transfusions on the basis of successful patient trials in Europe and the US. [142833]

Caroline Flint: NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) has a duty to investigate any new technologies which might improve the safety of the blood supply. Currently, NHSBT is investigating vCJD screening, new filters to remove infectious prions, bacterial screening of platelets and pathogen inactivation of platelets. Such assessments consist of review of manufacturers' data on efficacy and quality of the product, laboratory studies and clinical trials as appropriate. NHSBT might need to perform additional studies. Only licenced methods are considered.

All blood safety measures are considered by the Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues, and Organs for Transplantation.

Blood: Contamination

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the documents rediscovered by her Department referred to in the Review of Documentation relating to the Safety of Blood Products—1970-1985 relate to self-sufficiency; and if she will make a statement. [142663]

Caroline Flint: The review identifies that 20.5 per cent. of papers have been categorised as relating to self sufficiency. The focus of the review was 1970-85, and 90 per cent. of the documents related to this time period, just under 10 per cent. fell outside this timeline.

Lord Archer has been advised that the Department will release all papers identified in the review, in line with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The papers will be released to Lord Archer's inquiry as quickly as possible, in batches on a monthly basis.

British Food

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of food served in *(a)* buildings occupied by her Department and *(b)* NHS hospitals was of British origin in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [111125]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 80 per cent. of food served through the approved supplier of catering and hospitality services to the Departmental estate was home-grown and 20 per cent. produced from other countries in 2005 and 2006.

National health service trusts select the suppliers that provide food for their trust and information relating to the proportion of food served of British origin in all NHS hospitals is not held centrally. However, NHS Supply Chain manages approximately 55 per cent. of the NHS food market, with the balance via facilities management companies and smaller wholesalers. For the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, NHS Supply Chain sourced 59 per cent. of meat from the United Kingdom, while the remainder was imported. The organisation sourced 40 per cent of fruit and vegetables in the UK, while 60 per cent. was imported.

Dental Services

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people accessed open access dental surgeries by health region in the last 12 months. [140985]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information on people accessing open access dental surgeries is not collected centrally. However, information on patients seen in the last 24 months in all dental primary care settings is available.

Numbers of patients seen in the previous 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 are available in Section F1 of Annex 3 of the National Health Service Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006 report, and copies are available in the Library.

Information is as at strategic health authority and primary care trust level in England and the report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care, is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times her Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [139213]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The definition of found to have been in breach can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act 1998 can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Gateway Reference Number

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many documents coded with a gateway reference number were issued by her Department in each year since 2000. [139240]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is shown in the following table.

External gateway reference numbers issued for the Department for calendar years 2000-06

	The Department external gateway reference numbers issued
2000 and 2001[1]	—
2002[2]	445
2003[2]	887
2004[3]	820
2005[3]	1,045
2006[3]	1,148

[1] For years 2000 and 2001: no figures available as the Department's external gateway was introduced in December 2001.

[2] For years 2002 and 2003: the figures include all documents received by the Department's external gateway; and the way the data is captured does not allow reference numbers issued to arms length bodies, other Government Departments and external organisations to be excluded.

[3] The Department's external gateway database was introduced in August 2003 and the quality of data is much more robust for years 2004-06 and not comparable to pre-August 2003.

The table highlights the number of documents/communications approved for publication/issue to the national health service/social care and that received a departmental external gateway reference number. However, these figures do not represent actual documents/communications issued, as the publication of some could have been re-considered following approval.

In addition, the majority of approved documents/communications are not directly issued to the NHS/social care as individual communications. Instead, brief summaries of the document are communicated via weekly, monthly or quarterly bulletins, with web addresses where more detailed information can be found. In some instances, documents may be approved simply for publication on the Department website only.

No one in the NHS will receive all of these documents/communications. The vast majority are targeted to specific organisations. For example, some will go to ambulance trusts, some to primary care trusts, some to strategic health authorities and so on. The communications are then further targeted so that only the appropriate audience within those organisations receive the documents, for example, cancer leads, public health leads, mental health leads, chief executives, finance directors etc.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Ministers in her Department have visited India in the last 12 months; on how many occasions each Minister visited India; and what the length was of each visit. [135539]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government publishes an annual list of Cabinet Ministers' travel overseas costing over £500 along with the total cost of all ministerial travel. Information for 2005-06 was published on 24 July 2006 and is available in the Library. Information for 2006-07 will be published as soon as it is ready.

All travel is in accordance with the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

A detailed list of visits by all United Kingdom Ministers to India since 2003 can be found on the British High Commission website at:

www.britishhighcommission.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1038154781863

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which Government websites she is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135719]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has ownership of two main websites. They are:

1: The Department of Health website (www.dh.gov.uk)

	Visits
2004-05	8,643,914
2005-06	10,980,854
2006-07	10,168,508

Costs:

(a) the cost of establishing the Departmental corporate website site on a new service in 2006-07 was £1,570,000

(b) the cost of maintaining the existing service in parallel in 2006-07 was £2,343,643. This includes the cost of contingency arrangements due to the late delivery of the new service, most of which will be recovered in compensation from the supplier.

2. The NHS website (www.nhs.uk)

	Visits
2005-06	12,404,000
2006-07	17,657,409

Costs:

The cost in 2006-07 (covering development, content, delivery and staffing) was £1.7 million.

In addition to the two main websites (above), the Department funds and/or manages a further 111 websites.

The Department is actively engaged in reducing this number of sites, in accordance with the guidelines and timetables set for website rationalisation under Transformational Government.

Indeed, the Department has already shut down 27 websites and has plans in place to terminate 53 sites out of the 111 figure above. By the end of this project in 2011, all 111 sites will either be closed or migrated to DH.gov.uk, NHS.uk, NHS Direct, Directgov or Business Link.

The information in the table lists visitor figures for 35 sites. To assemble the statistics for the other sites would incur disproportionate cost.

The total estimated cost for these websites in 2006-07 was £699,134. This cost is approximate and cannot be broken down further. Some sites include campaign expenditure and start-up funding and therefore costs will be spread over a period of years.

Other Department of health websites: Average monthly visits, 2006-07

	Visits
www.hepc.nhs.uk	6,750
www.immunisation.nhs.uk	35,000
www.gosmokefree.co.uk	[1]67,500
www.condomessentialwear.co.uk	[1]81,000
www.stayinghard.info	[1]103,000
www.talktofrank.com	[1]443,000
www.uglysmoking.info	[1]123,000
www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk	3,250
www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk	6,000
www.photolibrary.nhs.uk	200
www.mmrthefacts.nhs.uk	20,000
www.nhscommslink.nhs.uk	1,625
www.pathologyimprovement.nhs.uk	1,500
www.clean-safe-care.nhs.uk	850

Other Department of health websites: Average monthly visits, 2006-07

	Visits
www.18weeks.nhs.uk	9,000
www.socialworkandcare.co.uk	[1]23,000
www.smokefreeengland.co.uk	16,000
www.nhsprocure21.dh.gov.uk	1000
www.nhs-procure21.gov.uk	1500
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/iar.nsf?open	150
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/notice.nsf/frames2?openform	200
www.info.doh.gov.uk/renalnsf/renaltrans.nsf	36
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/depisusers.nsf/Main?readForm	369
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/oldpeople.nsf/main?readform	138
www.info.doh.gov.uk/pathology/patdis01.nsf	329
www.info.doh.gov.uk/publichealth/hidis.nsf	197
www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk	64,000
www.info.doh.gov.uk/cmo/CMOUpdate.nsf/RegistrationMenu?OpenForm	61
www.info.doh.gov.uk/Cvts/VTSPCW.nsf	24
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/embroadcast.nsf	1,150
www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhs/cdoweb.nsf/Main?OpenFrameset	181
www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf	2,600
www.info.doh.gov.uk/sar/cmopatie.nsf	3,039
www.nationalleadershipnetwork.org	800
www.performance.doh.gov.uk	96,000
Total monthly visits	1,112,449

[1] Peak figure when running campaigns.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's directorates are; and how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff work in them. [137292]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The individual and full-time equivalent breakdown for each of the Department's directorates, as at 30 April 2007, is shown in the following table.

Directorate	*Number of individuals*	*Number of full time equivalents*
Clinical Programmes	67	61.6
Commercial	5	4.6
Commissioning	264	257.4
Communications	107	105.4
Connecting for Health	29	28.5
Departmental Management	596	583.0
Equality and Human Rights[1]	24	22.7
Experience Involvement and Professional Leadership	75	72.9
Finance and Investment	215	208.6
Health and Care Partnerships	94	92.3
Health Improvement[2]	203	196.4
Healthcare Quality	51	48.2
Health Protection, International Health and Scientific Development	149	145.9
Policy and Strategy	137	133.5
Provider Development	44	43.0
Research and Development	55	51.0
Social Care	72	68.5
Workforce	106	101.2

[1] Headed by a Director rather than a Director General.
[2] Includes Regional Public Health Groups.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff funded by the public purse in her Department are classified as people without posts. [137668]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department currently has 47 people not in permanent posts but carrying out meaningful work across the organisation until a permanent post can be identified to which they are then deployed.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of her Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140126]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Special advisers involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are available in the Library.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the NHS in each year between 1997 and 2006; and what the total cost was of those bonuses in each year. [139265]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The available information is as follows:

	Number of bonuses awarded	*Total cost (£)*
2004-05	123	642,625.00
2005-06	172	884,985.88
2006-07	164	1,073,050.62

The information for years between 1997-98 and 2003-04 could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

MHRA (Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency)

	Number of bonuses awarded	*Total cost (£)*
2005-06	62	254,567.60
2006-07	60	342,597.00

NHS PASA (Purchasing and Supply Agency)

	Number of bonuses awarded	*Total cost (£)*
2005-06	2	7,430.00
2006-07	7	31,758.45

Both the MHRA and NHS PASA do not hold bonus information going back any further then 2005-06.

The national health service does not employ senior civil servants.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by her Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139425]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not available.

Diabetes

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in England were diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes in each of the last 30 years. [140640]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of people diagnosed with type 2 diabetes is not available in the format requested. Figures are not available for type 1 and type 2 diabetes separately.

The total number of patients aged 17 and over on practice registers in England who have an appropriate diabetes diagnosis in 2004-05 was 1.77 million people[1].

The total number of patients aged 17 and over on practice registers in England who have an appropriate diabetes diagnosis in 2005-06 was 1.89 million people[2].

It is estimated that over 90 per cent. of people with diabetes have type 2 diabetes.

Notes:

The difference between 1.77 million in 2004-05 and 1.89 million in 2005-06 does not mean that extra 0.12 million patients were diagnosed within those 12 months. The figures are a function of diagnosis recording on practice registers, and therefore were subject to data quality review in that period, as the QOF was being established. Patients with diabetes aged under 17 are not included because they are regarded as receiving their diabetes management in the secondary care sector.

Sources:

[1] "2004-05 Quality and Outcomes Framework" (QOF) data published by The Information Centre for health and social care. This is the first year of data from this source.

[2] Source 2005-06 QOF data published by The Information Centre for health and social care.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to safeguard patient care at the beginning of August 2007 when doctors in training will all change jobs. [135693]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Not all doctors in training will change jobs on the same date at the beginning of August. Arrangements for 2007 will reflect current practice as most doctors at the level equivalent to the senior house officer grade will start in the first week of August, while doctors at the equivalent of the specialist registrar grade will have staggered start dates.

To ensure service is maintained at the beginning of August and patient care is not compromised, NHS Employers are working with trusts to plan now for managing the transition in the period after 1 August. These plans include advertising locum posts on NHS jobs to fill training posts and using extensions to contracts or service posts.

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons were for abandoning the policy of staggered changeover dates for doctors in training posts. [135694]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The previous policy has not been abandoned. Arrangements for 2007 will reflect current practice.

In the past most doctors at senior house officer (SHO) level changed over in the first week of August. The doctors at specialist registrar (SpR) level traditionally change over in July, September or October.

New specialty training programmes commence in August 2007. Most doctors at the level equivalent to the SHO grade will continue to start in the first week of August. Doctors at the equivalent of SpR level will continue to have staggered start dates.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 582W, on the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) website, whether her Department monitors the number of visitors to the MTAS website; and what other information about visits to the MTAS website her Department monitors. [140719]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 June 2007]:* The Department's supplier monitors the number of visitors to the Medical Training Application Service website and page visits. The total average daily visits and peak daily visits are reported to the Department monthly. The most recent figures are for the month of April and are shown in the table.

	April
Total number of visits to the website in period	245,314
Average number of visits per day within the period	8,177
Peak number of visits in one day within the period	22,423
Cumulative number of users registered	51,474

Elderly: Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what work she has undertaken on her national action plan on malnutrition among elderly patients; and when she plans to publish the outcome of that work. [140479]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department and stakeholders are drawing up an action plan to tackle the nutritional care of all adults in health and social care settings

(which will include older people). The plan will be made available once it has been shared and discussed with stakeholders this summer.

GMOs: Contamination

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of the GM rice (LL601) contamination incident to *(a)* food businesses, *(b)* Government Departments, *(c)* local authorities, including port authorities, *(d)* the Food Standards Agency and *(e)* the catering and food service sectors. [142667]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency has not estimated the cost of the genetically modified rice (LL601) incident to itself, food businesses, Government Departments, local authorities (including port authorities) or the catering and food service sectors.

Health Services

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to maintain patient care when all junior doctors move posts on 1 August. [137208]

Ms Rosie Winterton: To ensure service is maintained at the beginning of August and patient care is not compromised, strategic health authorities are working with trusts and NHS Employers are working with the Department to plan now for managing the transition in the period after 1 August. These plans include advertising locum posts on NHS Jobs to fill training posts and using extensions to contracts or service posts.

Not all doctors in training will change jobs on the same date at the beginning of August. Arrangements for 2007 will reflect current practice as most doctors at the level equivalent to the senior house officer grade will start in the first week of August, while doctors at the equivalent of the specialist registrar grade will have staggered start dates.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the discussion paper on providers which she presented to the King's Fund on 7 December 2006. [137293]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A copy has been placed in the Library.

Health Services: Social Work

Dr. Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to re-examine the role of social care providers in the running of LINKS programmes following the recent Health Select Committee report on patient and public health involvement in the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [141148]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As stated in the Government response to the Health Select Committee report, laid in Parliament on Monday 11 June, an organisation being a social care provider does not prevent it from also advocating on behalf of patients and users of health and social care services. We believe it is more than reasonable to expect potential host organisations to demonstrate that they are able to manage their existing responsibilities as well as take on the role of supporting a LINk.

The host will be accountable to the LINk and in its support function will be required to follow the LINk's direction irrespective of what its own interests might be. The sort of organisations that we expect to become hosts are used to dealing with these kinds of issues all the time, as indeed are local authorities.

The model contract specification currently being drafted, addresses this issue and will include a requirement for an organisation to demonstrate it can deliver the contract without any conflict of interest.

Health Visitors

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effect of the conclusions of Agenda for Change on *(a)* roles and functions and *(b)* pay and conditions of health visitors. [139608]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Agenda for Change pay system does not specify the roles or functions of staff but it does provide an objective means of determining the weight of jobs whose role and function is determined by the employer, and therefore the pay band in which those jobs should be placed. To assist employers in objectively assessing health visitor jobs, two national job profiles have been prepared for typical health visitor roles, which would fall in pay band 6 and pay band 7. Health visitors whose jobs match these profiles would have basic pay in the ranges of £23,458 to £31,779 and £28,313 to £37,326 (1 November 2007) respectively.

Health Visitors: Manpower

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the trends in numbers of health visitors working in the NHS over the last 10 years; [139227]

(2) how many health visitors were working for the NHS in *(a)* September 2005 and *(b)* September 2006; [139228]

(3) what work force planning the NHS has undertaken, with particular reference to the future recruitment and retention of health visitors; [139230]

(4) what assessment she has made of *(a)* the age profile of health visitors working for the NHS and *(b)* its implications for future recruitment and retention of health visitors. [139232]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Table 1 shows the number of health visitors in the national health service in England over the last 10 years.

The number of health visitors has remained static over the last 10 years but there has been significant growth in the overall number of nurses working in primary and community care settings in both 2005-06 of 1,039 (1 per cent.) and since 1997 of 29,543 (38.2 per cent.).

Work force planning in terms of the recruitment and retention of health visitors is a matter for local work force planners in local primary care trusts and strategic

health authorities as they are best placed to assess the health visiting needs of their local population.

Table 2 shows the age profile of health visitors as at September 2006.

Table 1: health visitors employed in the NHS (England) as at September each year (headcount) and (FTE)

	Headcount	Full time equivalent
1997	12,410	10,030
1998	12,570	10,070
1999	12,800	10,160
2000	12,827	10,046
2001	13,053	10,186
2002	12,774	9,912
2003	12,984	9,999
2004	13,303	10,137
2005	12,818	9,809
2006[1]	12,034	9,376

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 232 headcount duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census.

Source:
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

Table 2: age profile of health visitors as at September 2006

	Headcount Health visitor
Under 25	13
25 to 29	274
30 to 34	672
35 to 39	1,402
40 to 44	2,257
45 to 49	2,590
50 to 54	2,126
55 to 59	1,588
60 to 64	672
65 and over	89
Unknown	351
All staff	12,034

Health Visitors: Training

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training places there are for trainees wishing to acquire health visiting qualifications. [139229]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the purpose is of the web based surveillance system for *Clostridium difficile* and MRSA; and if she will make a statement. [138648]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Web-based reporting systems were introduced for all cases of *Clostridium difficile* associated disease in patients aged two years and over from April 2007 and for all cases of bloodstream infection caused by methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) from October 2005.

These web-based systems replace the quarterly reports sent by trusts to the Health Protection Agency regional offices. They have been introduced to support initiatives to control and prevent healthcare associated infections. These systems allow more efficient collection of reports and enable trusts to enter data at any time and view their own data. They provide trusts with a more accurate picture and contribute to building a better evidence base regarding risk factors for infection as trusts can see the data to assess the effectiveness of the interventions to reduce infections.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Hospital Wards

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* mixed wards and *(b)* single sex wards there were in each hospital in the Hull and East Yorkshire NHS Trust in each of the last two years. [140844]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many wards in Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust were closed in the last 12 months. [140855]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally. Responsibility for local health services lies with the local national health service. It is now for primary care trusts in partnership with strategic health authorities and other local stakeholders to plan, develop and improve services for local people in accordance with local health needs.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Redundancy

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many redundancies were made by Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust in the last 12 months. [140838]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No redundancies have been reported for the Hull and East Yorkshire hospitals NHS Trust in 2006-07.

Junior Doctors: Taunton

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior doctors are registered in Taunton constituency. [141212]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The General Medical Council (GMC) keeps an up-to-date register of qualified doctors; all doctors must be registered with the GMC before they can work in the United Kingdom. Further information on the CMC can be found at:

www.gmc-uk.org

The number of doctors in training and equivalent grades employed by national health service organisations within Taunton constituency is shown in the table.

Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff, showing doctors in training and equivalent grades for NHS organisations within Taunton constituency as at 30 September 2006.

	Total	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust
		Number (headcount)	
All staff	568	185	383
Doctors in training and equivalents of which:	269	75	194
Registrar group	76	10	66
Senior house officer	133	31	102
Foundation year two	19	19	0
House officer	41	15	26

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental workforce census.

Lincolnshire

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when *(a)* she and *(b)* one of her ministerial colleagues last visited Lincolnshire. [134673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has accepted an invitation to visit The Pilgrim hospital in Boston at a date to be agreed. No other Ministers have visited Lincolnshire.

Medical Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 584, on medical training, whether the medical training application system was subject to formal quality assurance. [131862]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer to the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 19 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 745.

Medical Training Application Service

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-17, on the Medical Training Application Service, how many of the fixed-term specialty training posts available in 2007 will be converted into run-through training posts in 2008. [138798]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is too early at this stage to say exactly what run-through and fixed-term posts will be available next year. This will depend, as it did this year, upon the results of local discussions between trusts and deaneries to establish the appropriate number of training posts required to meet patient and service needs.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-17, on the Medical Training Application Service, where in the public domain the figures for the number of the medical training posts can be found. [138799]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of training posts agreed for the first round was available on the Medical Training Application Service while it was open.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-7, on the Medical Training Application Service, how many training posts, in addition to those remaining from the 23,500 available after Round 1, there will be in Round 2; and when Round 2 interviews will commence. [138800]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Interviews for the further recruitment round will be managed locally and will start once the offers for each individual specialty in round one have been accepted or rejected. The number of additional training posts will include at least 200 run-through posts plus substantial further opportunities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-7, on the Medical Training Application Service, how many foundation year two applicants have failed to get an interview for ST1 posts. [138802]

Ms Rosie Winterton: As outlined in the statement by the Review of Recruitment and Selection for Specialty and General Practitioner Training in England on 4 April 2007, all eligible applicants to specialty training (excluding general practice) in England will be invited to an interview for their affirmed first preference.

NHS Work Force

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1121W, on the NHS work force, when she expects the East of England strategic health authority to complete its feasibility study into establishing a local voluntary guaranteed employment scheme; whether she plans to publish the study; and when her Department plans to take a decision on the viability of such schemes. [131895]

Ms Rosie Winterton: One of the recommendations of "The Action Plan - A Social Partnership Forum Action Plan for Maximising Employment Opportunities for Newly Qualified Healthcare Professionals in a Changing NHS" published on 13 April is that East of England strategic health authority undertake a feasibility study to maximise employment opportunities for newly qualified health care professionals. This will include assessing the feasibility of an employment guarantee scheme for newly qualified health care professionals.

The feasibility study will last for one year and was officially launched on 15 May by East of England strategic health authority.

The outcome of the feasibility study will determine whether employment guarantee schemes are a viable option. If so, the nature and length of these schemes will be defined upon relevant factors established through the study.

Stakeholder representatives on the social partnership forum will be involved in this decision-making process and the final outcome, once known, will be published.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2045W, on the NHS work force, what

her Department's most recent estimate is of changes in the NHS work force in the financial year 2006-07. [131903]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The recently published census showed there has been a small reduction in the overall national health service work force of 8,118 full-time equivalent (FTE) or 0.7 per cent. of the total (17,390 headcount) in England from September 2005 to September 2006. This should be seen in the context of there being almost 250,000 FTE (280,000 headcount) more staff working in the NHS in England than in 1997 as there are now over 34,000 FTE (35,000 HC) doctors and over 65,000 FTE (79,000 HC) more nurses in the NHS than in 1997.

Doctors account for 13.9 per cent. of the FTE increase in the work force and nurses 26.5 per cent., compared with just 5.5 per cent. managers.

There has been an increase in the number of doctors and an increase in the number of permanent qualified nurses now in the system. In addition, there are now fewer managers working in the NHS, the first fall since 1995.

The numbers show that the work force overall is starting to re-balance with demand equalling supply.

NHS: Consultants

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date her Department received Treasury approval for the new contract for NHS consultants agreed in October 2003. [140011]

Ms Rosie Winterton: New contracts for doctors formed part of the discussions between the Department and HM Treasury during the 2002 Spending Review, which concluded in July 2002.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department set up a *(a)* working group, *(b)* steering group and *(c)* any other regular series of meetings on the new contract for NHS consultants prior to October 2003. [140013]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department set up a number of working groups and reference groups, which included key stakeholders, during the negotiation and implementation of the consultant contract.

NHS: Finance

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when account was taken of forecast rates of inflation in determining the *(a)* prospective increase in the rates of pay for NHS nurses and *(b)* proposed increase in the cost of a prescription. [126191]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The review body on nurses and other health professions is required to have regard to the Government's inflation target, and its consideration of pay and price changes in relation to its recommendation of a 2.5 per cent. increase in nurses pay this year is set out in chapter 7 of its "Twenty Second Report on Nursing an Other Health Professions 2007" (Cm 7029) published in March.

No account was taken of forecast rates of inflation in determining the increase in the prescription charge from 1 April 2007.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average per capita social services spending has been *(a)* in England and *(b)* in each local authority area since 1979. [140560]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There would be disproportionate costs incurred to produce information at this level of detail across the whole time period requested. The following table therefore shows the information (in cash terms, including adults and children's social care) from 2000-01, from which time an improved means was introduced for collecting these data through an annual return.

The average per capita social services spending from 2000-01 to 2005-06 for each council

£

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Cumbria	169	189	217	247	283	308
Northumberland	212	240	260	314	349	387
Gateshead	278	288	322	338	377	396
Newcastle upon Tyne	282	306	416	378	412	429
North Tyneside	251	274	350	396	405	442
South Tyneside	286	303	332	403	511	429
Sunderland	236	257	290	330	334	347
Hartlepool UA	232	242	287	305	356	385
Middlesbrough UA	243	274	313	324	344	382
Redcar and Cleveland UA	225	236	260	274	324	347
Stockton-on-Tees UA	194	205	221	236	263	294
Durham	204	226	260	319	349	365
Darlington UA	197	217	254	311	294	316
Barnsley	203	223	259	251	322	340
Doncaster	212	224	237	273	285	304
Rotherham	227	237	260	288	329	353
Sheffield	254	260	270	310	335	358
Bradford	218	229	258	303	335	343
Calderdale	216	229	252	285	308	335
Kirklees	207	226	247	268	321	358

The average per capita social services spending from 2000-01 to 2005-06 for each council

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	£ 2005-06
Leeds	219	246	273	312	341	361
Wakefield	203	215	233	270	309	340
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	154	161	188	217	246	261
Kingston upon hull UA	300	312	338	345	370	428
North-east Lincolnshire UA	208	216	262	282	296	333
North Lincolnshire UA	189	209	246	268	298	313
North Yorkshire	159	167	201	238	266	282
York UA	166	169	208	228	242	260
Bolton	213	224	240	275	307	333
Bury	200	219	246	270	307	323
Manchester	324	368	414	462	515	557
Oldham	232	241	270	336	324	349
Rochdale	238	249	264	275	310	350
Salford	296	310	338	373	409	433
Stockport	224	229	249	278	309	322
Tameside	233	239	258	285	305	323
Trafford	198	215	240	267	286	312
Wigan	200	216	238	263	290	303
Knowsley	244	263	308	326	354	389
Liverpool	354	336	377	414	412	443
Sefton	238	249	295	316	337	352
St. Helens	246	256	263	295	330	372
Wirral	239	269	307	329	367	382
Cheshire	171	187	211	228	259	288
Halton UA	212	221	251	300	331	362
Warrington UA	163	177	207	228	259	286
Lancashire	194	206	237	286	313	331
Blackburn with Darwen UA	244	260	309	331	369	390
Blackpool UA	266	271	292	366	413	428
Warwickshire	151	168	197	235	255	267
Birmingham	266	277	302	332	371	411
Coventry	248	257	300	319	347	393
Dudley	188	202	231	260	292	318
Sandwell	261	283	322	352	425	433
Solihull	184	196	232	268	316	348
Walsall	243	263	319	394	439	457
Wolverhampton	268	281	315	343	386	424
Staffordshire	155	167	190	225	254	289
Stoke-on-Trent UA	221	240	276	306	345	377
Herefordshire UA	174	181	218	235	265	283
Worcestershire	170	178	207	254	270	288
Shropshire	161	178	203	252	258	271
Telford and the Wrekin UA	192	195	214	236	277	295
Lincolnshire	164	172	204	256	292	303
Northamptonshire	190	177	221	265	301	322
Derbyshire	194	202	225	268	293	313
Derby UA	233	247	253	283	304	329
Leicestershire	134	143	167	200	215	229
Leicester UA	258	276	309	350	357	379
Rutland UA	139	151	168	182	197	218
Nottinghamshire	172	181	212	280	305	315
Nottingham UA	287	298	324	338	371	375
Hertfordshire	189	207	236	285	315	333
Norfolk	185	198	233	277	309	356
Oxfordshire	190	200	214	252	262	265
Suffolk	177	193	225	269	307	336
Bedfordshire	181	192	216	261	294	284
Luton UA	239	253	266	293	355	376
Buckinghamshire	157	171	195	224	265	274
Milton Keynes UA	183	191	224	233	246	283
Bracknell Forest UA	201	219	226	246	266	298

The average per capita social services spending from 2000-01 to 2005-06 for each council

£

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
West Berkshire UA	188	201	232	245	286	305
Reading UA	241	270	296	324	351	357
Slough UA	304	265	313	340	352	370
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	188	190	210	243	274	280
Wokingham UA	156	177	195	228	228	248
Essex	184	200	241	290	320	347
Southend-on-Sea UA	248	266	308	341	375	386
Thurrock UA	202	220	241	268	299	99
Cambridgeshire	161	178	203	248	277	307
Peterborough UA	231	237	283	267	307	330
Camden	471	469	480	502	525	540
Greenwich	402	414	447	477	509	517
Hackney	459	464	469	576	556	586
Hammersmith and Fulham	492	509	523	562	557	566
Islington	596	591	613	645	670	667
Kensington and Chelsea	462	434	438	430	424	411
Lambeth	473	497	519	589	607	631
Lewisham	384	429	452	498	549	546
Southwark	523	501	496	529	589	603
Tower Hamlets	450	502	537	540	581	615
Wandsworth	337	323	357	355	429	404
Westminster	516	514	537	513	505	472
City of London	1,005	929	920	926	816	817
Barking and Dagenham	373	391	439	468	497	521
Barnet	271	316	322	358	353	388
Bexley	216	232	256	279	291	306
Brent	278	272	303	358	360	381
Bromley	274	235	235	269	289	301
Croydon	242	268	315	364	380	401
Ealing	285	309	318	356	383	404
Enfield	266	285	310	370	347	388
Haringey	478	529	521	614	563	583
Harrow	267	278	290	310	350	361
Havering	210	232	259	265	304	312
Hillingdon	229	326	357	383	433	453
Hounslow	283	301	326	376	408	439
Kingston upon Thames	231	246	284	306	326	347
Merton	245	261	276	313	314	309
Newham	424	431	460	496	491	520
Redbridge	264	270	284	310	307	317
Richmond upon Thames	227	323	321	321	329	342
Sutton	228	227	266	288	311	333
Waltham Forest	353	355	372	403	401	403
Isle of Wight UA	203	212	259	301	334	361
Surrey	167	180	205	248	281	297
West Sussex	183	195	235	276	299	317
Dorset	165	179	200	252	279	310
Bournemouth UA	260	274	302	327	347	376
Poole UA	174	196	225	231	255	280
Hampshire	141	153	177	199	239	251
Portsmouth UA	257	262	303	308	340	359
Southampton UA	249	225	297	330	345	354
East Sussex	211	227	264	320	350	370
Brighton and Hove UA	267	285	332	376	430	439
Wiltshire	163	164	192	233	265	289
Swindon UA	178	200	232	250	279	292
Kent	211	225	270	302	310	311
Medway Towns UA	169	188	208	231	257	269
Cornwall	167	184	209	256	293	305
Gloucestershire	168	176	208	277	307	315
Somerset	167	174	203	231	264	288

The average per capita social services spending from 2000-01 to 2005-06 for each council

£

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Isles of Scilly	—	192	250	265	237	264
Bath and North-east Somerset UA	192	211	245	260	288	294
Bristol UA	242	261	298	325	369	381
North Somerset UA	157	168	223	288	322	337
South Gloucestershire UA	140	153	177	198	226	265
Devon	178	189	231	253	277	294
Plymouth UA	240	253	282	309	362	379
Torbay UA	238	250	301	392	425	445
England total	222	236	265	301	329	348

Notes:
1. The table shows total net cost of social services per head of population, this is the total spend excluding capital charges minus income received from client contributions and other income which includes income from the national health service.
2. In 2003-04 the supported people grant was introduced which should be taken into consideration when making comparisons over time. The expenditure information is actual spend and has not been adjusted for inflation.
3. Data are unavailable for the Isles of Scilly for 2000-01.

David Heyes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much budget allocation was provided for *(a)* NHS Greater Manchester, *(b)* Tameside and Glossop primary care trust and *(c)* Oldham primary care trust in each of the last three years, broken down by main categories of activity; and how much was spent against each budget in each case. [140650]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for meeting the health needs of their population using the resources available to them. The following table shows the revenue resource limit for PCTs in Greater Manchester from the published accounts and the draft figures for 2006-07.

£ million

Organisation name	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Oldham PCT	267.9	300.4	318.5
Tameside and Glossop PCT	263.5	292.0	311.5
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	357.9	392.3	418.2
Bolton PCT	300.5	342.6	351.2
Bury PCT	194.4	214.3	231.6
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	247.1	274.4	288.5
Salford Teaching PCT	325.6	344.3	368.3
Manchester PCT	672.5	735.4	781.6
Stockport PCT	313.8	356.8	366.2
Trafford PCT	239.7	271.4	275.3

NHS: Labour Turnover

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of NHS staff who left the NHS *(a)* to work in the private health sector and *(b)* to work outside the UK in each of the last three years, broken down by category of job. [139016]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Overseas Workers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision there is for those UK citizens who are not ordinarily resident in the UK through undertaking long term charitable or aid work abroad to access NHS care in the UK. [141978]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Anyone who is not ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom is subject to the National Health Service (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended and will be liable for charges for any hospital treatment they receive unless they are exempt from charge under a number of exemption categories listed in these regulations.

One exemption category relates to people engaged in employment outside the UK for no more than five years. Another relates to anyone who is working overseas as a missionary for an organisation with its principal place of business in the UK, for any length of time and regardless of whether they derive a salary or wage from the organisation, or receive any type of funding or assistance from the organisation. We have no plans to extend that to other unpaid charitable or aid workers. Such people will be able to access national health service hospital treatment, but they will be liable for charges for it unless considered exempt under another category.

NHS: Sick Leave

Mr. Lamley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average sickness absence rate was for NHS staff in 2006. [131954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Average sickness absence for national health service organisations (excluding foundation trusts) from April to December 2006 is estimated at 10 working days, reported through the financial information management system. This figure equates to 4.0 per cent.

NHS: Training

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of speciality training to fixed term speciality training appointments is by speciality in England. [133708]

Ms Roele Winterton: The information requested in show in the following table.

Percentage split of posts by post type

Specialty	*Theme*	*Post types (percentage)* *Specialty training*	*Fixed-term specialist training appointment (FTSTA)*	*Academic*
Acute care common stem (ACCS)	Acute medicine	83	17	0
	Anaesthesia	80	20	0
	Emergency medicine	70	29	1
	Intensive care medicine	0	100	0
Acute medicine		100	0	0
Allergy		100	0	0
Anaesthesia		71	28	0
Audiological medicine		67	0	33
Cardiology		98	0	2
Cardiothoracic surgery		83	0	17
Chemical pathology		100	0	0
Child and adolescent psychiatry		100	0	0
Clinical genetics		80	0	20
Clinical neurophysiology		88	0	13
Clinical oncology		97	0	3
Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics		75	0	25
Clinical radiology		96	0	4
Core medical training		65	34	1
Dermatology		100	0	0
Emergency medicine		94	6	0
Endocrinology and diabetes		97	0	3
Forensic psychiatry		96	0	4
Gastroenterology		100	0	0
General adult psychiatry		99	0	1
General practice		100	0	0
General surgery		99	0	1
Genito-urinary medicine		100	0	0
Geriatric medicine		97	0	3
Haematology		95	0	5
Histopathology		100	0	0
Immunology		80	0	20
Infectious diseases		100	0	0
Infectious diseases and medical microbiology and virology (MMV)	Medical microbiology	100	0	0
Infectious diseases and MMV	Virology	50	0	50
Medical microbiology and virology		87	13	0
Medical microbiology and virology		100	0	0
Medical oncology		75	0	25
Medical ophthalmology		100	0	0
Neurology		90	0	10
Neurosurgery		60	39	1
Nuclear medicine		100	0	0
Obstetrics and gynaecology		85	14	1
Occupational medicine		100	0	0
Old age psychiatry		100	0	0
Ophthalmology		59	40	0
Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS)		78	22	0

Percentage split of posts by post type

Specialty	*Theme*	*Post types (percentage)* *Specialty training*	*Fixed-term specialist training appointment (FTSTA)*	*Academic*
Otolaryngology (ENT)		98	0	2
Paediatric cardiology		100	0	0
Paediatric surgery		100	0	0
Paediatrics		72	28	1
Palliative medicine		100	0	0
Plastic surgery		98	0	2
Psychiatry		67	32	1
Psychiatry of learning disability		100	0	0
Psychotherapy		100	0	0
Public health		90	0	10
Rehabilitation medicine		96	0	4
Renal medicine		93	0	7
Respiratory Medicine		100	0	0
Rheumatology		96	0	4
Sports and exercise medicine		100	0	0
Surgery in general	Cardiothoracic Surgery	3	97	0
Surgery in general	General surgery	33	66	1
Surgery in general	Generic	56	42	2
Surgery in general	Otolaryngology (ENT)	36	62	2
Surgery in general	Paediatric surgery	45	55	0
Surgery in general	Plastic surgery	38	61	1
Surgery in general	Trauma and orthopaedic surgery	41	59	0
Surgery in general	Urology	41	57	3
Trauma and orthopaedic surgery		98	0	2
Urology		96	0	4
		14,600	4,400	200
Grand total		(76)	(23)	(1)

Nurses

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans she has to maximise the amount of time nurses spend on directly caring for patients; [138640]

(2) what plans she has to minimise the paperwork which needs to be completed by nurses as part of their duties; [138641]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of time spent on a shift by a nurse who was assigned to *(a)* administrative work and *(b)* caring duties in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest date for which figures are available. [138644]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No estimates have been made centrally. Nurses work in teams of nursing staff of different grades as well as being members of multi-disciplinary teams. They will spend differing time on patient care according to their roles and responsibilities in the team.

The Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) is working with the National Health Service Institute for Innovation and Improvement and the Royal College of Nursing to promote the spread of good practice being generated by the productive ward programme. The programme will remove processes that distract nurses and will help staff reorganise wards so that the focus is on needs of patients and on easing the workload generated by some activities.

The report of the programme, "Releasing Time to Care: Productive Ward", was released by the CNO in April and aims to promote greater efficiency so that more nursing time is released for direct patient care.

Nutrition: Drinking Water

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is the policy of her Department to support the World Health Organisation definition of water as an important nutrient for the human body and critical to human life. [141211]

Caroline Flint: Yes.

Physiotherapy: Graduates

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will publish the minutes of her latest meeting with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy on physiotherapy graduates. [136714]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State for Health met the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy on 11 July 2006. There were no formal minutes of the meeting.

Public Private Partnerships: Hearing Aids

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the public private partnership for the provision of digital hearing aids; and if she will make a statement. [140655]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Following a public tendering process, the National Framework Contract (NFC) Public Private Partnership (PPP) with David Ormerod Hearing Centres and Ultravox Holdings plc was announced in October 2003.

The contract allowed national health service trusts to use the two private hearing aid dispensers to see NHS patients.

It was fundamental to the NFC that the quality of service, and hearing aid, that the patient received mirror those of the local NHS audiology department. Quality assurance was key in the initiative. Both companies demonstrated their commitment to meeting these standards and invested resources in terms of equipment, information technology and staff training in order to do so.

The NFC PPP was successful in increasing capacity in the NHS, with over 50,000 patient journeys completed through the partnership. NHS trusts have also benefitted from the competitive pricing and quality of service provision available through the PPP.

Social Services: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was allocated to Warrington borough council to fund social services in each year since 1997, broken down by funding stream; [141899]

(2) how much funding was allocated to Warrington borough council to provide services for *(a)* adults with learning difficulties and *(b)* children and young people with learning difficulties in each year since 1997. [141900]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The Government do not make allocations to social care (other than for relatively limited specific grants) but only for local government as a whole.

Within those allocations, it is for local councils to fund and provide appropriate services for their population in the light of local needs and priorities.

Overall, local councils will receive more than £65 billion in 2007-08, a 4.9 per cent. increase on 2006-07.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of people who require organ transplants; how many and what proportion of people requiring donated organs received them in the most recent year for which figures are available; what the shortfall is; and if she will make a statement. [139491]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of people registered on the organ transplant list as at 20 May 2007 is shown in table 1. Table 2 shows the number of people joining the list in years 1997, 2000 and 2003 and the percentage that have subsequently received transplants or are still listed.

The transplant list does not reflect the true extent of need for a transplant, as clinicians are reluctant to list more patients than are likely to receive organs.

An organ donation taskforce is currently looking at the barriers to increasing organ donation and will put recommendations to the Department later this year.

Table 1: Registrations for transplant list—current (as at 20 May 2007)

Organ	Active	Suspended[1]	Total
Kidney	6,326	1,842	8,168
Pancreas	62	44	106
Kidney/pancreas	145	80	225
Heart	97	6	103
Lung(s)	269	7	276
Heart/lungs	25	1	26
Liver	316	4	320
Total organs	7,240	1,984	9,224

[1] Suspended means the patient has been temporarily removed from the list. This happens for such reasons as being too ill to undergo the operation or being away on holiday.

Table 2: Numbers joining the active organ transplant list in the year and percentage transplanted (deceased organ donor) since or still listed (at 22 May 2007)

Organ	Joining	Percentage transplanted	Percentage still listed
2003			
Kidney	1,964	54.8	29.4
Pancreas	12	50.0	8.3
Kidney/pancreas	72	75.0	13.9
Heart	196	65.8	1.0
Lung(s)	174	58.0	4.0
Heart/lungs	39	17.9	2.6
Liver	839	82.1	—
Total organs	3,296	62.6	18.1
2000			
Kidney	1,985	66.1	10.1
Pancreas	16	37.5	6.2
Kidney/pancreas	68	79.4	2.9
Heart	222	64.0	0.9
Lung(s)	178	59.6	1.7
Heart/lungs	92	38.0	1.1
Liver	785	84.1	—
Total organs	3,346	69.2	6.3
1997			
Kidney	2,210	70.6	3.4
Pancreas	5	80.0	—
Kidney/pancreas	34	73.5	2.9
Heart	365	57.1	—

Table 2: Numbers joining the active organ transplant list in the year and percentage transplanted (deceased organ donor) since or still listed (at 22 May 2007)

Organ	Joining	Percentage transplanted	Percentage still listed
Lung(s)	185	51.4	—
Heart/lungs	80	56.2	—
Liver	726	80.3	—
Total organs	3,605	71.0	2.1

vCJD: Blood

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects to be in a position to make a decision on the steps her Department will take to reduce the risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease transmission via the transfusion of blood from asymptomatic carriers. [142830]

Caroline Flint: There is currently no validated diagnostic test that would allow blood donors to be assessed as asymptomatic carriers of variant Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (vCJD). Therefore, together with the National Blood Service, the Department has introduced a range of measures to minimise the possible risk of secondary vCJD infection through the blood supply. In July 1998 the Department announced that plasma for the manufacture of blood products, such as clotting factors, would be obtained from non-United Kingdom sources. Since October 1999, white blood cells (which may carry the greatest risk of transmitting vCJD) have been removed from all blood used in transfusion. In August 2002 the Department announced that fresh frozen plasma for treating babies and young children born after 1 January 1996 would be obtained from the United States of America, and from summer 2005 this was extended to all children under 16 years of age. In December 2002, the Department completed its purchase of the largest remaining independent USA plasma collector, Life Resources Incorporated to secure long-term supplies of non-UK blood plasma for the benefit of national health service patients. Since April 2004, blood donations have not been accepted from people who have themselves received a blood transfusion in the UK since 1980. This was extended in August 2004 to include apheresis donors and donors who are unsure if they had previously had a blood transfusion. Since late 2005, blood donations have not been accepted from donors whose blood was transfused to patients who later developed vCJD.

The Department will continue to consider further steps to ensure the safety of the blood supply as new evidence or suitable technologies become available.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a cost/benefit assessment of introducing prion removal blood filters to reduce the transmission of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease via blood transfusion has been undertaken by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [142832]

Caroline Flint: A cost/benefit analysis of introducing prion removal blood filters can only be completed once the Department has received both results of clinical safety trials and the independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the filters in reducing infectivity requested by the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood and Tissues and Organs. The analysis will also need to be informed by the outcome of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease prevalence studies currently under way.

MISPAGINATION

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 15 June 2007

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arlington House Camden

Mr. Slaughter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many bed spaces Arlington House in Camden had *(a)* before and *(b)* after its modernisation under the hostels capital improvement programme; and what alternative arrangements were made for individuals displaced from Arlington House. [136529]

Yvette Cooper: Before its redevelopment Arlington House provided 399 beds. Following the hostels capital improvement programme (HCIP) investment this number has been reduced to 130. This has been agreed with the local authority in order to create more non-accommodation space where training, other support activities can take place, and to move homeless people out of long-term large institutional provision.

Novas who own and run Arlington House worked in close partnership with the Camden council to ensure that every client was resettled appropriately.

Council Tax Benefit

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average time taken by *(a)* Warrington borough council and *(b)* councils in (i) the north-west and (ii) England is to determine an application for (A) council tax benefit and (B) planning permission. [142459]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The average time taken by Warrington borough council and councils in the north-west and England to determine an application for council tax benefit is set out in the following table:

Council tax benefit claims

	Average days taken in 2006-07[1]
Warrington	27
North-west	36
England	34

[1] April to December 2006
Source:
Department for Works and Pensions

Information on the average time taken to determine planning permission is not collated centrally. However, the number of applications decided in 2006-07[1] is set out in the following table:

Planning permission

	Up to 8 weeks	*Up to 13 weeks*	*Percentage More than 13 weeks*
Warrington	91	98	2
North West	84	94	6
England	82	93	7

[1] April to December 2006
Source:
Communities and Local Government

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140030]

Angela E. Smith: The central part of Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments paid the following amounts to recruitment agencies in the specified years:

	Amount (£)
January-April 2007	34,519.80
January-December 2006	92,444.78
January-December 2005	123,600.08
January-December 2004	155,135.14
January-December 2003	93,604.62

Information prior to January 2003 and in relation to the Department's agencies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Temporary Employment

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff were employed by her Department in each of the last five years. [139983]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor Departments employed the following numbers of casual staff in each of the last five years:

	Number
2002-03	54
2003-04	129
2004-05	131
2005-06	166
2006-07	53

This does not include staff in the Government Offices or the Department's agencies.

The information requested about agency staff is not held centrally.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139903]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government and its predecessor, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, were created following Machinery of Government changes on 5 May 2006 and 29 May 2002 respectively.

The Department (and its main predecessor the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister) uses one fee-based travel agency contract administered by the Department for Transport at a combined annual fixed rate (since July 2005) of £50,000. Individual Departments' elements of this annual fixed rate are not separately identifiable. From May 2002 to July 2005, travel agent's fees were paid at 1.5 per cent. of contract turnover, an average figure of £12,500 per quarter.

It is not possible to identify separately fees for other travel contracts used by the Department, as any such fees are built in to the individual ticket prices.

The Department's Executive agencies have separate procedures for making travel arrangements, but have advised that they have not paid any travel agent fees during the period in question.

Fire Services: Cornwall

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with Cornwall Fire Authority to try to resolve the dispute there. [141099]

Angela E. Smith: I have had no discussions with Cornwall Fire and Rescue Authority seeking to resolve any disputes in that county. Industrial relations are a matter for the Fire and Rescue Authority. There is not currently an official dispute.

Fire Services: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provision of new mobile control rooms which can interface with the new regional fire control rooms is within the scope of *(a)* the FireControl project and *(b)* the FireLink project. [142953]

Angela E. Smith: New mobile control rooms are not being provided as part of the FiReControl or Firelink Projects.

Fire and Rescue Services currently provide mobile incident command units which enable effective management of large incidents. The Firelink contract provides for those existing mobile command units and all other Fire and Rescue Service emergency response vehicles, as identified by the respective FRS, to have Firelink equipment installed. The utilisation of the data capability will only be realised once the FiReControl capability is rolled out.

Green Belt

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers the regional spatial strategy process has to change the status of green belt land; and if she will make a statement. [141584]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The regional spatial strategy (RSS) is the statutory strategic development plan. Any proposed changes to the general extent of green belt will therefore need to be set out and taken forward through that process.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers local authorities have to re-designate green belt land; and if she will make a statement. [141282]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Current policy, set out in Planning Policy Guidance note 2 (PPG2): Green Belts, makes it clear that is the responsibility of regional planning bodies and local planning authorities to designate land as Green Belt through the development plan process. Any proposed changes to Green Belt boundaries should also be made through the development plan process as set out in PPG2.

Green Belt: Gloucestershire

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals are contained in the South West Regional Spatial Strategy to change the status of green belt land in Gloucestershire; how much land is involved; which sites are specifically mentioned; and if she will make a statement. [141585]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The draft regional spatial strategy does not contain site specific proposals. It will be for the local planning authorities to identify specific site allocations sites in their local development documents to accommodate the housing provision in the final RSS. However, the draft RSS identifies two broad 'Areas of Search' for sustainable urban extensions, to the north of Gloucester and to the north west of Cheltenham. Both 'Areas of Search' extend into the neighbouring Tewkesbury district and both would require changes to be made to the general extent of the green belt. The draft RSS also indicates possible additions, as well as deletions, to the general extent of the green belt.

The draft RSS is currently at Examination in Public before an independent Panel. The Panel is expected to submit its report, with recommendations, to Government later this year. The Government will then consider that report and their response to it. It would not, therefore, be appropriate to make a statement at this time.

Green Belt: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Government policy is on building on the green belt in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [142288]

Yvette Cooper: There is no designated green belt in Eastbourne or in East Sussex.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Hogg: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what time on 16 May Mr. Justice Collins gave his interim oral ruling with regard to the application by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors for a judicial review of the

decision previously made by her with regard to the inclusion of energy performance certificates in home information packs; and whether lawyers or others representing her were present when that ruling was made. [139783]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury Solicitor's Office, who were acting for the Department, received a facsimile copy of the order, dated 17 may, at 12.27 pm on 17 May. Neither lawyers nor others representing the Department were present when the ruling was given.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an estate agent will be able to sell a property with a home information pack produced by another estate agent. [140864]

Yvette Cooper: There is nothing in the regulations to prevent an estate agent from selling a property with a home information pack produced by another estate agent, provided that the pack complies with the terms of the regulations.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which journals advertisements in relation to home information packs have been placed on behalf of her Department. [142690]

Yvette Cooper: Advertising for the home information packs have been placed in the following journals:

The Negotiator
Mortgage Solutions
Estate Agency News
Mortgage Strategy
Lending Strategy
Money Marketing
Financial Adviser
Law Society Gazette
RICS Business
Period Living
House Beautiful
Good Housekeeping
House and Garden
25 Beautiful Homes
Country Living
World of Interiors
BBC Good Homes
Country Homes
Homes and Gardens
BBC Home and Antiques
Ideal Home
Living Etc
Real Homes
Daily Telegraph
Times
Guardian
Independent
Daily Mail
Express
Evening Standard
Londonpaper
Metro
London Lite
City AM
Sunday Telegraph
Sunday Times
Observer
Independent on Sunday
Mail on Sunday
Sunday Express
Newcastle Evening Chronicle
Exclusive Magazine
Southern Property Adviser
Northampton Chronicle and Echo
Huddersfield Daily Examiner
Cambridge Evening News
Cambridge Property News
South Shields Gazette
Teesside Evening Gazette
Sunderland Echo
Northern Echo
Hartlepool Mail
Shields Gazette
South Tyne Star
Yorkshire Evening Post
Hull Daily Mail
Sheffield Star
Bradford Telegraph and Argus
Yorkshire Evening Press
Grimsby Evening Telegraph
Halifax Evening Courier
Brighton Evening Argus
Portsmouth News
Reading Evening Post
Basildon Evening Echo
Colchester Evening Gazette
Kent Messenger
Bournemouth Daily Echo
Gloucester Citizen
Swindon Evening Advertiser
Bath Chronicle
Gloucestershire Echo
Liverpool Echo
Lancashire Evening Telegraph
Blackpool Gazette
Oldham Evening Chronicle
Amra and Clacksons Evening package
Birmingham Evening Mail
West Midland Express and Star
Stoke on Trent Evening Sentinel
Oxford Mail
Derby Evening Telegraph
Worcester Evening News
Peterborough Evening Telegraph
Ipswich Evening Star
Norwich Evening News
Southern Daily Echo
Exeter Express and Echo
Lincolnshire Echo
Bolton Evening News

Chester Chronicle
Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph
Western Mail
Wrexham Evening Leader
South Wales Evening Post
South Wales Argus
Bangor Mail
Cambrian News
Carmarthen Journal
Pontypridd Observer
Manchester Evening News
Plymouth Evening Herald
Torquay Herald
Coventry Evening Telegraph
Nottingham Evening Post
Southwark News
Leicester Mercury
Norwich Evening News
Bristol Evening Post
Bath Chronicle
Chelmsford Weekly News
Hereford Times
Basingstoke Gazette
Daily Post—Welsh Edition
Caernarvon Herald
Holyhead and Bangor Mail
South Wales Echo

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many advertisements placed on behalf of her Department in relation to home improvement packs have been cancelled; [142691]

(2) how many advertisements have been placed on behalf of her Department in relation to home improvement packs. [142692]

Yvette Cooper: Between April 2006 and May 2007 the Department placed a total of 852 advertisements in the press and relevant magazines—of these, a total of 538 were in magazines or newspapers published before the announcement on 22 May.

299 advertisements have now been re-scheduled and will be used to promote the phased introduction of home information packs on 1 August.

15 adverts went to print before the announcement was made but are in publications appearing after 22 May. It would be irresponsible for the Government not to inform people about this important change to the way homes are bought and sold. It is vital consumer information.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent on the marketing and advertising campaign to promote home information packs and energy performance certificates in the south-east Government office region. [143048]

Yvette Cooper: The Department has spent £82,335 on the promotion of home information packs and energy performance certificates in the south-east Government office region.

Homelessness

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homeless people, broken down by constituency. [142325]

Yvette Cooper: Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected quarterly at local authority level, in respect of households rather than people.

Information reported each quarter by local authorities about their activities under homelessness legislation includes the number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty. The duty owed to an accepted household is to secure suitable accommodation. If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority may secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available.

The data are published in our quarterly statistical release on statutory homelessness, which includes a supplementary table showing the breakdown of key data, including acceptances and temporary accommodation, by each local authority. This is published on our website and placed in the Library each quarter. The latest release was published on 11 June 2007 and contains data for the period January to March 2007:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1002882&PressNoticeID=2438

Since 1998, information has also been collected on the number of people who sleep rough—that is, those who are literally roofless on a single night—and these are also published on our website, by local authority.

Summary tables showing the total number of households (a) accepted under homelessness provisions and (b) in temporary accommodation, from 1997-98 to 2006-07, and (c) rough sleeper estimates from 1998 onwards, for each local authority are provided with this answer and have been placed in the Library.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what proportion of all lettings in *(a)* each London local authority and *(b)* across all local authorities were let to homeless households in each of the last five years; [142425]

(2) what proportion of all registered social landlord lettings, excluding sheltered and supported housing, were let to homeless households in *(a)* each London local authority and *(b)* in England in each of the last five years. [142426]

Yvette Cooper: The main sources of data on total lettings and lettings to homeless households are:

1. COntinuous REcording (CORE) data on general needs lets by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs)

2. Annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) data collected by local authorities

The proportions of all RSL lettings (excluding sheltered and supported housing) to statutorily homeless households in each London borough for the past five years are provided in the following tables.

A household is found to be statutorily homeless by a local authority if it is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness) and in priority need. The main duty owed to households accepted as being statutory homeless is to secure suitable accommodation.

(i) Proportion of all registered social landlords lettings (excluding supported and sheltered housing) let to statutorily homeless households by London borough

Percentage

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Barking and Dagenham	3	4	3	5	2
Barnet	19	21	16	14	12
Bexley	27	25	22	23	17
Brent	24	33	30	29	24
Bromley	34	43	38	44	47
Camden	12	10	16	14	15
City of London	8	11	0	0	0
Croydon	22	28	28	27	36
Ealing	22	27	16	18	17
Enfield	20	31	17	19	22
Greenwich	9	7	7	7	8
Hackney	19	20	17	24	26
Hammersmith and Fulham	22	23	24	25	19
Haringey	35	32	30	17	20
Harrow	39	26	28	12	26
Havering	7	4	5	17	2
Hillingdon	39	34	21	25	34
Hounslow	24	27	26	30	23
Islington	21	23	23	10	13
Kensington and Chelsea	28	26	33	24	18
Kingston upon Thames	25	38	21	31	32
Lambeth	31	23	30	21	20
Lewisham	17	19	14	19	26
Merton	13	15	14	26	31
Newham	14	18	12	10	11
Redbridge	17	14	20	10	8
Richmond upon Thames	32	35	38	47	50
Southwark	25	18	20	15	14
Sutton	16	20	8	13	21
Tower Hamlets	19	17	18	23	23
Waltham Forest	28	25	22	16	15
Wandsworth	14	19	17	21	22
Westminster	26	22	27	18	24
London average	23	24	22	22	23
England	12	13	14	15	17

Source:
RSL CORE data

The proportions of all local authority lettings to statutorily homeless households in each London borough for the past five years are provided in the following table. These figures include sheltered and supported housing.

(i) Proportion of all local authority lettings (not excluding sheltered housing) let to statutorily homeless households: By London borough 2005-06

Percentage

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Barking and Dagenham	0	4	21	32	4
Barnet	42	36	33	26	21
Bexley	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Brent	63	52	46	41	53
Bromley	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Camden	33	46	35	36	36
City of London	2	12	5	9	7
Croydon	16	7	15	16	12
Ealing	45	47	52	36	42
Enfield	46	46	44	38	38
Greenwich	35	33	37	34	30
Hackney	36	44	46	44	40
Hammersmith and Fulham	37	37	35	32	23
Haringey	34	32	37	40	44
Harrow	36	34	35	31	28
Havering	10	0	0	26	8
Hillingdon	24	43	39	29	24
Hounslow	43	33	46	54	41
Islington	49	51	53	45	34
Kensington and Chelsea	25	34	30	37	41
Kingston upon Thames	51	51	47	45	39
Lambeth	38	46	56	58	66
Lewisham	30	35	37	42	47
Merton	19	20	24	29	27
Newham	33	20	13	12	16
Redbridge	29	35	27	17	18
Richmond upon Thames	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Southwark	59	54	49	46	36
Sutton	37	26	8	15	20
Tower Hamlets	27	27	32	25	57
Waltham Forest	58	56	41	33	38
Wandsworth	33	37	35	34	37
Westminster	53	44	53	47	47
London average	35	35	36	35	32
England	16	19	23	24	22

Source:
HSSA

Housing: Camden

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding the Government intends to provide to Camden council for the purpose of bringing social housing up to Decent Homes standard. [141302]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The Government have increased the basic funding for council housing by 30 per cent. in real terms since 1997. Where local authorities need more than this funding to make all social housing decent, additional funding is available through setting up a high-performance Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO); entering into a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract; or transferring stock to Registered Social Landlords.

Camden has one PFI scheme which covers the refurbishment of the Chalcots Estate, in Swiss Cottage. The scheme was awarded £65 million in PFI credits, and will receive PFI subsidy from 2006-07 onwards.

Housing: Construction

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1101-02W, on housing: construction, what plans she has to introduce penalties for failure to comply with a completion notice. [143240]

Yvette Cooper: We have no plans to introduce penalties for failure to comply with a completion notice. Completion notices are rare, but effective in most cases. If a completion notice is ignored, the relevant planning permission ceases to be valid, except insofar as it authorises the development already carried out. Any further development carried out after the period specified in the completion notice is over may be liable to enforcement action.

It would be impracticable to give the local planning authority power to compel the completion of a development once started, for example where the developer lacked the finance to complete the work.

However, a local planning authority may compel the removal of any partially erected buildings by making a discontinuance order under section 102 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. If an order, confirmed by the Secretary of State, is not complied with, the authority can enforce it in accordance with sections 189 and 190 of the Act. Where a discontinuance order has not been complied with, section 190 of the 1990 Act enables the local planning authority to take the steps required under the order (such as removal of buildings, works or any plant or machinery, or steps to protect the environment), and to recover any expenses reasonably incurred by them in doing so from the owner of the land.

Housing: Expenditure

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much from public funds was paid to Catholic housing agencies in each year since 1997. [117948]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 1 February 2007]:* 44 of the 650 registered social landlords funded by the Housing Corporation in the three years 2003-06 could be considered in some way faith-based on the basis of their constitutions. These received £52.2 million in grant over the three-year period out of a total spend of £4.9 billion, or just over 1 per cent. We do not currently have figures covering the years 1997 to 2003.

'Faith-based' here includes several categories:

(i) organisations which are run only or substantially by members of that faith;

(ii) those required to operate in the spirit of a faith or in furtherance of that faith; or

(iii) those that require that homes are let only or substantially to members of that faith, or ethnic groups closely identified with a particular faith.

In 2003-06, £40.8 million was paid to organisations in the second category, i.e. which operate in the spirit of a faith.

The majority of faith-based organisations are Christian, but we do not hold details on how many are Catholic.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total cost has been to run the Design for Manufacture competition since its inception; and how many of the resulting houses she expects to be sold for £60,000. [128191]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* English Partnerships are running the Design for Manufacture competition on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government. All English Partnerships' costs are expected to be balanced out by receipts of more than £50 million from the sale of the land. This exceeds the reserve price across this portfolio of sites by more than £3 million.

The competition involved additional costs compared to ordinary site disposals. These costs are for specialist technical advice to ensure the quality of these innovative homes (£470,000), for monitoring and evaluation to learn lessons from the construction phase (£70,000) and for research and information (£136,400). This latter category includes holding a public exhibition attended by over 5,000 people and circulating some 30,000 copies of the document setting out the lessons learnt so far from the competition.

Part of the competition involved a target construction cost of £60,000 for a high-quality 76.5 sq metre home, with larger and smaller homes being built at a similar cost-efficiency. The competition is creating 10 new mixed communities developments with homes of different sizes and tenures to suit families and single people. Overall, 50 per cent. of the homes being provided will be affordable, including shared ownership/equity, social housing, low cost home ownership and other supported housing such as for the elderly.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes (Mr. Lancaster) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1890W, which set out precise details of one of the sites in the competition.

The other nine sites are at different stages of construction and are spread around the country. The prices of the units for sale will reflect the land value, the local market at the time they go on sale and the equity share as well as the construction cost. In total only about half the homes will be for sale at full market price.

Based on current sales prices we anticipate that on every site where homes are being sold, there will be homes available at shared ownership or shared equity stakes of between £60,000 and £70,000. The exception is on the Hastings site where all the homes will be for affordable rent.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether tests of affordability for homes to rent or buy are required to take account of local levels of household income. [141748]

Yvette Cooper: The definition of affordable housing for planning purposes established by "Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing" and the accompanying guidance "Delivering Affordable Housing" includes the requirement that affordable housing should:

"meet the needs of eligible households including availability at a cost low enough for them to afford, determined with regard to local incomes....."

What this means is that, in considering whether a home falls within the definition of 'affordable housing' or not, local authorities are required to assess whether or not the home is affordable to those eligible for such housing. One of the factors used in this assessment must be levels of local household incomes.

Housing: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the likely number of additional dwellings to be located in *(a)* Northamptonshire, *(b)* North Northamptonshire and *(c)* Wellingborough in each of the next 20 years. [141600]

Yvette Cooper: As set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands (RSS8), the annual average housing provision for the period 2001 to 2021, split into five year periods, is as follows:

Northamptonshire [1]

	Per annum
2001-06	3,095
2006-11	3,475
2011-16	3,665
2016-21	3,665

[1] Excludes the Northampton figure quashed as a result of a high court challenge. This figure is being reviewed as part of the Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy.

North Northamptonshire

	Per annum
2001-06	2,225
2006-11	2,605
2011-16	2,795
2016-21	2,795

Wellingborough

	Per annum
2001-06	595
2006-11	595
2011-16	685
2016-21	685

The housing figures beyond 2021 to 2026 are currently being assessed through the Revision to the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will visit Wellingborough and Kettering to discuss future housing and infrastructure developments with members of local communities. [142220]

Angela E. Smith *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The Secretary of State has no plans at present to visit Wellingborough and Kettering.

However, my noble Friend, Baroness Andrews, chairs the Milton Keynes South Midlands Inter-Regional Board which gives the opportunity for discussions relating to sustainable housing and infrastructure developments on an on-going basis. The community is represented at these meeting by members from local authorities across the Milton Keynes and south midlands area.

Housing: Surveys

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 794W, on housing: surveys, what obligations residents in *(a)* private housing and *(b)* social housing are under to allow a property inspection to be undertaken as part of the English House Condition Survey. [141759]

Ruth Kelly: Participation in the English House Condition Survey is entirely voluntary for all householders regardless of their tenure. Addresses are selected at random and householders are contacted through a letter from our contractors, the Office for National Statistics, and invited to take part in both an initial household interview and in the follow-up property inspection.

Infrastructure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to extend consultation on the draft national policy statements for infrastructural planning proposals in England to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland where there is a potential impact on those areas arising from the proposals. [142444]

Yvette Cooper: Chapter 10 of the white paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (Cm 7120) sets out our proposals in relation to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Government intends that any national policy statements for air transport and for energy would be developed for the whole of Great Britain or the UK as appropriate. These policies would be developed with the full involvement of the devolved Administrations and the consultation proposed in Chapter 3 of the white paper would encompass the whole of Great Britain or the UK. Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland Ministers would be statutory consultees in the development of relevant national policy statements.

Planning Permission

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consultation will be conducted in communities on planning applications under the Planning Bill. [142463]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The planning White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future" proposes a three stage system for nationally significant infrastructure projects, with opportunities for public engagement at each stage.

There would be national consultation on the country's infrastructure needs. The Government would consult the public on national policy statements, which would be scrutinised by Parliament. Promoters would be required to consult the public before submitting a planning application, allowing local communities to influence a promoter's proposals early on. At the examination stage, direct questioning and a new open floor stage would help members of the public engage on a more equal footing with the professional advocates who currently dominate the process.

Planning: Use Classes Order

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish her review into use Classes Order legislation; and if she will make a statement. [142185]

Yvette Cooper: We have no plans to undergo a full scale review of the Use Classes Order.

We are looking at the operation of the Use Classes Order in some areas where concerns have been raised, such as around houses of multiple occupation. We have not set a timetable for this work.

Prisons: Planning Permission

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what planning guidelines apply to the expansion of prisons; and in what circumstances they have permitted development rights. [141875]

Ruth Kelly: Local planning authorities have been encouraged to make adequate provision for new prison developments through the planning system by means of DETR Circular 03/98 "Planning for Future Prison Development". For extensions to existing prisons, the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has access to the permitted development rights in Part 34 (Development by the Crown) of Schedule 2 to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (SI 1995 No 418 as amended). The main restrictions to the permitted development right are that any extensions may not exceed 25 per cent. of the cubic content or 1,000 square metres of the floor area of the existing building (reducing to 10 per cent. of the cubic content or 500 square metres of the floor area in certain sensitive landscape areas and conservation areas). NOMS may also use other general permitted development rights for minor works.

Regeneration: Mining

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of regeneration schemes in coalfield communities. [141441]

Yvette Cooper: Considerable progress has been made over the past 10 years revitalising the former English coalfields, raising aspirations in these communities through regeneration, education and job creation. People are being given access to the skills and jobs they need, the environmental legacy of the coal industry is being cleaned up and the housing, economic and social needs of the local communities are being addressed. The English Partnership's Coalfield Programme; the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the Coalfields Enterprise Fund, are delivering real change with combined budgets of over £0.5 billion. A recent independent evaluation of the Department's coalfield specific regeneration programmes available at: http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1508895, gave strong support to the approach we have taken and confirmed the effectiveness of these programmes.

Regional Government: Offices

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which English regional chambers have offices located outside the United Kingdom. [141821]

Yvette Cooper: All eight regional assemblies have use of office facilities in Brussels. These facilities are shared with other regional partners.

Service Charges

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the evidential basis is for her statement that capping leaseholder service charges for ex-council flats would cost £40 million; what timescale that cost was estimated to arise over; and whether there is a distinction between the costs of *(a)* resident and *(b)* buy-to-rent leaseholders in the estimates made. [134207]

Yvette Cooper: The statement is based on the results of a survey conducted in March 2007 on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government by London Councils, the representative body of the London boroughs. No distinction was made between resident and buy-to-rent leaseholders.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many alcohol licences have been revoked in each London borough since November 2005. [142774]

Mr. Woodward: We do not currently hold this information centrally. The Licensing Act 2003 devolved the administration for licensing to individual licensing authorities who should hold information about licensed premises in their area.

DCMS plans a data collection exercise over the summer to gather this, and other licensing information. Results will be published in the form of a new National Statistics bulletin, currently scheduled for release in October 2007.

Broad estimates collated by the department in November 2006, based on a small sample of licensing authorities, suggested that following review, approximately 100 licences had been revoked across England and Wales in the first year under the new Licensing Act.

Cultural Heritage: Ownership

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what her Department's policy is on whether cultural objects seized from *(a)* Germany and *(b)* other countries after the second world war by the Soviet Union are Russian property following the passing of the 1998 Federal Law on Cultural Valuables Displaced to the USSR by the Russian Parliament. [142782]

Mr. Lammy: The effect of the Federal Law on Cultural Valuables Displaced to the USSR 1998 on the ownership of cultural objects situated in Russia is a question of Russian law, whether the objects in question come from Germany or other countries. It is not a matter of departmental policy. If an issue was raised in relation to the applicable law of a foreign country in legal proceedings in this country, it would be regarded as a question of fact, to be determined by the judge with the assistance of appropriate expert evidence.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals responded to her Department's consultation on the restitution of cultural objects spoliated in the Nazi era. [142783]

Mr. Lammy: The organisations and individuals who responded to the consultation are as follows:

Art Loss Register
British Library
Charity Commission
Commission for Looted Art in Europe
CyMAL Museums Archives and Libraries Wales
CyMRU National Museums Wales
ICOM UK
Marbles Reunited
Museums Association
National Gallery
National Museums of Science and Industry
Royal Academy of Art
Sotheby's
Tate
The National Archives
Withers LLP
Fiona Fuller
Michael Heaps FRICS

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when she intends to publish the *(a)* summary paper of and *(b)* responses to her Department's consultation on the restitution of cultural objects spoliated in the Nazi era. [142784]

Mr. Lammy: I intend to publish the responses to the consultation and a summary paper before the summer recess.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue her Department received from advertisements on her Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [142727]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not receive advertising revenue from public information leaflets or public websites.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what average number of days per year was taken by staff in her Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143057]

Mr. Lammy: Sick absence figures are contained in the annual report "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office. Table 3-4: AWDL for small and micro Departments of the report gives details of both the average working days absence per staff year and the total staff years for each department. The most recent report for the calendar year 2005 is available in the Library of the House. This report and those from 1999 are available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupationalhealth/publications/index.asp

Digital Broadcasting: BBC

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the BBC has spent on producing and broadcasting televisual content for digital transmission. [142845]

Mr. Woodward: This is a matter for the BBC. I have therefore asked the BBC's Director of Finance to consider the question raised by my hon. Friend and to write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when the BBC commenced broadcasting digital television. [142846]

Mr. Woodward: Sky Digital launched on 1 October 1998, followed by ONDigital on 15 November the same year. Both of these offerings included BBC services.

Digital Broadcasting: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance her Department has provided to residents of rural areas in Copeland in advance of digital switchover in October. [142802]

Mr. Woodward: According to the Digital UK/Ofcom Q1 2007 Tracker, awareness across the UK is higher in rural areas than in urban areas (88 per cent. in rural areas compared to 81 per cent. in urban areas). All households in the Copeland area will receive a doordrop in the next month as part of the ongoing communications campaign to drive up awareness in the final three months before switchover.

Digital UK run drop-in sessions in places throughout Copeland including the rural areas of Moor Row, Seascale, Parton and Eskdale.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance her Department has provided to tenants *(a)* of private landlords and *(b)* in social housing in preparation for digital switchover in Copeland in October. [142803]

Mr. Woodward: Private tenants cannot be identified by name or address. To communicate with tenants and residents, Digital UK has distributed a specific leaflet to libraries and CAB in the area, and on its website. Digital UK ran an advertising campaign targeting tenants in the *Whitehaven News*, letting them know where to find the leaflet. Digital UK provided particular information to tenants and residents in the Switchover supplement in the *Whitehaven News* on March 15, which is also available for download on the *Whitehaven News* website. In addition, Digital UK has written to the main lettings agents in the area with a letter and a factsheet about switchover, with a request to copy to their lists of tenants and landlords.

For tenants in social housing, all providers in the area have been contacted twice, including close contact with Copeland Homes, and followed up by a phone call or visit, if they had no plans. In addition, all care homes in the area have been identified, written to and contact made.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assistance her Department has provided to *(a)* schools, *(b)* hospitals and *(c)* other public facilities in Copeland in preparation for digital switchover in October. [142804]

Mr. Woodward: Digital UK have prepared a teaching pack for primary schools which 92 per cent. of schools in Copeland have agreed to use.

Digital UK and the relevant central Government Departments have also been proactively contacting local service providers, including West Cumberland hospital, to ensure they are aware of the need to prepare for switchover.

A number of other public facilities are used by Digital UK to convey communication material including local libraries, churches, the local newspaper *Whitehaven News*, social and community groups, West Cumbria Older People's Forum, Copeland Disability Forum and the Women's Institute.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much revenue was raised by television licence fees in the area of Copeland in which digital switchover will take place in October in the latest period for which figures are available. [142840]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is not held centrally. The BBC has statutory responsibility for the administration of the television licensing system and TV Licensing carries out day to day administration under contract to the corporation. I have therefore asked the BBC's Head of Revenue Management to consider the question raised by the hon. Member and to write to him direct. Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the elderly population of Copeland is *(a)* aware of the need to make their televisions digitally compatible, *(b)* assisted to undertake this exercise and *(c)* protected from unfair practices by digital television retailers and installers of related equipment; and if she will make a statement. [142757]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 14 June 2007]*: The Digital UK/Ofcom Tracker data for Q1 2007 shows that 97 per cent. of people in Copeland are aware of switchover. The indicative awareness figure for those aged 55 plus in Copeland is 98 per cent. compared to 92 per cent. of 16-34 year olds. In addition to working with major charities assisting elderly people such as Age Concern, Digital UK is communicating directly with elderly residents in the area.

All households in the area, including older people, have received the Border leaflet, a letter about the switchover, and will receive a leaflet three months out with detailed information on how to switch. Households will also receive a reminder one month prior to switchover. Captions are appearing on TV screens to remind people of the date of switchover.

Developed by the DTI and promoted by Digital UK, the 'digital tick' logo is used by all major electrical retailers and manufacturers to mark digital television equipment (TVs, set-top boxes and recorders). Retailers will be the first port of call for many consumers. Digital UK has developed a Switchover Training scheme for retail staff, which is being used by thousands of staff nationwide. Trained staff can be identified by badges carrying the 'digital tick' logo. All four retailers in the area have agreed to train all their staff in the next one-two months.

In order to contact those eligible for the Help scheme, all households and care homes were sent a Help scheme letter, leaflet and a form informing them about the Help scheme.

Digital UK recently held a seminar with senior representatives from Trading Standards, police, the Home Office, key charities and others in the consumer protection sector to give a thorough airing to consumer protection issues and to progress effective practices and protocols to counter sharp practice such as rogue trading, distraction burglary and scams. Further seminars are arranged for this summer and in the meantime a number of protection initiatives are under way.

Digital Broadcasting: Government Assistance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of UK households eligible for assistance in switching over to digital television will be required to pay to access assistance; what type of assistance will be available to each group; and what charges will be made to those eligible. [142674]

Mr. Woodward *[holding answer 14 June 2007]*: Of the UK households eligible for assistance from the Digital Switchover Help scheme, we estimate that 55 per cent. will be required to pay for it. This help will comprise the provision of the appropriate equipment to convert one TV set and, where necessary, the relevant help to install and use such equipment and an aerial installation. The level of charge will be £40.

Newspaper Press: Competition

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward measures to increase competition in the newspaper industry; and if she will make a statement. [139649]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

The UK has in place a robust regime for the promotion of effective competition in all markets and for the effective control of mergers. The UK's independent competition regulators, the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition Commission, have powers to enforce the prohibitions in competition law on anti-competitive agreements and behaviour and to investigate markets and take appropriate action to remedy problems that may exist in those markets. They also have powers to assess the effect of mergers on competition in relevant markets. For mergers involving newspapers or other media enterprises, there is also provision under the Enterprise Act 2002 for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry to intervene in order to require a separate consideration of the effect of the merger on the public interest—including on the plurality of different persons having control of media enterprises.

Sports: Clubs

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how many *(a)* sporting, *(b)* aero-modelling, *(c)* bowling and *(d)* model flying clubs have opted out of accepting anyone under the age of 18 years old as a member in the last two years; [142464]

(2) how many instructors at model flying clubs have ceased to instruct children in the last two years. [142465]

Mr. Caborn: Neither my Department nor Sport England hold this information.

DEFENCE

War Pensions/Armed Forces Compensation Scheme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* war pensions and *(b)* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme claims were settled by the Veterans Agency within 50 working days in each year since 2001. [139621]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The information requested for the War Pensions Scheme (WPS) is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS) was only introduced in April 2005, consequently information is only held from that date. From 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006, 89.9 per cent. of cases were cleared within 50 days. For the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, 87.3 per cent. of cases were cleared within 50 days.

The WPS Key target for 2006-07; to reduce the average time it takes to issue decisions on claims to war pensions to no more than 53 working days, was exceeded with an achievement of 49 working days. The AFCS key target for 2006-07; to issue decisions on AFCS claims in average of no more than 35 working days; was exceeded with an achievement of 34 working days.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who is responsible for carrying out inspections of family accommodation at Pirbright barracks. [141843]

Derek Twigg: Inspections on Service Families Accommodation at Pirbright are carried out by representatives of Modern Housing Solutions, the Housing Prime Contractor.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of family accommodation at Pirbright barracks is *(a)* currently unoccupied and *(b)* unfit for occupation. [141844]

Derek Twigg: 21 per cent. of Service Families Accommodation (SFA) at Pirbright (105 properties) are currently unoccupied, of which 67 properties (13 per cent. of the total SFA stock at Pirbright) are unavailable for occupation.

The 67 properties include those under offer to or accepted by a service family; is awaiting return to Annington Homes Ltd in accordance with the 1996 Sale Agreement; is awaiting maintenance or upgrade work; or is held pending a future deployment of service personnel into the area.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average wait for repairs to be carried out on family accommodation at Pirbright barracks was in the latest period for which figures are available. [141846]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions newly arriving service personnel and their families have arrived at Pirbright barracks to find that their accommodation was uninhabitable in the last 12 months. [141851]

Derek Twigg: None.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many reported break ins to forces' accommodation there were in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142101]

Derek Twigg: From information held by the service police the reported break-ins for each year are:

	Reported break-ins
1997	1,650
1998	1,619
1999	1,334
2000	1,369
2001	1,204
2002	1,535
2003	1,732

	Reported break-ins
2004	1,354
2005	933
2006	729
2007	[1]260

[1] To date.

These figures do not include incidents which are not reported to the service police by the Home Department Police Forces or the Ministry of Defence Police, who do not differentiate service accommodation from other types of residence.

Medical Assessment Programme

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on referrals by the Medical Assessment Programme in each year since it was established. [142855]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The cost of running the Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) itself over the last financial year, excluding any onward referrals, was approximately £150,000. This included the cost of premises, staff, and the expenses for individual referrals.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel staff the Medical Assessment Programme for *(a)* mental and *(b)* physical health; and what increases are planned in each area. [142856]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* Since 2005, two members of staff have been working at the Medical Assessment Programme (MAP). Dr. Ian Palmer has been working one day a week at the MAP for nearly a year in addition to duties within the NHS. He will now be employed at the MAP on a full-time basis to see patients referred for mental or general health assessments. Dr. Palmer is a general practitioner and a consultant psychiatrist with a military background. He is supported in his role by his full-time secretary. We will monitor carefully the number of referrals and increase the staff resources, if required.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans from *(a)* the 1990-91 Gulf War, *(b)* Operation Telic and *(c)* other operations have passed through the Medical Assessment Programme. [142854]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* As at 12 June 2007, some 3,500 1990-91 Gulf veterans (including civilians), 41 Operation Telic veterans, and 138 Porton Down volunteers have attended the Medical Assessment Programme. Many of those concerned will also have taken part in other operations but this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Winter Sports

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report,* column 1182W, on armed forces: winter sports, how much public money was spent on the Army Ski Championship 2007; which commercial sponsors the event had; how the Chief of the General Staff travelled to the event; what the cost was of that travel; which senior officers attended the event; and how those senior officers travelled to the event. [140090]

Derek Twigg: The public contribution to the running of the 2007 Army Ski Championships amounted to £22,000, which paid for the transportation of equipment. The commercial sponsors for the event were Norwich Union and BAE Systems. Land Rover loaned three vehicles free of charge for use by the Army Skiing Championships during the event. Mitsubishi Motors also loaned a vehicle free of charge for use to the Chairman of the Army Winter Sports Association (AWSA) for the duration of the Championships. The championships were held in Chantmerle in South East France.

The Chief of the General Staff, accompanied by his Aide de Camp, flew from the UK to Germany and was driven from there to the championships, subsequently returning by air from Turin to the UK. The total cost for air travel was £1,705.60. CGS' driver travelled separately, driving one of the Land Rovers, incurring costs of £145 for the Eurotunnel crossing and approximately £375 on fuel. Hotel costs for the party amounted to £935.65.

Senior officers have been taken to mean those of the rank of Brigadier and above. In addition to Chief of the General Staff, nine such officers attended and these individuals are listed. All travelled by air unless otherwise stated.

Assistant Chief of the General Staff (designate), travelled at his own cost; General Officer Commanding, United Kingdom Support Command (Germany), accompanied by his Aide de Camp and driver, attending in his capacity as Chairman of the AWSA, travelled in a sponsored vehicle provided for the event at no public cost;

Director Royal Artillery;

Director Infantry;

Director Army Aviation; Director Royal Logistics Corps;

Director Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (Army);

Director Development, Concept and Doctrine Centre Land; travelled to/from the championships by car from Germany, subsequently returning by air to the UK);

Chief G7 Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, attending in his capacity as Chairman of Army Alpine Skiing, travelled to/from the championships by car from Germany.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [142206]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence purchased some 133 GWh of electricity from renewable energy sources in financial year 2005-06. This amount represents 6 per cent. of the Department's total electricity consumption for the year in question

and is reported in the Sustainable Development Commission's Sustainable Development in Government Report 2006.

A copy of the report is available in the Library of the House.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his strategy is for renewable energy and meeting energy targets in departmental buildings; and if he will make a statement. [142209]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has agreed to achieve the Sustainable Operations on the Government estate key target to source at least 10 per cent. of its electricity from renewable sources by 31 March 2010.

We are developing a departmental strategy to maximise energy supply from renewable sources and this is expected to be completed in late 2007. Priorities include: procurement of more electricity from renewable sources; supporting the use of sites for renewable energy systems, where appropriate; and providing renewable energy systems for buildings where it is technically and economically feasible.

We are also discussing alternative sources of fuel and technology through our partnership agreement with the Carbon Trust.

Housing

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of *(a)* 19 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1364W, and *(b)* 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 688W, on housing, (1) when he expects to provide the information; [141239]

(2) when he expects to be able to provide the information requested. [130503]

Derek Twigg: I wrote to the hon. Member today. I apologise for the delay.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

GCSE

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of children in *(a)* grammar, *(b)* local authority, *(c)* church and *(d)* academy schools obtained five GCSEs including English and mathematics at A*-C in London in each of the last five years. [128657]

Jim Knight: The answers to parts *(a)*, *(b)* and *(c)* are given in the following table:

Percentage of 15[1]-year-olds obtaining five or more GCSEs at Grades A-C including English and Maths GCSE in London Government office region*

School type	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Grammar schools	100.0	98.8	98.1	98.6	99.1
Faith schools	56.9	54.4	52.4	49.9	57.0
Maintained schools	38.5	39.3	41.0	43.3	45.3

[1] Aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
Source:
School and college achievement and attainment tables

Data for academies are given in a time series showing each academy's performance over the past five years where applicable. Individual academies are provided because there are only a small number of academies in London and there is a different sized cohort each year.

Percentage of 15[1]-year-olds obtaining five or more GCSEs at Grades A-C including English and Maths GCSE in city academies in London Government office region*

School name	Year open	2003[2]	2004[2]	2005[2]	2006[2]
The Business Academy Bexley	2002	15	13	16	27
Greig City Academy	2002	19	10	10	15
City of London Academy (Southwark)	2003	—	n/a	0	0
The Academy at Peckham	2003	—	10	18	23
Capital City Academy	2003	—	17	11	18
West London Academy	2003	—	8	11	25
Mossbourne Community Academy	2004	—	—	0	0
Lambeth Academy	2004	—	—	n/a	0
London Academy	2004	—	—	24	32
Stockley Academy	2004	—	—	9	16
St. Paul's Academy	2005	—	—	—	39
Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College	2005	—	—	—	91
Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	2005	—	—	—	14
The Harefield Academy	2005	—	—	—	31

n/a = figures not available.
[1] Aged 15 at the start of the academic year, i.e. 31 August.
[2]2003 includes GCSEs and GNVQs. 2004 onwards includes GCSEs and all equivalents.

Head Teachers: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many vacancies for head teachers there are in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [125466]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

In East Sussex local authority, there were two full-time head teacher vacancies in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools in January 2006, the latest information available.

The figure given shows advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration) including those being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.

Home Education: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils are home-schooled in *(a)* Greater London, *(b)* the London borough of Havering and *(c)* Romford. [134547]

Jim Knight: Parents may exercise their right to educate their children at home on a temporary or permanent basis. We do not collect information about the numbers of children whose parents provide education at home, and it would be impractical to do so given the transient nature of some of this type of provision. A recent study on the prevalence of home education in England, conducted by York Consulting estimated that there were around 16,000 children being educated at home that were known to the local authority. We have not made any estimate of the number of home educated children that are not known to their local authority.

Local Education Authorities: Transport

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many education authorities provide subsidised public transport for their staff. [132311]

Jim Knight: The Department for Education and Skills does not hold any information on the number of education authorities that provide subsidised public transport for their staff.

Mathematics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* independent and *(b)* maintained secondary schools entered candidates for the additional mathematics qualification in 2006. [117652]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table.

Qualification type	*Maintained*	*Independent*
Additional Maths A-level	25	46
Proportion of A-level student students[1]	0.017	0.132
Additional Maths GCSE	239	74
Proportion of GCSE students[2]	0.040	0.152

[1] The proportion of A-level students is calculated as a percentage of 16 to 18-year-old pupils entered for a level 3 qualification.
[2] The proportion of GCSE students is calculated as a percentage of pupils at the end of key stage 4.

Private Education: GCE A-level

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of grade A A-levels in *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* physics, *(c)* chemistry, *(d)* English, *(e)* French and *(f)* German awarded in England were awarded to pupils at fee-paying independent schools in each of the last three years. [126877]

Jim Knight: The proportion of A-level A grades awarded to students[1] at independent fee paying schools for the subjects requested are in the following table.

[1] Students aged 16-18 at the start of the academic year (i.e. 31 August).

	2003/04	*2004/05*	*Percentage 2005/06*
Mathematics[1]	37	37	36
Physics	39	37	38
Chemistry	40	39	37
English	28	26	24
French	46	46	44
German	47	44	44

[1] Includes further mathematics.

Pupil Referral Units: Curriculum

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupil referral units offer on their curriculum *(a)* English and mathematics, *(b)* English and mathematics and at least one science, *(c)* English and mathematics and ITC, *(d)* English and mathematics and PSHE, *(e)* English and mathematics, at least one science and ITC, *(f)* English, mathematics, at least one science and PSHE, *(g)* English, mathematics, one science, ITC and PSHE and *(h)* a full national curriculum. [133650]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Pupils: Insulin

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what steps he is taking to ensure that there are sufficient facilities for school students who require insulin injections during the school day to have the necessary medical support in schools; [126521]

(2) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of levels of provision of trained personnel in schools to support the health needs of children; [126522]

(3) what guidance his Department gives to schools on the administration to students of insulin injections during the school day. [126524]

Jim Knight: The DfES and DH have jointly recommended to schools, in 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' (2005) that they should, with support from their local authority and local health professionals, develop policies on managing medicines and put in place effective management systems to support individual children with medical needs, including diabetes. The guidance advises that schools should have sufficient support staff who are trained to manage medicines as part of their duties. We have no plans to monitor training of school staff in this specific area.

Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Board

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what external interests have been declared by each member of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority Board. [130219]

Jim Knight: Each member of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Board completes a register of interests. This is available from QCA.

Unique Learner Number

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the progress of the unique learner number being developed for all school leavers. [126636]

Jim Knight: The internet based Learner Registration Service (LRS), which will assign the unique learner number will be launched in September 2007. The service will be available for everyone over the age of 14 in education and training.

Schools: Complaints

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what monitoring procedures are in place to ensure that his Department's guidance on school complaints procedures, LEA/01/0180/2003, is adhered to by schools and governing bodies. [127413]

Jim Knight: All governing bodies must establish and publicise a complaints procedure for the school. The extent to which the governing body has complied with this duty is part of the school's self evaluation process which underpins the current Ofsted inspection regime. At least once every three years Ofsted inspectors seek to validate the school's evaluation of its strengths and weaknesses through inspection. No separate monitoring procedures are in place to ensure schools comply with the Department's guidance on schools complaints procedures.

School: Sanitation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take steps to encourage local education authorities to make the upgrading of school toilet and washroom facilities integral to local asset management plans for schools. [137733]

Jim Knight: Guidance was published by the Department in April with recommendations on the specification of toilet blocks in secondary schools that will help tackle bullying in schools. New designs to be used in all Building Schools for the Future Schools will make toilets more attractive, cleaner and safer for pupils to use.

Research on the use of 2006 devolved formula capital shows that around a fifth of schools have improved toilets each year from 2003-04 to 2006-07.

In the first term of government, the last 450 schools with outside toilets had them replaced.

The bulk of schools capital is allocated by formula to authorities and schools so that they can address their local asset management planning priorities, including the upgrading of toilet and washroom facilities.

Central Government capital support for investment in schools has increased from under £700 million in 1996-97 to £6.4 billion in 2007-08 and will rise further to £8.0 billion by 2010-11. Progress is being made year-by-year in improving the quality of the school building stock. Given the high levels of funding, authorities have the opportunity to upgrade toilets.

Schools: Yorkshire

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on how many occasions in each of the last two years a pupil at each state secondary school in Yorkshire has been found to be in possession of *(a)* a weapon and *(b)* narcotics on school premises. [129683]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold this information.

Teachers: Training

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many overseas trained teachers there are in each London borough; how many of these have not enrolled in training courses for qualified teacher status in each borough; and if he will make a statement. [135603]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 8 May 2007]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

In 2005-06 information from the Training and Development Agency for Schools shows that there were 1,330 teachers in England on the Overseas Trained Teacher Programme, the employment-based route to qualified teacher status for these teachers.

Vocational Training

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many 14 to 16-year-olds received vocational training which included time away from the classroom during school hours in the last period for which figures are available. [110622]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many single farm payments have been reduced as a result of failures to meet good agricultural and environmental conditions required by cross-compliance; and how many of these failures relate to agricultural practices that place drinking water, rivers, and wetlands at risk of pollution. [141701]

Barry Gardiner: Under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme year, there were 54 payments reduced as a result of claimants failing to demonstrate that they were keeping their land in good agricultural and environmental condition. None of these failures were related to agricultural practices that led to any risk of pollution. However there were four non-compliances found which could have lead to a pollution risk and these claimants received warning letters.

There were 106 payments reduced as a result of claimants failing to adhere to the Statutory Management Requirements concerning Groundwater

and Nitrate Vulnerable Zones. A further six such non-compliances found merited warning letters for the claimants concerned.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1033W, on bovine tuberculosis (TB), what recommendations he received on bovine TB and badger culling at those meetings; and if he will make a statement. [142341]

Mr. Bradshaw: A range of views and suggestions on bovine TB and badger culling, among other issues, were discussed with Ministers and officials at meetings with interested parties in August 2006.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* false positives and *(b)* false negatives resulting from tuberculosis testing of the UK cattle population. [142136]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to establish such data other than as part of a research programme where all animals are slaughtered and the disease status of each animal can be irrefutably established. No such technique is available but immunological tests are considered the best indicator of infected status.

There are two immunologically based diagnostic tests used in the Great Britain (GB) bovine tuberculosis (bTB) testing programme. The primary screening test for bTB in cattle in the UK (and Ireland) is the single intradermal comparative cervical tuberculin (SICCT) test, which is commonly known as the tuberculin "skin test". In October 2006, the Government extended the use of the gamma interferon (g-IFN) diagnostic blood test, alongside the skin test (as permitted by EU legislation), in certain prescribed circumstances.

Research shows that when the skin test is applied to cattle in bTB-free herds in GB there is a one in 1,000 chance that a non-infected animal will be wrongly classified as a reactor. This is known as the test's false positive rate. An alternative way of defining this is to say that the skin test has a specificity of 99.9 per cent. Although the probability of getting at least one false positive result increases with the size of the herd being tested, it would be extremely rare to find more than one false positive in any herd. The skin test is designed to detect an immune response at a relatively early stage in the infection process. Therefore, the percentage of test reactors without visible tuberculous lesions is not an indicator of the false positive rate for this test.

Various studies have shown that the sensitivity of the skin test (i.e. its ability to identify infected animals as positives) varies between 77 per cent. and 95 per cent., i.e. it can be expected to miss about one or two in every 10 infected cattle on a single round of testing (10-20 per cent. false negative rate).

For all diagnostic tests there is a trade off between sensitivity and specificity, so different interpretations of the test can be used under different disease situations. Sensitivity is enhanced in herds with post-mortem or culture-confirmed infection by application of severe interpretation.

With regard to the g-IFN blood test, performance evaluation carried out in a number of countries shows that at the laboratory cut offs used in GB, it has a sensitivity comparable to or marginally better than that of the SICCT (between 73 and 100 per cent., with a median value of about 87 per cent.). Because the two tests detect slightly different sub-groups of infected cattle, by combining the two tests a higher overall sensitivity can be achieved. A trial in GB, established to evaluate the specificity of the blood test, confirmed the findings of previous studies by concluding that the commercially available blood test had a specificity of between 95-97 per cent. (i.e. there is a likelihood that slightly more false positive reactors are identified when the gamma test is applied, as opposed to the skin test). It is for these reasons that the g-IFN blood test cannot be used for routine surveillance and is best used in parallel in infected herds to maximise the detection of infected animals.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to date to try to reach the UK target of a 20 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions by 2010 compared with 1990; and what further steps it intends to take. [142112]

Ian Pearson: The UK Climate Change programme, revised in 2006, sets out the Government's policies and measures to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions up to 2010. The target to reduce emissions to 20 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010 was always designed to be stretching and as we have acknowledged, it looks increasingly difficult to achieve.

Our latest projections, published in the recent Energy White Paper, suggest that our CO_2 emissions, including the impact of the EU Emissions Trading scheme, could fall to about 16 per cent. below 1990 levels by 2010. This would represent definite progress towards the domestic target. It would also mean that we had reduced our emissions of the basket of greenhouse gases to more than 23 per cent. below base year levels, a percentage reduction almost double what we are required to achieve under the Kyoto protocol.

However, it does show why we need to do much more to reduce emissions. The long-term framework that the Climate Change Bill will provide, and the new measures announced in the Energy White Paper, which will further reduce emissions up to 2020, are therefore essential.

If every household, business and community took measures to reduce their CO_2 emissions by reducing energy used in the home and in buildings, and by changing how journeys are made, we could still make further progress towards our 2010 target. The Government are continuing to encourage and enable those choices and changes in behaviour through initiatives such as the "Act on CO_2" campaign, and by funding the work of the Carbon Trust and Energy Saving Trust.

Carbon Price

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his policy is on the level of carbon price which should be used to calculate emission limits for the EU Emissions Trading Scheme; [142104]

(2) what the price of carbon is; and what assessment he has made of trends in the price of carbon over the last 12 months. [142105]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not set or seek a particular price for carbon allowances. Under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, the Government set a cap on the total emissions that may be emitted by the installations covered by the scheme in the UK, as does every other member state for their installations. The total EU cap sets a limit on allowances available in the market and the demand for allowances from installations to cover their emissions then determines the price.

The price for a carbon allowance for one tonne of CO_2 in phase I carbon price was €0.24 at market close on 12 June. The forward price for phase II 2008 allowances was €22.61 at close on 12 June.

Climate Change: Young People

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on extending the climate change champions young ambassadors scheme to Wales. [141620]

Ian Pearson: We have announced our intention to hold a second climate change champions competition. Initial discussions on whether the Welsh Assembly Government might like to run an extension of the competition have taken place at official level and these discussions will be taken further as we develop our plans.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137705]

Barry Gardiner: People without posts are required to join DEFRA's Priority Movers List. There are currently 136 staff on the Priority Movers List. Staff on the Priority Movers List have access to vacancies within DEFRA before they are advertised more widely and management support is given to staff without posts in order to maximise redeployment opportunities. Staff are engaged on short-term projects within the Department while looking for permanent positions.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in the Pesticides Safety Directorate are classified as people without posts. [141638]

Ian Pearson: I assume the hon. Member is referring to the number of staff employed by Pesticides Safety Directorate (PSD) for which the agency does not have the funding or who are deemed to be surplus to existing requirements. PSD has no such staff.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140035]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, the amount (including VAT) paid by core DEFRA in each financial year commencing with 2002-03, when information was first available, is shown in the following table.

	£
2002-03	684,795.34
2003-04	1,106,361.08
2004-05	447,712.00
2005-06	999,207.53
2006-07	1,418,359.43

Expenditure by DEFRA's Executive agencies is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

DEFRA's use of recruitment agencies is limited to recruiting specialist and senior posts requiring specialist skills which are not readily available internally and therefore requires recruitment of the right talent and experience from outside of the organisation.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the UK Government's assessment is of the effectiveness of *(a)* the total level of permitted emissions and *(b)* the national distribution of permits under the EU Emissions Trading scheme; [142108]

(2) what new limit of total carbon output the UK Government are seeking for the 2008 European Emissions Trading scheme. [142113]

Ian Pearson: In Phase I (2005-07) of the EU Emissions Trading scheme (EU ETS), the UK National Allocation plan (NAP) is set to deliver emission savings of 65 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO_2). For Phase II (2008-12), our cap is set to deliver emission savings of 145 million tonnes of CO_2 over a five year period. Overall, the EU member states have to date emitted around 220MtCO_2 below the total cap.

The results to date have shown the trading mechanism and institutional framework is viable and functioning as envisaged. We believe this is a solid base on which to build for the future. In the UK, compliance has been excellent. In 2006, all operators surrendered sufficient allowances within the deadlines. There have been no successful legal challenges to the national distribution of allowances.

In Phase II, the cap on the total number of allowances allocated to installations in the UK will be 246.17 million allowances (tonnes of CO_2) each year. The EU ETS however, is a trading scheme and under the scheme rules, operators may emit more or less than the allocated amount and purchase or sell allowances to meet their requirements.

Eunomia Consultancy

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of each report that the Eunomia consultancy has produced for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [104097]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following reports have been produced by Eunomia for core-DEFRA. Placing copies of the Reports in the Libraries of the House would cost in excess of £4,000. On this occasion therefore a website link for each Report has been added.

Municipal Waste Management Strategies and the Land Use Planning System for Waste in England—A Report to DEFRA and ODPM

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=270

London borough of Hackney: Recycling and Waste Minimisation Strategy Review and Recycling and Composting Collection Options Analysis

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=278

Somerset Waste Partnership: Contract For Recycling and Refuse Collection

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=286

Somerset County Council: BPEO Analysis for Residual Waste In Somerset. Reports on Costs

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=271

Western Riverside: Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy-Action plans

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=281

Calderdale: Options Appraisal for Residual Waste. Final Report to Calderdale MBC

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=275

A Report for Allerdale Borough Council: Bulky Goods Collections-Waste Minimisation

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=273

London Borough of Ealing: Options for Incentivising Kerbside Recycling and Cost Modelling

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=276

London Borough of Enfield: Options for Reducing Residual Kerbside Collected Refuse and Cost Modelling

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=277

Barnet: Compulsory Recycling Scheme—Review and Second Phase Roll Out Plan

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=274

Shropshire Municipal Waste Management Strategy

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=279

London Borough of Barnet Waste Prevention Strategy 2005-2015

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=282

Hertfordshire Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=284

Leicestershire Strategy Consultation

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=283

Somerset Procurement—Contract Integration

http://lasupport.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=ViewArticle&ArticleID=280

A Practice Guide for the Development of Municipal Waste Management Strategies

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/waste/localauth/practice-guidance/index..htm

The core-Department does not hold copies centrally of any report that Eunomia has produced for its agencies.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many foreign-registered vessels have pair trawled within the UK's 12 mille limit in each month since the ban on British pair trawlers inside the 12 mile limit was implemented. [142156]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the total number of foreign vessels that have pair trawled within the UK 12 mile limit in this period is not available, since their countries of registration are not required to submit this information to us and it is not possible for our own enforcement authorities to inspect all such vessels at all times.

However, the number of pairs of foreign vessels which have been confirmed from our own inspections at sea and other sightings as engaging in pair trawling within the UK 12 mile limit is set out in the following table. This includes the proportion of pairs of foreign vessels which were observed in ICES area VIIe, within which the English ban on pair trawling applies.

Year/month	*UK (pairs)*	*Total within ICES area VIIe*
2005		
February	2	2
April	3	1
December	6	0
2006		
April	1	1
July	1	1
August	1	0
November	1	0
2007		
February	1	1
April	1	1

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions

he has had with his *(a)* Scottish, *(b)* Welsh and *(c)* Northern Ireland counterparts on UK fisheries since May 2007; and if he will make a statement. [142306]

Mr. Bradshaw: I met with my Scottish counterpart, Richard Lochhead, on 6 June in advance of the 11-12 June Agriculture and Fisheries Council. He also accompanied me to the Council itself and we had regular discussions as the negotiations developed.

I have not met my counterparts from Wales and Northern Ireland on fisheries matters since May 2007. My officials are however in regular contact with their counterparts from the devolved administrations on fisheries matters to ensure a coherent UK line.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the timetable outlined in Annex III of the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on a Community Action Plan to reduce discards of fish (COM(2002)656 final), dated 26 November 2002 has been met; and if he will make a statement. [142313]

Mr. Bradshaw: There hasn't been the detailed analysis at Community level of the various options identified in the report that was anticipated. However, the more recent Commission Communication takes the discussion forward, to reflect those developments which have occurred in the interim, like increased data on the scale of the problem (and its geographical and fisheries distribution) and the application of technical measures to improve selectivity.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent on fisheries enforcement in each year since 1997. [142314]

Mr. Bradshaw: UK expenditure on fisheries enforcement including monitoring control and surveillance on land, at sea, aerial surveillance and satellite monitoring is set out in the following table:

	£ million
1997	[1]
1998	24.0
1999	24.8
2000	24.8
2001	25.7
2002	23.9
2003	24.6
2004	25.4
2005	26.8
2006	26.6

[1] Files not available to confirm figures.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament: A Policy to reduce unwanted by-catches and eliminate discards in European fisheries (COM(2007) 136 final) dated 28 March 2007; and if he will make a statement. [142337]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government welcome what they consider to be a forward-thinking and radical paper, focusing on the single issue that does most to discredit the Common Fisheries Policy in the eyes of the public.

It is particularly welcome that the Commission has focussed on the economic incentives on fishermen that give rise to discarding—it is only if we focus on these that we will find solutions that work.

But much greater thought is needed on practical implementation, particularly in relation to the concept of a discard ban. The Communication underplays significantly the enforcement problems and associated costs that a complete ban would bring, especially in the mixed fisheries found in waters all around the UK. The UK looks forward to participating actively in that additional work. We must also involve stakeholders to ensure the measures are effective in practice.

Fuels: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the relative carbon emission profiles of *(a)* kerosene, *(b)* wood, *(c)* coal, *(d)* electricity, *(e)* natural gas and *(f)* liquefied petroleum gas when used as domestic fuels. [142512]

Ian Pearson: The following table shows CO_2 emissions per unit of energy consumed, and total emissions, from fuels in the domestic sector.

The second column refers to emissions per unit energy consumed, in kilograms of carbon dioxide per gigajoule (GJ), and the third column contains total UK emissions from the use of the corresponding fuel in the domestic sector, in million tonnes of carbon dioxide. The data include emissions associated with the fuel production, for example at power stations, refineries, and in the transportation of wood fuel.

The data in the table refer to the geographical coverage of the United Kingdom.

CO_2 emissions from the domestic sector in 2005

Fuel	*Emissions per unit of energy consumed ($kgCO_2/GJ$) including emissions associated with production*	*Total emissions including emissions associated with production ($MtCO_2$)*
Burning oil[1]	75.40	8.16
Wood[2]	6.94	0.06
Coal	82.59	0.76
Anthracite	89.18	0.953
Electricity	146.27	61.30
Natural gas	52.26	71.84
LPG	66.72	0.98

[1] The UK GHG inventory reports the use of domestic kerosene under burning oil, following the classification used by the DTI.
[2] Wood figures include the effect of absorption of CO_2 during the lifetime of the tree.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements are in place to ensure that contamination of non-genetically modified (GM) potato crops *(a)* via

GM volunteers and *(b)* otherwise (i) is minimised and (ii) is detected if it occurs. [142665]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* It is assumed that this question relates to the statutory consents granted to BASF to conduct trials of GM disease-resistant potatoes. The consents specify a number of detailed conditions to ensure that a GM presence does not arise in conventional potato crops. These include appropriate requirements on managing volunteers, crop separation, monitoring and reporting. Compliance with the consent conditions will be checked by the DEFRA GM Inspectorate.

Landfill: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department and its agencies have made of changes in the cost of waste collection and disposal to local authorities of *(a)* increased landfill tax since 1997 and *(b)* the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme. [142172]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government take account of the impacts of landfill tax and the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) when allocating local government funding. In the 2004 Spending Review (which takes us through to 2007-08), revenues from the landfill tax escalator were recycled back to local councils via Revenue Support Grant. Decisions on future funding will be taken in the context of this year's Comprehensive Spending Review.

It is not possible to simply attribute a proportion of the actual costs of waste collection and disposal to landfill tax or LATS. These economic instruments influence local government behaviour, and were they not in place, local authorities would pursue different waste management choices with different cost implications.

The net current expenditure on waste collection and disposal by local authorities in each year for which figures are available since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Net current expenditure on waste collection and disposal

	Amount (£000)
1998-99	1,281,919
1999-2000	1,423,278
2000-01	1,521,338
2001-02	1,653,856
2002-03	1,806,684
2003-04	2,004,139
2004-05	2,190,937
2005-06	2,442,267

Source:
Local Authority Revenue Outturn Returns

Odour Pollution

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many orders have been served by local authorities to tackle problems of odour in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [141693]

(2) how many orders have been served by the Environment Agency to tackle problems of odour in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [141694]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency (EA) is responsible for regulating and inspecting sites that fall under a number of environmental regulatory systems, including the waste management licensing system and the pollution prevention and control regime. The EA's national enforcement database records details of EA enforcement action, however, these records do not differentiate between different types of offences. The information requested is therefore not available due to the disproportionate cost involved.

Local authorities also have power to issue notices in relation to odour problems under the pollution prevention and control regime. However, data collected are similarly restricted to the total number of notices issued by local authorities relating to any regulatory matter on emissions from designated Part A2 and B installations. A breakdown of notices served by local authorities solely for odour offences is therefore also not available.

DEFRA currently does not collate statistics on the number of statutory nuisance abatement notices served by local authorities to tackle odours, under section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. Local authorities do not have a duty to collect this data.

Private Sewers

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the consultation paper on how private sewers and drains will be transferred to the sewerage undertakers; and if he will make a statement. [143282]

Ian Pearson: A public consultation will take place over the summer on the implementation options for the transfer of private sewers to water and sewerage companies. This will also consider questions of the scope of transfer and the prevention of new private sewers.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government intends to take to ensure the independence of the successor body to the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management. [141781]

Ian Pearson: The reconstituted Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) will be appointed as an advisory non-departmental public body, according to the Code of Practice of the Commissioner of Public Appointments, as was the original CoRWM Committee. It will therefore be independent of Government or any other interest.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what meetings he has held with the *(a)* Environment Agency, *(b)* the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and *(c)* Office of Civil Nuclear Security on the new arrangements for the

setting of packaging standards for radioactive waste; and if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of such meetings. [141796]

Ian Pearson: No such meetings were held by the Secretary of State. However, as stated in his announcement of 25 October, the independent environment and nuclear safety regulators believe that this proposal to nominate the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) as the geological disposal facility implementing body provides a framework that they can regulate in a strong and effective manner. They are content that the NDA will be responsible for implementing the geological disposal programme, within the constitutional arrangements described. The regulators' support is of major importance, as strong independent regulation is key both to ensuring the safety of people and the environment and to securing confidence and trust in the delivery arrangements.

Recycling: Odour Pollution

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what level of odours from green waste recycling centres his Department classifies as acceptable; and if he will make a statement. [141683]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European waste framework directive (2006/12/EC) requires member states to ensure that waste is recovered or disposed of without endangering human health and without using process or methods which could harm the environment. This includes without causing a nuisance through odours.

The level of odour emission acceptable from green waste recycling centres depends on a number of factors, including the nature of the activity and the regulatory regime within which it operates and the proximity of those that may be affected. Where the activity is subject to a waste management licence, the prevention of odour may be imposed by way of conditions to that licence. This requirement may be monitored qualitatively or quantitatively by the operator and assessed by regulators on a case-by-case basis.

In addition, section 79 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on local authorities to inspect their areas periodically to detect any statutory nuisances that may exist or are likely to occur or recur. There is also a duty to take reasonably practicable steps to investigate complaints of statutory nuisance. Odour may be considered as a statutory nuisance if it is considered to be

"any dust, steam, smell or other effluvia arising on industrial, trade or business premises and being prejudicial to health or a nuisance".

Operations regulated through the waste management licensing system may still be subject to action against statutory nuisance.

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations have been received by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Environment Agency on concerns about odour from the Green Waste Recycling Centre in Haynes West End, Bedfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [141692]

Mr. Bradshaw: I am not aware of any representations received by my Department on odour problems from this site. However, I understand that the Environment Agency (EA) has received in excess of 250 odour complaints about the site since December 2005.

The site operates under a waste management licence and is regularly inspected for compliance with the licence conditions by the EA. Sites operating under a waste management licence have an overarching requirement to recover or dispose of waste without causing harm to human health or pollution of the environment. This includes without causing a nuisance through noise or odour.

The EA have assessed all reported complaints, often in collaboration with the local authority environmental health officer, but only a few have been substantiated as being caused by failures on site. Where this is the case, action has been taken to bring about improvements to the company's working procedures.

Recycling: Paper

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pages in his Department's publication Waste Strategy for England 2007 are printed on uncoated paper. [142616]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Waste Strategy 2007 document does not contain any pages printed on uncoated paper. All copies of the Waste Strategy 2007 produced by The Stationery Office were printed on 'Evolution Satin' paper. This is a coated paper and contains 75 per cent. recycled paper and 25 per cent. ECF Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) pulp, which is Forestry Stewardship Council certified.

We are obliged to purchase and use paper specified within the Department for Transport's Recycled Printing Papers Framework (PPAD 09/034/023). In the case of the Waste Strategy document, a coated paper was used due to the colour content.

Although some printed copies of the Strategy have been distributed, we would encourage people to view the Strategy online, where possible, in order to avoid wastage.

Territorial Waters: Contamination

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he has taken to reduce discards in UK territorial waters in each year since 1997. [142312]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have for a number of years been actively encouraging the widespread application of more selective gears by the UK fleet, developed with the assistance of departmental funding. In this period, we have also worked with the European Commission (and other member states) to introduce a range of enhanced technical measures at Community level, designed to make EU fisheries more sustainable for the longer-term. These have included increases in mesh size, the adoption of sorting grids and the application of square mesh panels in particular fisheries.

Waste Disposal: Business

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance has been produced by his Department and its agencies for local authorities on penalties for businesses who dispose of rubbish in municipal public litter bins. [142376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government have not issued specific guidance on this matter. The Government's role is to establish the legislative framework and to issue explanatory guidance on the legislation when it is initially introduced. It is for the relevant enforcement authorities to interpret the legislation, based on their own legal advice, and to apply it appropriately in each individual case.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 made certain amendments to the offences in the Environmental Protection Act 1990 which cover illegal waste disposal. This includes: section 33, which is the main fly-tipping offence; section 34, which sets out the waste duty of care; and section 47 on receptacles for commercial waste. Businesses that dispose of rubbish in municipal public litter bins may be committing one of these offences, but this would depend on the individual circumstances of any given case.

DEFRA published general guidance on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act in April 2005, which has been distributed to all local authorities in England and Wales.

Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what incentives his Department has given local authorities to reduce their waste arisings; and what penalties they will face if they fail to do so; [142610]

(2) what measures his Department *(a)* has introduced and *(b)* plans to introduce to reduce waste arisings. [142664]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 14 June 2007]*: Action to reduce the amount of waste produced in the first instance is driven by regional and local strategies and supported by nationally funded programmes.

The amount of waste collected from households per head is measured under local authority (LA) best value performance indicator (BVPI) 84a. BVPIs have statutory performance targets and are monitored by the Audit Commission. As a standardised suite of performance indicators, BVPIs help central Government and the public to monitor, analyse and compare the achievements of LAs.

In addition, the Government are providing funding and support to LAs to help them promote and develop more sustainable waste management practices such as recycling, reuse and waste minimisation.

The Waste Minimisation Programme, run by the DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), is working to stem the growth of household waste. This is part of a package of measures to enable the UK to meet the requirements of the Landfill Directive and move towards sustainable waste management.

As part of its Waste Minimisation Programme, WRAP is working with 13 major retailers to reduce the amount of waste from supermarkets. This includes looking at ways to redesign packaging, as well as providing support for research and development into waste minimisation. It is also working with LAs to establish greater participation in recycling and home composting. This is achieved by WRAP through a variety of means, for example through LA advice and training; food waste collection trials with selected authorities; funding support for campaigns to boost recycling participation in local areas; and a targeted National Home Composting Programme.

LAs have also received £45 million in 2005-06, £105 million in 2006-07 and £110 million in 2007-08 under the Waste Performance and Efficiency Grant to help them develop new and more efficient ways to deliver waste reduction and increase recycling.

The recently published Waste Strategy 2007 puts forward a range of measures to further reduce waste arisings and build on recent improvements in recycling. A greater focus on waste prevention has been recognised through a new target to reduce the amount of household waste not reused, recycled or composted, from over 22.2 million tonnes in 2000 by 29 per cent. to 15.8 million tonnes in 2010, with an aspiration to reduce it to 12.2 million tonnes in 2020—a reduction of 45 per cent. This is equivalent to a fall of 50 per cent. per person (from 450 kilograms per person in 2000 to 225 kilograms in 2020). The strategy also sets higher national targets for household waste recycling and composting to reach at least 40 per cent. by 2010, 45 per cent. by 2015 and 50 per cent. by 2020.

There are no specific penalties to encourage LAs to reduce their collected waste volumes. The Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS) places limits on the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that authorities can landfill. LAs that exceed limits are liable to a penalty of £150 per tonne. Minimising municipal waste arisings helps LAs meet their LATS obligations and so avoid incurring penalties.

Waste Management: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measures have been put in place to ensure that green waste in Bedfordshire is *(a)* processed and *(b)* recycled to required standards; and if he will make a statement; [141681]

(2) what measures the Government are putting in place to ensure material deposited at green waste recycling centres is recycled to acceptable standards; and if he will make a statement; [141684]

(3) what measures the Government have put in place to ensure green waste recycling centres meet the terms of their licences; and if he will make a statement. [141687]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government strongly supports the composting of organic waste. This is an important component of meeting targets for recycling and

composting, as well as those under the landfill directive to reduce the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste.

Composting of green waste is classified as a waste recovery operation under the waste framework directive and is carried out under a waste management license issued by the Environment Agency (EA) or a registered exemption from the need for a license. The EA is the competent authority responsible for carrying out regular inspections on such sites, including those in Bedfordshire, to assess compliance with the license conditions.

Sites operating under a waste management licence must recover or dispose of waste without causing harm to human health or pollution of the environment. This includes causing a nuisance through noise or odour.

The EU Animal By-Products Regulation also applies to the composting of some materials. The regulation permits low-risk animal by-products ('Category 3' material) to be composted or treated in an approved composting or biogas plant and treated to an EU standard. Alternative treatment standards are due to be introduced later this year. However, these must demonstrate the capability to meet a specified level of pathogen reduction.

In addition, the DEFRA funded Business Resource Efficiency and Waste programme (BREW), the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) and the EA have developed a quality protocol for compost in consultation with industry and other interested parties. The protocol sets criteria for, and allows, the full recovery, production and use of quality compost from waste organic materials without the need for further regulation beyond the point of production.

Water Abstraction

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many permanent abstraction licences have been amended to make them time-limited since the Water Act 2003 was introduced; and how many of those amendments were taken voluntarily. [142180]

Ian Pearson: Six abstraction licences have had time limited status since regulations were introduced in April 2006. These covered apportionment (splitting) of permanent abstraction licences that 'change hands'.

Nine permanent abstraction licences have been voluntarily converted to time limited status since the Water Act 2003.

The Environment Agency has converted 24 of its own abstraction licences to time limited status.

Water: Contamination

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has any targets to reduce discards in UK waters. [142267]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government are extremely concerned about the level of discarding generally and is clear that significant steps must be taken to reduce it.

However, this is a problem which requires EU-wide action and we will therefore be working with the Commission (and other member states) to ensure their latest initiative is fully effective in delivering appropriate solutions throughout the community.

Water: Fees and Charges

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department or its agencies are conducting into *(a)* water rates and *(b)* unmetered water charging. [142258]

Ian Pearson: The Government commissioned and published research into alternative methods of water charging, both measured and unmeasured, in their review of water charging in 1998-99. We are currently updating this research, looking at the distributional impacts of a range of measured and unmeasured tariffs, and will report later this year.

Water: Infrastructure

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the co-operation and information sharing by the Regional Planning Bodies with statutory bodies to determine the extent and location of new water infrastructure required in England. [141324]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

In developing their regional spatial strategies, the regional planning bodies are required to consult with water undertakers in helping to develop the broad development strategy for the next 20 years, including the provision of infrastructure and management policies governing future distribution of regionally or sub-regionally significant activities and development within the region.

The draft RSS is then publicly consulted on and independently examined in public. This process allows issues to be highlighted for further scrutiny and any underlying evidence to be tested for robustness—including any matters relating to water infrastructure and provision.

Water: South East Region

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what studies his Department has undertaken on the capacity of water resources to meet plans for increased housing numbers, with particular reference to the south-east of England. [141322]

Ian Pearson: DEFRA worked very closely with the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) throughout 2005, to analyse the environmental impacts of the increased levels of housing supply proposed in Kate Barker's review of housing supply. This work led to the publication of the Entec Report: "A sustainability impact study of additional housing scenarios in England", in December 2005. The comprehensive package of environmental measures announced as part of the Government's response to the Barker review was informed by this analysis. Close inter-departmental liaison is ongoing.

My Department has been involved in the appraisal of the New Growth Point Proposals, to ensure that the

environmental implications of these proposals for increased levels of growth in the wider south, have been considered from the start. We have worked closely with Natural England and the Environment Agency to scrutinise the proposals to determine whether the levels and locations of growth present any problems with respect to water resources, and also flood management, water quality, green infrastructure and biodiversity/ designated sites.

DEFRA has co-funded a study with CLG and the Environment Agency to investigate how total water demand in the Thames Gateway can be managed to ensure that development does not place additional demand on existing water resources. We are calling the concept 'water neutrality'. We are currently considering in further detail exactly what this might mean for the Gateway, and will report on the study findings in due course.

On 1 April 2007, the preparation of water companies' 25 year water resource management plans became a statutory requirement under the Water Act 2003, and will be subject to public consultation. These plans, which had hitherto been prepared voluntarily, set out the demand and supply measures water companies plan to take to maintain security of supply for their customers. Local authorities are statutory consultees for these plans and will be able to comment on the measures water companies are taking in respect of new housing developments.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departments: Sovereign Strategy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from her Department held with Sovereign Strategy in each year between 1997 and 2006. [136853]

Margaret Beckett: Obtaining the information requested for the time period the right hon. Member has specified would incur disproportionate cost. However, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Europe has met Alan Donnelly, Executive Chairman of Sovereign Strategy, on a number of occasions as they have been personal friends for a number of years. Mr. Donnelly is well known to many Ministers and is likely also to have met others on a number of occasions over this period.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the security walls being constructed in Baghdad on the security situation in Baghdad; and if she will make a statement. [139613]

Margaret Beckett: The security walls are being constructed by the Multinational Force (Iraq), under US command. We understand that they are a temporary measure to create secure neighbourhoods as part of a much wider range of measures being taken as part of the Iraqi-led Baghdad security plan. This plan, and the increase in US troop numbers in and around Baghdad, are designed to improve the security situation in Iraq.

It is too early to judge the success of the plan, not least because not all the additional US military units are in place. However, early indications show some signs for encouragement. Whilst the incidence of high profile suicide attacks remains of deep concern, other forms of sectarian violence are below pre-plan levels and the Iraqi security forces have so far performed well. Ultimately, efforts to improve security in Baghdad are designed to create the conditions in which Iraqis themselves can make progress on reconciliation and power-sharing, and we continue to provide encouragement and practical support to this process.

Malaysia: Military Decorations

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assistance is being offered to the Malaysian High Commission to speed up the rate of issuance of the Pingat Jasa Malaysia medal for veterans. [140802]

Margaret Beckett: The Pingat Jasa Malaysia (PJM) is a commemorative medal issued by the Malaysian Government for service between August 1957 and August 1966. The issue of this medal to veterans is a matter for the Malaysians. The Ministry of Defence has agreed to endorse applications for the PJM from veterans and to pass them on to the Malaysian High Commission. Veterans who wish to check the progress of their applications should write to the Malaysian High Commission.

Middle East: Global Conflict Prevention Pool

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the annual budget of the Middle East and North Africa strategy of the UK Global Conflict Prevention Pool is, broken down by expenditure on each country involved. [141203]

Margaret Beckett: The budget for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) for financial year (FY) 2007-08 is £3 million. The following table details expenditure on each country in the proposed allocations for MENA GCPP.

Financial year 2007-08

	Amount (£)
Budget	3 million
Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories	1,400,000
Lebanon	1,085,000
Libya	265,000
Jordan	50,000
Yemen	200,000
Total allocation	3,000,000

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role of the Government's Global Conflict Prevention Pool is in relation to the Middle East Peace Process; and if she will make a statement. [141201]

Margaret Beckett: Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP) mechanisms and resources are used to support UK policy towards the Middle East Peace Process. GCPP funds projects in the region that aim to address drivers of conflict in order to enhance the prospect of a sustainable two-state solution. Examples include:

a project which has helped move the route of the separation barrier closer to the green line;

a project which aims to raise awareness of planning problems in Palestinian villages in Israeli controlled areas of the West Bank and take action to tackle this problem;

a project identifying systematic failures in due process in the Israeli military courts and attempting to correct them through legal and public advocacy;

work to facilitate freedom of movement for Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories through legal and administrative action and promoting access to the Israeli judicial system; and

providing assistance to close protection for Palestinian President Abbas.

Project Al Yamamah

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has received from the United States Government on the Government's decision to suspend the Serious Fraud Office inquiry into the Al-Yamamah deal; when those representations were received; and if she will make a statement. [142422]

Margaret Beckett: US officials participated fully in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Working Group on Bribery discussions on 16-18 January and 12-14 March. On 19 January the Economic Counsellor from the US embassy met with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials and registered American concerns about the Serious Fraud Office's decision. In the meeting it was made clear that the decision to discontinue the investigation was taken by the Serious Fraud Office Director alone on considerations of national and international security.

Somalia: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of *(a)* the numbers of African Union troops deployed in Somalia and *(b)* the impact of that deployment on the security situation in the country. [141197]

Margaret Beckett: The African Union (AU) mission to Somalia (AMISOM) currently has about 1,700 Ugandan troops deployed to Somalia. The UK is working closely with international partners to seek to increase the number of AMISOM troops from other AU countries.

AMISOM was authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1744, which was sponsored by the UK and adopted unanimously on 20 February. The troops currently deployed are playing an important part in ensuring stability in the parts of Mogadishu and Baidoa in which they are operating. We judge that AMISOM has a crucial role to play in creating the security conditions that would enable a fuller withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from Somalia.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support is being provided by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU to the African Union AMISOM force in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [141568]

Mr. McCartney: The Government believe it is vital that a successful African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) deployment ensures lasting stability in Somalia. The UK has offered planning, and logistical, support for a Somalia planning cell within the AU's Peace and Security Operations Division in Addis Ababa. The UK has also offered planning, logistical and financial assistance direct to troop contributing countries, including £1.3million to Uganda.

We strongly support the early disbursement of the EU's pledge of €15 million to AMISOM.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests have been received by the UK from the African Union (AU) for NATO air transport support for AU troops in Somalia; and if she will make a statement. [141198]

Margaret Beckett: The UK has not been approached directly by the African Union (AU) in connection with requests for NATO air transport support for AU Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops in Somalia. We understand that the AU has made a request to NATO in connection with air transport support. The UK will wish to support NATO on this issue where we can.

The UK strongly supports AMISOM and is already offering planning assistance to several potential troop-contributing countries and logistical support for the AU military cell in Addis Ababa.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the role of the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool is in relation to the conflict in Darfur; and if she will make a statement. [141202]

Margaret Beckett: The Africa Conflict Prevention Pool (ACPP) has provided vital funding to underpin UK efforts to address the problems of Darfur.

The UK is a leading supporter of the African Union (AU) Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and we have committed over £10 million of bilateral assistance through the ACPP. This funding has been used to pay for vehicles and rapid deployment kits for AMIS personnel. The ACPP has also provided funding for UK military training teams based in Africa to support pre-deployment training for approximately 4,000 AMIS peacekeepers drawn from Nigeria, Rwanda, Ghana and Gambia. A further £62 million of bilateral support for AMIS has been committed through the peacekeeping budget.

In addition, over £600,000 of ACPP funds were used to provide budgetary support for the AU's efforts to broker a political settlement through the Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on Darfur in Abuja, which led to the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA). The

ACPP has subsequently funded work to help the AU explain the benefits of the DPA to the people of Darfur, and for an expert to support the AU in preparing the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation. We stand ready to support a secretariat to the AU and UN mediators who have prepared a roadmap for taking forward the political process.

Sudan: Violence

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the trend of attacks on civilians in the eastern part of Southern Kordofan, Sudan, since January 2007; and if she will make a statement. [142997]

Mr. McCartney: We are concerned about the deterioration in security over recent months in South Kordofan. This appears to be caused by the lack of progress in implementing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in the region, exacerbated by local problems over land use and migratory routes. We are also concerned about previous incidents of violence in Kordofan by Darfur rebels and the further risk that the conflict in Darfur could spill over into Kordofan.

As Southern Kordofan is one of the "Three Areas" under the CPA, we are monitoring the situation there through the Assessment and Evaluation Committee that oversees the implementation of the CPA. We have also made it clear to the Darfur rebels that it is unacceptable to spread this conflict into Kordofan.

Syria: UN Resolutions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of Syrian compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 1701; and if she will make a statement. [141199]

Margaret Beckett: In March, the UN Secretary-General reported that there was mounting evidence that Hezbollah was rearming and smuggling arms across the Syria/Lebanon border in breach of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1701. I will arrange for a copy of his report to be placed in the Library of the House, it as also available on the UN website at http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/sgrep07.htm While the UN Secretary-General's report did not specifically identify the supplier of these arms, we continue to judge that Syria is involved in providing Hezbollah with weapons as well as facilitating the transfer of weapons from Iran in breach of UNSCR 1701. This is a serious concern.

The UK continues to work to ensure the full implementation of UNSCR 1701. We are working to improve Lebanese border-monitoring capability through a bilateral programme of assistance, support to a German-led initiative and work through the UN.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 600W, on Zimbabwe: human rights, what steps have been taken by the EU to engage with southern African Governments on the situation in Zimbabwe; and what the outcome has been of these steps. [137471]

Margaret Beckett: The situation in Zimbabwe continues to deteriorate with economic, political and social indicators worsening by the week. On behalf of the EU the presidency, through its Ambassadors or local representatives, has engaged directly with governments in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region to express the EU's concern at human rights abuses within Zimbabwe, which many African Governments share. The EU troika held a formal dialogue with South Africa on 14 May at which Ministers discussed Zimbabwe. Both sides agreed that meaningful internal dialogue in Zimbabwe is crucial to the resolution of the crisis. The EU troika met with the African Union (AU) delegation at ministerial level on 15 May. The AU noted its continuing support for the SADC initiative and President Mbeki's role. The EU awaits the outcome of this initiative with interest and will return to the situation in Zimbabwe at the UN Human Rights Council in September, following the EU statement in March condemning state-sponsored violence. The UK will continue to ensure that opportunities available at EU level are taken to raise the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe and to highlight the EU's condemnation of ongoing political violence and human rights abuses.

Zimbabwe: Travel Restrictions

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK Government are taking to press the EU to extend its 2002 sanctions to the family members and business associates of those members of the Zimbabwean government already subject to EU sanctions. [143003]

Mr. McCartney: The EU visa ban list already includes a number of Robert Mugabe's family members, who hold positions in the Zimbabwean Government. We do not intend at present to press for the inclusion of all family members of those principals on the EU visa ban list. Where we receive sufficient and accurate information concerning the presence of those children and family members in the UK, we actively investigate the sources of financing for their study and presence to see whether it breaches the terms of the asset freeze under the EU's targeted measures. We will do the same with known business associates.

HEALTH

Audiology Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 29 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 789W, on audiology services, what steps she plans to take to ensure that the planned additional audiology patient pathways are provided. [137710]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Strategic health authorities (SHAs) have provided assurance that their activity plans for 2007-08 will deliver the 18-week milestones including six-week maximum waits for all diagnostic tests by

March 2008. SHAs have generally taken the view that they can achieve the necessary reductions in audiology waiting times with a modest procurement of additional independent sector capacity.

The SHAs are confident that the remaining capacity can be found through a combination of more efficient use of existing capacity, extra investment in NHS-provided services and the roll out of the one-stop assessment and fit service model, all of which should have a substantial impact, as set out in ‚Improving Access to Audiology'. Services in England, copies of which are available in the Library.

The additional independent sector capacity will be provided through extensions to the existing diagnostics phase 2 procurement and local procurement.

Blood: Safety

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will release all remaining documents from those which were rediscovered by her Department referred to in the Review of Documentation relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970 to 1985 before the end of the inquiry chaired by Lord Archer into contaminated blood and blood products; and if she will make a statement; [142679]

(2) how many of the documents rediscovered by her Department referred to in the Review of Documentation relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970 to 1985 relate to the period after 1985; and if she will make a statement. [142681]

Caroline Flint: The review identifies that 20.5 per cent. of papers have been categorised as relating to self sufficiency. The focus of the review was 1970-85, and 90 per cent. of the documents related to this time period, just under 10 per cent. fell outside this timeline.

Lord Archer has been advised that the Department will release all papers identified in the review, in line with the Freedom of Information Act. The papers will be released to Lord Archer's inquiry as quickly as possible, in batches on a monthly basis.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the merits of the provision of photodynamic therapy for cancer on the NHS; and what estimate she has made of the cost implications of the provision of such treatment. [141260]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* As part of its programme of work on interventional procedures, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on the use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) in the treatment of several cancers.

NICE has stated that PDT for the treatment of Barrett's oesophagus, advanced bronchial carcinoma, endobronchial carcinoma, bile duct cancer and skin tumours is safe and works well enough for use in the national health service, provided normal arrangements are in place for consent, audit and clinical governance.

NICE has also issued guidance on the use of PDT for early stage oesophageal cancer, stating that current evidence on PDT for the treatment of this disease is not adequate to support its use without special arrangements for consent, audit and clinical governance.

The Department has not made any estimate of the cost implications of the provision of PDT for the treatment of cancer.

It will be for the NHS at a local level to decide whether to offer this treatment to patients.

Care Homes

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for continuing care assessments were made in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006; and what proportion were (i) agreed and (ii) declined in each health authority in England. [142260]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is shown in the following table.

Strategic health authority	*Number of people receiving continuing care*			*Number of people newly meeting eligibility criteria for continuing care*		
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
England (grossed up)	19,984	20,842	25,008	14,577	15,976	20,353
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	435	411	559	367	312	313
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	830	604	428	804	347	541
Essex	698	465	423	641	319	425
North West London	1,468	1,998	2,030	857	1,423	1,234
North Central London	320	355	768	360	293	511
North East London	733	809	889	536	406	575
South East London	580	651	599	778	756	927
South West London	433	523	655	522	664	730
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	1,081	916	695	577	456	999
County Durham and Tees Valley	1,374	1,197	1,224	1,069	965	978
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	705	442	583	555	386	782
West Yorkshire	688	618	1,129	816	1,163	1,692
Cumbria and Lancashire	376	252	382	141	162	343
Greater Manchester	984	936	689	786	729	429
Cheshire and Merseyside	1,074	1,153	965	367	662	970

Strategic health authority	Number of people receiving continuing care			Number of people newly meeting eligibility criteria for continuing care		
	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Thames Valley	632	920	1,176	284	598	464
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	530	1,141	1,929	318	460	945
Kent and Medway	770	883	723	452	501	427
Surrey and Sussex	719	961	2,142	552	680	525
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	741	653	1,134	316	763	901
South West Peninsula	516	406	552	539	770	928
Dorset and Somerset	241	428	237	122	223	267
South Yorkshire	192	103	351	135	89	415
Trent	928	1,147	1,609	848	903	1,617
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	215	602	655	497	697	917
Shropshire and Staffordshire	663	453	539	400	415	261
Birmingham and the Black Country	1,107	1,119	1,350	549	387	602
West Midlands South	690	696	593	166	447	635

Note:
In 2003-04, not all primary care trusts (PCTs) submitted data, the England figure quoted above includes estimates for those PCTs which did not submit data.

Care Homes: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people lived in a care home for elderly people in each London borough in each of the last five years. [142780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Information Centre for health and social care collects data on the number of care home residents whose care is funded, wholly or in part, by local councils, but not on the number of those funding their own care.

The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), as part of its regulation work, collects and publishes data on the numbers of registered care and nursing homes and places in England, but not on occupancy levels or numbers of residents. This information is available at:

www.csci.org.uk/professional/ask_csci/statistics_and_data_about_care/facts_and_figures/headline_statistic_spreadsheet.aspx.

CJD

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps have been taken to inform those who received blood known to be at risk of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (vCJD) contamination that they could be at risk of contracting vCJD; and if she will make a statement. [142680]

Caroline Flint: The Creutzfeld-Jakob Disease (CJD) incidents panel advises on the assessment and management of risk to patients who may potentially have been exposed to CJD following medical interventions. In December 2003, following the first suspected case of variant Creutzfeld-Jakob Diseases (vCJD) transmission through whole blood transfusion, the first patient notification exercise was undertaken to notify recipients of blood components donated by people who later developed vCJD. There are currently around 24 people in this group who are still alive.

Since then, three other notification exercises have been implemented in respect of recipients of certain plasma products. There are approximately 5,000 people in this group, which includes patients with haemophilia A and B and Von Willebrand's Disease to whom it was indicated that they had received United Kingdom sourced plasma derived vCJD implicated products during the period 1980-2001, and would therefore be considered at risk of vCJD for public health purposes. Additionally notification has been given to about 100 blood donors to patients who later developed vCJD.

All the information documents used for these notification exercises are available on the Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/cjd/information_documents.htm.

Conal Timoney

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role Conal Timoney had in her Department at the time of the publication of the contract notice *(a)* 2006/S 114-121806 and *(b)* 2006/S 135-145353; whether he performed that role as a civil servant or consultant; and what role he currently has. [142040]

Andy Burnham: At the time of the publication of the contract notices 2006/S 114-121806 and 2006/S 135-145353 Conal Timoney's role within the Department's Commercial Directorate was Director of Communications. This role was performed on a contractual basis. Conal Timoney is currently the Commercial Directorate's Director of Strategy.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the definition is of *(a)* service category No. 25 at section II.2 of the contract notice 2006/S 114-121806 and *(b)* service category No. 27 at section II.2 of the contract notice 2006/S 135-145353. [142042]

Andy Burnham: Service categories are listed within Directive 2004/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council. Service Category No. 25 is defined as health and social services. Service Category No. 27 is defined as other services.

Departments: E-mail

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* divisions and *(b)* individuals have access to e-mails coming to the csf@dh.gsi.gov.uk account. [142041]

Andy Burnham: The csf@dh.gsi.gov.uk mail-box is managed by the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners project team within the Commercial Directorate of the Department.

Departments: Press

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which subject areas were covered by each of her Department's press officers *(a)* in May 2005 and *(b)* in the most recent period for which the information is available. [124939]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most recent list of the subject areas covered by the Department's press office has not changed since May 2005. Information on how these subjects were broken down between individual press officers in May 2005 is not available. The available information has been placed in the Library.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date she last met the Chancellor of the Exchequer to discuss the forward budget for her Department. [140014]

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State and Departmental officials hold regular discussions with their counterparts at HM Treasury on the forward budget for the Department of Health, the national health service and social care as part of preparations for the 2007 comprehensive spending review.

Doctors: Registration

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what safeguards are in place to ensure that doctors employed by the national health service are registered with the General Medical Council; what procedures are followed if a doctor is found to be unregistered; and if she will make a statement. [140630]

Andy Burnham: Doctors must be registered with the General Medical Council (GMC) to practise medicine in the United Kingdom.

It is the responsibility of individual employers to carry out pre and post-appointment registration checks on employees. Processes are in place to prevent unsuitable people from gaining employment in the national health service. Employers should undertake a variety of checks before someone is offered an NHS post including verification of identity, confirmation with professional regulatory bodies and criminal records bureau checks on staff who have access to patients in the normal course of their work.

Elderly: Care

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure privacy and dignity in toilet use for the elderly in hospitals and care homes; and if she will make a statement. [141451]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Regulation 12 of the Care Homes Regulations 2001 states that:

(4) The registered person shall make suitable arrangements to ensure that the care home is conducted-

(a) in a manner which respects the privacy and dignity of service users;

Standard 10 of the National Minimum Standards for Care homes for Older People includes the following requirements.

10.1 The arrangements for health and personal care ensure that service user's privacy and dignity are respected at all times, and with particular regard to:

personal care-giving, including nursing, bathing, washing, using the toilet or commode;

consultation with, and examination by, health and social care professionals;

consultation with legal and financial advisors;

maintaining social contacts with relatives and friends;

entering bedrooms, toilets and bathrooms;

following death.

The Healthcare Commission assesses the performance of the national health service against the standards set out in "Standards for Better Health", published by the Department in 2004.

In carrying out its assessments, the Commission looks at the setting in which care is provided to ensure that, among other aspects, patients enjoy as much privacy as possible and are treated with dignity and respect.

Harwich Hospital: Maternity Services

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are plans to change provision of maternity services at Harwich hospital; and if she will make a statement. [141595]

Andy Burnham: This is a local matter. It is for primary care trusts to commission services to meet the needs of the communities that they serve. I am advised that Essex Rivers healthcare national health service trust has announced a temporary change to the maternity unit it runs at the Fryatt hospital in Harwich.

This means that from 1 June, midwives will be based at the unit from 7.30 am-9 pm, seven-days-a-week, rather than the current round-the-clock basis.

Outside of those times, women will still be able to deliver at the unit by contacting the on-call midwife. This is a common maternity service model used by the trust at its other sites such as Halstead hospital.

Hay Fever

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what action her Department is taking to reduce levels of hay fever; [139932]

(2) what action her Department is taking *(a)* to mitigate the risks of high pollen levels and *(b)* to reduce the projected number of hay fever cases in the summer months; [139931]

(3) what assessment she has made of the potential links between global warming, environmental change and the levels of hay fever in the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement. [139921]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are taking no specific action to reduce the levels of hay fever, or mitigate the risks of high pollen levels. However, NHS Direct, NHS Direct on line and NHS Direct interactive have been established to provide advice and information on health and self-care. Through these services, people suffering from hay fever have access to information to help them manage their condition and minimise their exposure to pollen. Over the counter and prescription medicines are also available to alleviate the associated symptoms of this condition.

We have not assessed the potential links between global warming, environmental change and levels of hay fever in the United Kingdom.

Health Insurance

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were covered by private health insurance in each year since 1997. [142689]

Andy Burnham: We do not routinely collect these data centrally. However, Laing and Buisson Healthcare Market Review (2006-07), the industry standard, has recently published the following United Kingdom figures.

Private medical insurance

	Persons covered, 31 December (Thousand)
1997	6,679
1998	6,824
1999	6,536
2000	6,867
2001	6,663
2002	6,711
2003	6,615
2004	6,553
2005	6,536

Source:
Data are from Laing and Buisson survey aggregates for all insurers.

Health Services: Urgent Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she will publish her urgent care strategy. [142046]

Andy Burnham: Officials are continuing to develop the strategy, which is being informed by responses to the "Direction of Travel for Urgent Care: a discussion document" and other work with stakeholders, including service users and carers. A new strategy on urgent and emergency care will be published in due course.

Health Services: Access

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts in England restricted access to health care by instructing health care practitioners not to refer patients for named health care interventions at the end of the 2006-07 financial year; and whether the practice is continuing. [138614]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not held centrally.

Hospitals: Parking

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons hospital staff are not exempt from hospital parking fees; and if she will make a statement. [141213]

Andy Burnham: Arrangements and charges for car parking on healthcare premises are a matter for individual national health service bodies, taking account of all the relevant local factors. This includes what, if any, concessions or exemptions to offer hospital staff.

NHS bodies have income generation powers which allow them to raise additional income by marketing any spare capacity resulting from a non-core function, or by exploiting intellectual property rights. Certain rules must be followed, including the fact that profits raised must be used to improve health services. Charging for car parking is a common example of an income generation scheme.

Latex: Allergies

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines her Department issues on the use of latex gloves in the healthcare sector; and if she will make a statement. [140072]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not now issue guidelines on this subject. The NHS National Patient Safety Agency (NHS NPSA) on 26 May 2005 advised all national health service organisations in England and Wales to take better steps to protect patients with latex allergy. Guidance was entitled 'Protecting People With Allergy Associated with Latex' and has been placed in the Library.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust: Waiting Lists

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was in Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust for patients requiring cognitive behavioural therapy in the latest period for which figures are available. [143130]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

Marvin Swartz

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent communications her Department has had with Dr. Marvin Swartz of the Duke

University Medical Center, North Carolina; and what fees and expenses her Department has *(a)* paid and *(b)* undertaken to pay to Dr. Swartz. [141651]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 11 June 2007]*: Dr. Marvin Swartz and a number of British psychiatrists were invited to speak to MPs about the Mental Health Bill on 5 June 2007. The purpose of the event was to give MPs access to useful evidence on the benefits of community treatment orders (CTOs), resulting from discussions at Committee Stage of the Bill about what evidence there was that CTOs work. I chaired the meeting.

Dr. Swartz was invited to the meeting as an internationally recognised expert on the use of CTOs in mental health, who has pioneered research into their use. Dr. Swartz also expressed an interest in attending the meeting as he felt that his research, which shows the benefits of CTOs, had been misrepresented in the debate over the Mental Health Bill.

Dr. Swartz was not paid a fee for his contribution to the meeting, but was reimbursed for his rail fare from Manchester, where he was speaking at an academic conference, to London, his overnight hotel accommodation on 4 June, his taxi and rail fare from Central London to Heathrow on 5 June and, because the meeting entailed a change in his planned itinerary in Europe, some of the cost of his air fares.

Maternity Services: Publications

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when NHS Maternity Services, England: 2005-06 will be published. [141184]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The latest National Health Service Maternity Statistics, England 2005-06 will be published shortly.

Medical Treatments

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what ability *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* hospital trusts have to deny non-urgent treatment to patients whom they consider to be leading unhealthy lifestyles; and if she will make a statement. [142996]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for doctors to determine, in consultation with patients and their family, what care is clinically appropriate for each patient, based on an individual assessment of need and of the risks and benefits of all available treatment types. This assessment will take into account lifestyle choices which may affect the efficacy of treatment.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when her Department expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 18 May 2007 on the proposed independent sector treatment centre for Basildon. [143137]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The letter was answered on 11 June 2007.

Mental Health Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts are offering cognitive behavioural therapy privately to patients using NHS facilities. [143131]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not centrally available.

Muscular Dystrophy: Drugs

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans her Department has to fast-track new drugs and therapies for Duchenne muscular dystrophy; [141446]

(2) if she will make the drug PTC-124 available through the NHS to all boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy with single point variations of the gene; [141448]

(3) what steps her Department has taken to identify boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy with single point variations of the gene. [141449]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have no specific plans to fast-track new drugs or therapies for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

PTC124 is a drug currently undergoing clinical trials in the United States for the treatment of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. PTC Therapeutics, the company behind this drug, has not currently organised clinical trials in the United Kingdom.

We have not taken any specific steps to identify those boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy who would benefit from the drug PTC124; those whose disease is caused by the 'nonsense' mutation.

Muscular Dystrophy: Health Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group about commissioning services for muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular conditions. [141237]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health has received no advice in the last 12 months from the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group about muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular conditions.

NHS Appointments Commission

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the process of appointing members to the NHS Appointments Commission. [143262]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The direct costs of appointing the new chair, non-executive directors and commissioners to the new Appointments Commission amounted to £42,900. This sum includes the cost of advertising, the use of recruitment consultants for the chair post, independent assessors and interview expenses.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practices received the initial incentive payment (component one) for agreeing a plan for the implementation of the practice based commissioning DES and specific objectives in 2006-07; and how many received the incentive payment (component two). [142047]

Andy Burnham: As of 31 March 2007, 6,940 practices (83 per cent.) had received component one of the practice based commissioning directed enhanced service payment.

The Department does not currently collect data on the number of practices receiving component two of the payment.

NHS: Interpreters

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure in 2006-07 was for interpreters in the national health system; and what expenditure is forecast for 2007-08. [142768]

Ms Rosie Winterton: National health service organisations are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. Therefore, it is not possible to provide either an estimate of spending in 2006-07 or a forecast for 2007-08.

When planning interpretation and translation services, NHS organisations should take due account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations, and costs.

The Government have established the independent Commission on Integration and Cohesion to look at Government policies and public services and to report in 2007. As part of its brief, the Commission has looked at the provision of language services across Government. The Department is fully supporting the Commission in its work.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with patient representatives on changes to the portfolio of the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [141238]

Andy Burnham: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with patient representatives about changes to the portfolio of the National Specialist Commissioning Advisory Group (now known as the National Commissioning Group (NCG)) in the last 12 months.

Due to the very specialised nature of the services in the NCG's portfolio, clinical advisers to the NCG ensure that discussions take place with the patient representative groups specific to individual services. (Examples of the relationships between individual patient representative groups and the NCG are set out in its annual report.)

"The Review of Commissioning Arrangements for Specialised Services" published in May 2006, recommended the strengthening of patient involvement in the NCG decision-making process. To help achieve this, the Appointments Commission are currently running an open competition to appoint lay members to the group.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where responsibility lies for *(a)* recognising, *(b)* commending and *(c)* thanking former members of the boards of (i) primary care trusts and (ii) health authorities for their services to the NHS. [142829]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* It is the responsibility of the Appointments Commission to acknowledge the contribution of chairs and non-executive members. It is good practice for the local employing body to acknowledge the contribution of former executive board members.

Royal London Homeopathic Hospital

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on the future of the Royal London Homeopathic hospital. [142281]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the chair of The University College London Hospitals National Health Service Foundation Trust. We have written to Robert Naylor informing him of the hon. Member's enquiry. He will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Simon Morgan

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role Simon Morgan had in her Department at the time of the publication of the contract notice 2006/S 135-145353; whether he performed that role as a civil servant or consultant; and what role he currently has. [142039]

Andy Burnham: At the time of the publication of the notice, Simon Morgan's role within the Department's Commercial Directorate was the project lead for the Framework for procuring External Support for Commissioners (FESC). He is a contractor working within the Department's Commercial Directorate. His current role is the project lead for FESC.

Streptococcus: Pregnant Women

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will introduce enrichment culture method tests of all pregnant women to test for streptococcus B; and if she will make a statement. [142018]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The current position is that routine screening of group B streptococcus (GBS) should not be offered to all pregnant women. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's (NICE) guideline on antenatal care states that pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for GBS because evidence of its clinical effectiveness and cost effectiveness remains uncertain.

A proposal for NICE to appraise the use of an enriched culture medium for the detection of GBS carriage in a subset of pregnant women with clinical risk factors has been submitted on behalf of the UK National Screening Committee's GBS Coordinating Group and is under consideration.

Strokes: Advisory Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many acute trusts have a member of staff responsible for ensuring that patients receive adequate information on the services available to them when they are discharged from hospital following a stroke; [142827]

(2) how many NHS acute trusts have *(a)* carried out an audit of the information they provide to people leaving hospital following a stroke and *(b)* have a strategy covering the information which should be provided. [142828]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answers 14 June 2007]:* The Department does not collect this data centrally.

The Royal College of Physicians' National Sentinel Audit measures the quality of all stroke units against various criteria. The 2006 audit shows that 99 per cent. of stroke units display literature on stroke, 59 per cent. have patient versions of the national or local guidelines available and 82 per cent. provide information about social services' local community care arrangements.

The Department is currently developing a national stroke strategy for England which is considering the need for improved information provision.

Wheelchairs: Children

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what specialist wheelchairs funded by the NHS are available for disabled children; whether equipment maintenance is provided; and if she will make a statement. [143145]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Each primary care trust (PCT) sets its own eligibility criteria, which will take into account individual need and local resources. Based on assessment of need and local eligibility criteria, PCTs decide what specialist wheelchairs should be made available for disabled children. All national health service wheelchair services are funded out of general allocation funding to PCTs. Maintenance of wheelchairs is also determined at local level.

NHS wheelchairs including specialist wheelchairs for children are supplied and maintained free of charge to disabled people whose need for a wheelchair is permanent. Indoor/outdoor electric chairs can be provided to disabled people who cannot propel a manual chair. Attendant controlled power chairs are also available if needed.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1441-2W, on Departments: public expenditure, for which losses his Department was granted Treasury approval in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [136319]

Mr. Byrne: All losses incurred by the Home Office during the last five years have been managed by the Department within the scope of authorities delegated by the Treasury, the thresholds for which were set out in the reply provided to the hon. Member on 27 March 2007.

The overall level of losses incurred by the Home Office in any one year is reported in its resource accounts.

Driving: Mobile Phones

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Transport regarding the use of mobile telephones while driving in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [142816]

Mr. Coaker: Ministers and officials discuss, as necessary, on roads policing issues, including the use of mobile phones while driving. Such discussions include for example the inclusion in the Road Safety Act 2006 of a provision (section 26), amending the Road Traffic Act 1988 to increase the penalty for offences involving mobile phone use while driving.

Entry Clearances: Fees and Charges

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007 to question 130861, on cost recovery, whether the new charges for visas, residency and naturalisation are in excess of full cost recovery. [132737]

Mr. Byrne: As I set out to the House in the Third Delegated Legislation Committee on 26 March 2007, in setting fees above normal cost recovery levels we have done so on the basis of the value to the migrant of a successful application (or for work permits, the employer) in reliance of the powers in section 42 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants etc) Act 2004.

The fees set at levels above cost recovery are set out in the Immigration and Nationality (Fees) Regulations 2007. The fees at or below cost recovery levels are set out in the Immigration and Nationality (Cost Recovery Fees) Regulations 2007.

Genetics: Databases

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children resident in Northern Ireland appear on the national DNA database; how many do not have any convictions or cautions in each case; and if he will make a statement. [140159]

Paul Goggins: I have been asked to reply.

Responsibility for the maintenance and development of the national DNA database lies with the Home Office, however I am advised that the total number of subject sample profiles currently retained on the

National DNA database which were taken by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) is 39,055. These are categorised as follows:

Samples taken from children (those aged under 18)—3,355

Samples taken from adults (those aged 18 and over)—35,700.

The aforementioned figures relate to the number of subject sample profiles retained and not the number of individuals from whom samples have been taken, as DNA samples have been taken from some individuals on more than one occasion. The National DNA database does not hold information on a person's address, which means that a sample taken by the PSNI will not necessarily relate to a person resident in Northern Ireland.

Information on convictions and cautions is not held on the national database and it is therefore not possible to provide a breakdown against DNA samples retained.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1751-2W, on human trafficking, how many of those charged under each section in each year were convicted; and how many in each category were sentenced to a term of imprisonment. [128321]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 19 March 2007]:* Data on the number of defendants convicted, sentenced, and given immediate custody at all courts' under S57, S58, S59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and S25 (1)(a), S25(1)(b), S25(1)(c), S25, S25A, S25B of the Immigration Act 1971, in England and Wales in 2005, from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform can be found in the following table. The 2006 Court proceedings data will be available in the autumn of 2007.

The number of defendants convicted, sentenced, and given immediate custody at all courts' under S57, S58, S59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003; and S25(1)(a), S25(1)(b), S25(1)(c), S25, S25A, S25B of the Immigration Act 1971, in England and Wales in 2005[1,2,3]

			Of those Sentenced	
Statute	*Offence description*	*Found guilty*	*Sentenced*	*Immediate custody*
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.57	Arrange/facilitate arrival into the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	9	9	9
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.58	Arrange/facilitate travel within the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	3	3	3
Sexual Offences Act 2003 S.59	Arrange/facilitate departure from the UK of a person for sexual exploitation (Trafficking)	0	0	0
Immigration Act 1971 Sec 25(1) (a).	Knowingly concerned in making or carrying out arrangements for securing or facilitating the entry into the UK of anyone whom he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to be an illegal entrant.	84	103	94
Immigration Act 1971 Sec 25(1)(b) as added by Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 S.5.	Knowingly concerned in making or carrying out arrangements for securing or facilitating the entry into the UK of anyone whom he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to be an asylum claimant.	3	4	3
Immigration Act 1971 Sec 25(1)(c) as added by Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 S.5.	Knowingly concerned in making or carrying out arrangements for securing or facilitating the obtaining of leave to remain in the UK by means which he knows or has reasonable cause for believing to include deception.	0	1	1
Immigration Act 1971 S25 as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 S143	Assisting unlawful immigration to member state (was 194/11 and 12)	55	45	39
Immigration Act 1971 S25A as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 S143	Helping asylum-seeker to enter the UK	7	6	6
Immigration Act 1971 S25B as added by Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 S143	Assisting entry to UK in breach of deportation order or exclusion order	2	11	11
Total		163	182	166

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
[3] The sentenced column may exceed those found guilty, as it may be the case that a defendant found guilty and committed for sentence at the crown court may be sentenced in the following year.
Source:
RDS Office for Criminal Justice Reform
Our ref: IOS 237-07

Immigrants: Turkey

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on changes to the terms of the Ankara Agreement with Turkey; and if he will make a statement. [142516]

Mr. Byrne: The Ankara Agreement has not recently been discussed by Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Ministers and no changes to its terms are planned. Any change to the Ankara Agreement would have to be negotiated by the EU and Turkey.

Road Traffic Act 1988

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with chief constables on the deployment of officers to enforce section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [142813]

Mr. Coaker: Deployment of resources is an operational matter for individual chief officers. This particular issue has not featured in my discussions with them.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many persons have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted in (i) Essex, (ii) Southend and (iii) England and Wales of an offence under section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 since that section came into force. [142814]

Mr. Coaker: Section 41D of the Road Traffic Act 1988 was inserted by the Road Safety Act 2006 and came into effect on 27 February 2007. Data on its operation will be available in 2009.

Using a mobile phone whilst driving became an offence under earlier legislation in December 2003. Information on this offence can be found in Offences relating to motor vehicles—Supplementary tables 2003 and Offences relating to motor vehicles—supplementary tables 2004, available in the Library and at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

Safety Belts: Vans

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will launch a campaign to target van drivers not wearing seat belts in breach of the 50 metre delivery exemption limit. [142899]

Mr. Coaker: Failure to wear a seat belt in this situation is an offence under section 14 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 and associated regulations. The Roads Policing Strategy, agreed by ACPO, the Department for Transport and the Home Office recognises failure to wear seat belts generally as one of the key behaviours leading to avoidable deaths and injuries on the roads and gives an undertaking to tackle it. Enforcement of the law is an operational matter for individual chief officers of police. I have no plans to ask them to launch such a campaign.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Finance

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total expenditure on setting up and running the Serious Organised Crime Agency has been since its creation, broken down by region. [141918]

Mr. Coaker: The information is as follows:

Running costs:

An analysis of SOCA expenditure by region is not available. Final costs will be reported through the audited financial accounts and laid before Parliament later in the year.

Set-up costs:

(a) Set-up costs 2005-06

These were reported in the 2005-06 accounts of the Home Office, the National Crime Squad (NCS) and the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS), each of which incurred expenditure to support the set-up of SOCA. In total, £8.9 million net additional resource expenditure plus capital expenditure of £7.73 million was incurred. Additionally, in 2005-06, NCS and NCIS also reported a total of £10.65 million of their core budget expenditure as being related to SOCA preparations. This included the value of NCS/NCIS staff time spent on the implementation and planning for the new Agency.

(b) Transitional Costs 2006-07

Transition costs in 2006-07 of £33.5 million; including a one-off cost of approximately £8 million, were incurred.

Theft: Mobile Phones

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to reduce the theft of mobile telephones; and if he will make a statement. [142812]

Mr. Coaker: Mobile phone theft is a key driver for robbery. The Government, police and industry have developed a strong partnership working together to tackle mobile phone theft. The Mobile Phone Crime Reduction Charter was launched by industry leaders in July 2006 and successfully achieved its target of blocking over 80 per cent. of stolen handsets within 48 hours. The Government and Metropolitan police fund a National Mobile Phone Crime Unit to provide a national centre of excellence and operational support around the country. We have robust legislation in place to target criminals who re-programme stolen handsets. The Government are continuing to engage industry on the issue of better crime proofing handsets as they become increasingly multi-functional in the future.

Theft: Wheelie Bins

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data are recorded in relation to the theft of wheelie bins. [142382]

Mr. Coaker: No statistics are available centrally in relation to the thefts of wheelie bins. Such offences would be included within the recorded crime classification of 'other theft'.

Vladimir Ismaili

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1059-60W, on Vladimir Ismaili, whether Vladimir Ismaili has been recaptured; and if he will make a statement. [141084]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 12 June 2007]*: Vladimir Ismaili is still at large and a warrant for his arrest has been issued by Manchester Crown court.

Written Questions

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer questions *(a)* 129923 and *(b)* 129924, on illegal firearms, tabled on 21 March by the hon. Member for Taunton. [134389]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 April 2007]*: I replied to the hon. Member on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 890W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: International Assistance

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. [143181]

Hilary Benn: The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan is regularly assessed by the Afghan Government and the UN. DFID is in close touch with the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and the UN on these issues, which include the situation of refugees and returnees, those affected by severe weather conditions and those affected by mines.

Since 2001 over 4.8 million refugees have returned to Afghanistan. During a six week grace period from March-May 2007, 200,000 refugees returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan with assistance from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Statistics indicate that Kabul, Nangahar and Kunduz are absorbing the largest number of returnees at 51 per cent. UNHCR state they are coping well with the influx of returnees and are facilitating safe returns, which includes addressing any problems returnees may face on their journey back to Afghanistan, and providing any support once they have arrived at their final destination.

We have received a number of reports from diplomatic and other sources on the expulsion of illegal Afghan migrants from Iran. We are in close contact with the Government of Afghanistan and the office of the UNHCR on this issue. The UN WFP has despatched food to Zaranj, the main entry point into Afghanistan for families being deported from Iran.

Severe weather conditions like the recent rains and snow melt in Helmand caused considerable flooding. The Provincial Government response was supported by the UN, which has provided assistance to 735 households (5,145 people). The UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) supported a request to air-lift a pump to the dam. No further request for PRT assistance has been made to date.

17 per cent. of the Afghan population are living in one of 2,374 mine-contaminated communities. DFID has provided up to £1.4 million this year as part of HALO's three year global mine action programme for 2007-10.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what grants his Department provided for environmental projects in Burma in each of the last five years; and what the value of each grant was. [142036]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is providing £4 million over four years to the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Initiative in Burma. The project aims (i) to strengthen the capacity of poor communities to address their basic needs; and (ii) to provide continued and constructive engagement with selected remote rural communities in the areas of social development and sustainable livelihoods. One of the intended project outcomes is an increased local capacity for sustainable environmental management, achieved through improved community skills for good environmental management; better planning by communities of the use of their local natural resources; and the introduction of energy-efficient technologies and community forestry initiatives to reduce the demand for wood for fuel.

DFID has also provided a grant of £580,000 over three years to the non-governmental organisation Forest Trends, to assess the impacts of the Chinese timber market throughout SE Asia, including in Burma. Copies of their reports are available at:

www.forest-trends.org

The British Embassy in Rangoon has recently provided a grant of £32,000 from the Grassroots Development Programme (GDP) fund to support seven environmental projects in Burma. The main objectives of the projects are to enhance village livelihoods through an improved management of agriculture, natural resource and agro forestry.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141965]

Hilary Benn: No Ministers in the Department for International Development are allocated a ministerial residence.

Developing Countries: AIDS

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the target of access to AIDS treatment for all in the developing world by 2010. [142214]

Mr. Thomas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development received letters on universal access by 2010 from a number of campaign groups. Members of Parliament, and members of the public in the run up to the G8 summit in Heiligendamm. The G8 reaffirmed their commitment to the goal of universal access to comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention programmes, treatment, care

and support by 2010, and pledged to contribute $60 billion towards fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB over the coming years.

G8 Commitments: Poverty Relief

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on progress on the 2005 G8 commitments on poverty relief. [142265]

Hilary Benn: DFID submits a regular report to Parliament detailing progress against agreed commitment milestones arising from the 2005 G8 commitments on poverty relief.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what factors account for the growth in his Department's bilateral spending on grants and other aid in kind, excluding funding for partnership programme agreements and other Civil Society Organisations since 2001-02; and which institutions were the major recipients. [141283]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The heading "grants and other aid in kind" is used for statistical purposes to classify DFID bilateral assistance which is not covered by the main aid-type categories such as financial aid (including budget support), technical co-operation and humanitarian assistance. In addition to funding for partnership programme agreements and other civil society organisations this category will include, amongst other things, a growing proportion of DFID bilateral support which is disbursed through international institutions and multilateral organisations. This funding is additional to core contributions to these organisations which are reported separately. For example in Sudan, DFID has committed £47 million over three years to two multi-donor trust funds administered through the World Bank. But, in general, projects and programmes coded under this heading are too diverse to provide a meaningful summary or an isolated cause for the overall increase. However, DFID is in the process of reassessing the way it categorises this element of its aid programme to provide a more useful breakdown for users in future reports.

JUSTICE

Human Rights

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to attend meetings with foreign counterparts to discuss the promotion of human rights. [141807]

Vera Baird: From time to time, the Secretary of State for Justice and Baroness Ashton meet with their foreign counterparts to discuss topics of common interest, including human rights. Ministers in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office also regularly discuss human rights issues with their counterparts. Neither the Secretary of State nor Baroness Ashton has any such meetings specifically planned at this time.

Legal Aid

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many firms of solicitors who previously undertook legal aid work did not sign the new contract for legal aid work. [142714]

Vera Baird: The Legal Services Commission's (LSC) new unified contract applies for civil legal aid providers from 1 April 2007. 2,408 of 2,531 unified contracts were signed and returned to the LSC by solicitors. This represents 95 per cent. of civil legal aid solicitors.

Legal Aid: Interpreters

Mr. Steen: To ask Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what expenditure in 2006-07 was for interpreters in the legal aid system; and what expenditure is forecast for 2007-08. [142767]

Vera Baird: The information is not available. Legal aid expenditure on interpreters forms part of the overall disbursement claimed by legal service providers and cannot be separately identified.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice when she plans to reply to the letter to her dated 30 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester Gorton with regard to Mr. M. A. Raja. [142713]

Vera Baird: My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor replied to my right hon. Friend on 4 June and the letter was sent on 7 June. I apologise for the delay.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Wills: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of monitoring the time spent processing requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the purposes of the proposed fees regulations. [121731]

Mr. Hain: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 22 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 866W, by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at that time for the Department for Constitutional Affairs (now the Ministry of Justice).

District Policing Partnerships

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the total cost was of district policing partnerships in Northern Ireland for the year ending 31 December 2006. [141633]

Paul Goggins: The cost of District Policing Partnerships (DPPs) is not available for the year ending 31 December 2006, as information is compiled according to the financial year, 1 April to 31 March.

The cost of DPPs for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 was £3.78 million. Funding provided by NIPB was £2.8 million and funding from local councils was £0.98 million.

Immigrants

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of (i) Polish, (ii) Lithuanian, (iii) Romanian, (iv) Chinese, (v) Portuguese and (vi) other foreign nationals living in Northern Ireland and *(b)* number of foreign nationals who arrived in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [142637]

Mr. Hain: This is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Administration.

Medicine: Education

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the ratio of specialty training to fixed term specialty training appointments is in each specialty in England. [134980]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is shown in the following table.

Percentage split of posts by post type

Specialty	*Theme*	*Post types (percentage)* *Specialty training*	*Fixed-term specialist training appointment (FTSTA)*	*Academic*
Acute care common stem (ACCS)	Acute medicine	83	17	0
	Anaesthesia	80	20	0
	Emergency medicine	70	29	1
	Intensive care medicine	0	100	0
Acute medicine		100	0	0
Allergy		100	0	0
Anaesthesia		71	28	0
Audiological medicine		67	0	33
Cardiology		98	0	2
Cardiothoracic surgery		83	0	17
Chemical pathology		100	0	0
Child and adolescent psychiatry		100	0	0
Clinical genetics		80	0	20
Clinical neurophysiology		88	0	13
Clinical oncology		97	0	3
Clinical pharmacology and therapeutics		75	0	25
Clinical radiology		96	0	4
Core medical training		65	34	1
Dermatology		100	0	0
Emergency medicine		94	6	0
Endocrinology and diabetes		97	0	3
Forensic psychiatry		96	0	4
Gastroenterology		100	0	0
General adult psychiatry		99	0	1
General practice		100	0	0
General surgery		99	0	1
Genito-urinary medicine		100	0	0
Geriatric medicine		97	0	3
Haematology		95	0	5
Histopathology		100	0	0
Immunology		80	0	20
Infectious diseases		100	0	0
Infectious diseases and medical microbiology and virology (MMV)	Medical microbiology	100	0	0
Infectious diseases and MMV	Virology	50	0	50
Medical microbiology and virology		87	13	0
Medical microbiology and virology		100	0	0
Medical oncology		75	0	25

Percentage split of posts by post type

Specialty	Theme	Post types (percentage) Specialty training	Fixed-term specialist training appointment (FTSTA)	Academic
Medical ophthalmology		100	0	0
Neurology		90	0	10
Neurosurgery		60	39	1
Nuclear medicine		100	0	0
Obstetrics and gynaecology		85	14	1
Occupational medicine		100	0	0
Old age psychiatry		100	0	0
Ophthalmology		59	40	0
Oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS)		78	22	0
Otolaryngology (ENT)		98	0	2
Paediatric cardiology		100	0	0
Paediatric surgery		100	0	0
Paediatrics		72	28	1
Palliative medicine		100	0	0
Plastic surgery		98	0	2
Psychiatry		67	32	1
Psychiatry of learning disability		100	0	0
Psychotherapy		100	0	0
Public health		90	0	10
Rehabilitation medicine		96	0	4
Renal medicine		93	0	7
Respiratory Medicine		100	0	0
Rheumatology		96	0	4
Sports and exercise medicine		100	0	0
Surgery in general	Cardiothoracic Surgery	3	97	0
Surgery in general	General surgery	33	66	1
Surgery in general	Generic	56	42	2
Surgery in general	Otolaryngology (ENT)	36	62	2
Surgery in general	Paediatric surgery	45	55	0
Surgery in general	Plastic surgery	38	61	1
Surgery in general	Trauma and orthopaedic surgery	41	59	0
Surgery in general	Urology	41	57	3
Trauma and orthopaedic surgery		98	0	2
Urology		96	0	4
Grand total		14,600 (76)	4,400 (23)	200 (1)

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Business: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many business start-ups there were in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since 1997. [141897]

Margaret Hodge: Value added tax (VAT) registrations are the best official guide to the pattern of business start-ups. DTI data on the number of VAT registrations, and the start of year stock of VAT registered businesses, in East Sussex and Eastbourne from 1997 to 2005 are shown in the following table. Data for 2006 will be available autumn 2007.

VAT registrations and start of year VAT stock

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Eastbourne										
Registrations	245	210	250	220	260	220	285	195	250	n/a
Stock	1,980	2,010	2,015	2,065	2,070	2,145	2,125	2,180	2,130	2,180

VAT registrations and start of year VAT stock

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
East Sussex										
Registrations	1,750	1,620	1,650	1,610	1,580	1,670	1,725	1,460	1,530	n/a
Stock	15,360	15,705	16,005	16,265	16,460	16,615	16,865	17,045	17,030	17,205

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005, Small Business Service, available from: http://www.dtistats.net/smes/vat/index.htm

Although numbers of registrations in Eastbourne and East Sussex have remained fairly constant, the start of year stock has risen by 10 per cent. over the period in Eastbourne, and by 12 per cent. in East Sussex.

VAT registration and de-registration data do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if their turnover falls below the compulsory VAT threshold, which has risen in each year since 1997. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.8 million out of 4.3 million businesses (42 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2005.

Cement

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what tonnage of bagged ordinary portland cement was imported into the UK in each quarter of each year since 2004; [R] [142998]

(2) what tonnage of bulk ordinary portland cement was imported into the UK in each quarter of each year since 2004. [R] [143001]

Margaret Hodge: Figures are not available separately for bagged and bulk portland cement. HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics give the following figures for imports of portland cement, whether or not coloured, in thousand tonnes.

Imports of portland cement

	Quarter	Weight (thousand tonnes)
2004	Q1	413
	Q2	546
	Q3	604
	Q4	458
2005	Q1	509
	Q2	403
	Q3	376
	Q4	289
2006	Q1	357
	Q2	375
	Q3	325
	Q4	340

Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what tonnage of bagged cement (with additives) was *(a)* produced in the UK and *(b)* imported into the UK in each quarter of each year since 2004; [142999]

(2) what tonnage of ordinary Portland cement was produced in the UK in each quarter of each year since 2004. [143000]

Margaret Hodge: The Office for National Statistics publishes annual figures for Product Sales and Trade: Cement (PRA 26510). Combining the figures for white and grey Portland cement gives the following volume data in million tonnes.

Tonnes (million)

	UK manufacturer sales	Total exports	Total imports	UK net supply
2004	12.2	0.2	2.0	14.0
2005	12.1	0.3	1.6	13.3
2006	11.2	0.6	1.4	12.1

Clothing: Safety

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the reasons are for the differences in the safety flammability requirements set out by the Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985 for pyjamas and nightdresses; and if he will make a statement; [138095]

(2) what representations he has received requesting a review of the applicability of the Nightwear Regulations to pyjamas; [138093]

(3) if he will assess the merits of extending to pyjamas the flammability requirements of the Nightwear Regulations applying to other nightwear. [138094]

Mr. McCartney: I have received no direct representations on this issue. I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton), on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1041W. I also refer the hon. Member to the replies I gave her on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1266W, covering the question of amending the Nightwear (Safety) Regulations 1985 to make it compulsory for children's pyjamas to meet the flammability requirements of the regulations. Regarding the reason for differentiating between pyjamas and nightdresses, a line was drawn between them on the basis that nightdresses involve free-flowing designs which are more likely to catch light from open fires. Nightdresses which comply with the flammability test of the regulations tend to be made from man-made fibres such as polyester. Pyjamas and nightdresses made from cotton would need to be treated with flame retardant chemicals in order to pass the same test. Such chemicals can affect the feel and comfortability of the fabric, and could pose problems for allergy sufferers. It is important to note that even chemically treated

fabrics, and those with natural flame resistance, will not be completely safe from ignition, so parental guidance and supervision has a key role here, too. Legislation has to seek to provide a balance between appropriate levels of fire safety and health/comfortability requirements.

Companies: Allergies

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) how much his Department spent on providing information to companies on compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in relation to allergies in each of the last five years; [140541]

(2) what information his Department provides to companies on compliance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 in relation to allergies. [140529]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answers 4 June 2007]:* General guidance on employers' responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act is available on the employing people pages on businesslink.gov and on the Department for Work and Pensions site as the Department responsible for the Act. The DTI has not spent any further money on providing information to companies on allergies and the Disability Discrimination Act in the five year period.

Company Liquidations: North West Region

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many company liquidations took place in the North West in each year since 1997. [143732]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table records the numbers of compulsory liquidations in the "North West" region classified according to Official Receiver's (OR) Offices from 1999-2000 to 2006-07. Figures have been provided by financial year due to the movement of individual OR offices between broader regions coinciding with financial years. Prior to 1999-2000 the "North West" region did not exist separately and the Northern region (as it was then included OR offices in the "North East". For this reason comparable figures for the earlier years are not readily available.

Number of Compulsory Liquidations in the North West for each financial year from 1999-2000:

Financial year	*Compulsory liquidations*
1999-2000	672
2000-01	620
2001-02	651
2002-03	927
2003-04	629
2004-05[1]	522
2005-06[1]	721
2006-07[2]	707

[1] In 2004-05 and 2005-06 Stoke-on-Trent moved to the Midlands region and is not included in the above figures for those years. In 2004-05 there were 62 compulsory liquidations under the Stoke-on-Trent Office, in 2005-06 there were 95.
[2] In 2006-07 Stoke-on-Trent moved back to the North West region.
Note:
Official Receiver's offices in the North West region include Blackpool, Chester, Liverpool, Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent.

Departments: Caparo Group

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Caparo Group or its companies since 1997. [141916]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no record of any payment by DTI to any of the companies in the Caparo Group since the implementation of the current finance system in September 2003. To access records before this date would incur disproportionate cost.

The Department does not hold financial records at this level of detail for its agencies.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many staff funded by the public purse in each regional development agency are classified as people without posts. [142200]

Margaret Hodge: The Regional Development Agencies tell me that they have no staff funded by the public purse who are classified as without posts.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many civic amenity sites are registered as designated collection facilities for all five categories of waste electrical and electronic equipment under the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [142743]

Malcolm Wicks: Of the 1,046 civic amenity sites which have applied for designated collection facilities approval 867 will collect all five categories of WEEE.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive designated collection facilities are in rural areas. [142744]

Malcolm Wicks: There are 1,046 local authority civic amenity sites that have registered as designated collection facilities (DCFs). This represents 100 per cent. of local authority sites in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland and 97 per cent. of sites in England. In addition there are a further 400 private DCFs including local authority waste transfer stations.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many compliance schemes are available for electronic producers with recycling obligations under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations. [142745]

Malcolm Wicks: There are 37 approved producer compliance schemes registered with the environment authorities, details of which are available on both the DTI website:

http://www.dti.gov.uk/innovation/sustainability/weee/page30269.html

and the Environment Agency website:

http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/weee

Energy: Shoreham

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made as part of its energy review of the uses to which Shoreham Harbour and its surrounding areas might be put. [142553]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 June 2007]*: The Department's White Paper "Meeting the Energy Challenge" sets out the Government's international and domestic energy strategy to respond to the challenges identified in the 2006 Energy Review Report. It does not include assessments of geographically specific areas.

Gardens: Heating

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his estimate is based on figures from the Market Transformation Programme of the number of *(a)* gas and *(b)* other outdoor patio heaters there are used by (i) households and (ii) businesses. [140647]

Malcolm Wicks: I refer my hon. Friend the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 917W.

Insolvency

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many extensions to the three-year period referred to in section 238A(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 insolvency agencies have applied for in order to pursue people under section 238A(6) of that Act. [143179]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, there is no section 238A in the Insolvency Act 1986, and I assume that the question relates to section 283A of that Act.

In cases where the Official Receiver is trustee in bankruptcy there are two cases where such extensions have been sought. Both are yet to be determined by the court. I am also aware of another case where there is an application for either a charging order or an extension of the three-year period. That case is also yet to be determined.

There may however be cases where a licensed insolvency practitioner is the trustee in bankruptcy and a similar application has been made. The Insolvency Service would not automatically be notified in such cases. HM Courts Service records do not show this information.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many grants were awarded under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in each month of 2007; how many in each month were for solar photovoltaics; and what the value was of each grant. [142451]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 June 2007]*: The following table sets out the total number of grants awarded under the Low Carbon Buildings Programme phase 1 in each month of 2007 for all technologies, with specific information on grants awarded to solar photovoltaics installations.

2007	*Technology*	*Grant values*	*Number of grants awarded*	*Total amount of grant offered (£)*
January	Solar Photovoltaic		34	234,058.45
		Up to £2,999	1	2,671.20
		£3,000 to £3,999	6	20,190.00
		£4,000 to £4,999	2	8,625.77
		£5,000 to £5,999	3	17,072.64
		£6,000 to £6,999	8	51 ,779.25
		£7,000 to £7,999	4	30,061.43
		£8,000 to £8,999	3	25,506.16
		£9,000 to £9,999	2	18,750.00
		£10,000 to £10,999	3	31,119.50
		£11,000 to £11,999	0	0.00
		£12,000 to £12,999	0	0.00
		£13,000 to £13,999	1	13,282.50
		£14,000 to £15,000	1	15,000.00
	All technologies		248	476,823.92
February	Solar Photovoltaic		43	343,557.83
		Up to £2,999	0	0.00
		£3,000 to £3,999	5	17,130.00
		£4,000 to £4,999	3	13,970.00
		£5,000 to £5,999	7	38,470.28
		£6,000 to £6,999	10	61,737.05
		£7,000 to £7,999	2	15,010.00

2007	Technology	Grant values	Number of grants awarded	Total amount of grant offered (£)
		£8,000 to £8,999	1	8,492.50
		£9,000 to £9,999	3	28,600.00
		£10,000 to £10,999	2	21,000.00
		£11,000 to £11,999	1	11,480.00
		£12,000 to £12,999	0	0.00
		£13,000 to £13,999	6	82,785.00
		£14,000 to £15,000	3	44,883.00
	All technologies		185	465,017.25
March	Solar Photovoltaic		63	462,127.95
		Up to £2,999	1	2,475.00
		£3,000 to £3,999	10	38,490.00
		£4,000 to £4,999	7	31,969.34
		£5,000 to £5,999	7	38,044.56
		£6,000 to £6,999	10	62,605.00
		£7,000 to £7,999	6	45,630.00
		£8,000 to £8,999	5	42,324.50
		£9,000 to £9,999	7	64,437.05
		£10,000 to £10,999	1	10,800.00
		£11,000 to £11,999	1	11,428.50
		£12,000 to £12,999	2	25,350.00
		£13,000 to £13,999	1	13,610.00
		£14,000 to £15,000	5	74,964.00
	All technologies		190	646,676.95
May	Solar Photovoltaic		46	112,780.00
		Up to £2,999	46	112,780.00
		£3,000 to £3,999	0	0.00
		£4,000 to £4,999	0	0.00
		£5,000 to £5,999	0	0.00
		£6,000 to £6,999	0	0.00
		£7,000 to £7,999	0	0.00
		£8,000 to £8,999	0	0.00
		£9,000 to £9,999	0	0.00
		£10,000 to £10,999	0	0.00
		£11,000 to £11,999	0	0.00
		£12,000 to £12,999	0	0.00
		£13,000 to £13,999	0	0.00
		£14,000 to £15,000	0	0.00
	All technologies		295	317,615.40
June	Solar Photovoltaic		23	52,975.84
		Up to £2,999	23	52,975.84
		£3,000 to £3,999	0	0.00
		£4,000 to £4,999	0	0.00
		£5,000 to £5,999	0	0.00
		£6,000 to £6,999	0	0.00
		£7,000 to £7,999	0	0.00
		£8,000 to £8,999	0	0.00
		£9,000 to £9,999	0	0.00
		£10,000 to £10,999	0	0.00
		£11,000 to £11,999	0	0.00

2007	Technology	Grant values	Number of grants awarded	Total amount of grant offered (£)
		£12,000 to £12,999	0	0.00
		£13,000 to £13,999	0	0.00
		£14,000 to £15,000	0	0.00
	All technologies		129	122,436.30

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on administering the Low Carbon Buildings Programme in the 2006-07 financial year. [142452]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* For the 2006-07 financial year, the total administration costs for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 1 was £509,044.54. This included set up costs for Phase 1, which started in April 06. Phase 2 started in December 2006 and the total administration costs for 2006-07 financial year was £130,625, including set up costs.

These costs do not include work undertaken by civil servants in supporting delivery of the programme.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much was spent on the recent restructuring of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. [142453]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The overall costs are forecast to be in the region of £90,000.

Maternity Leave: Paternity Leave

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent estimate he has made of the take-up rates of *(a)* paid maternity leave, *(b)* unpaid maternity leave, *(c)* paid paternity leave and *(d)* unpaid paternity leave in the latest period for which figures are available. [136543]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The most recent estimates are based on the Maternity and Paternity rights and benefits in Britain: Survey of Parents, conducted in 2005. The survey is based on a random sample of mothers who had a baby in December 2003 and their partners. Of mothers in paid work, all took at least some of their entitlement to maternity leave, and 98 per cent. received some form of maternity pay; approximately 2 per cent. of mothers in paid work did not receive maternity pay.

Of fathers in paid work, 93 per cent. said they had taken some leave around the time of the birth. Of these, around 80 per cent. said they had used at least some of their statutory paid paternity leave entitlement which was brought in 2003. The remainder took other forms of leave. No estimate has been made of the take-up of unpaid paternity, although almost all fathers who qualify for paternity leave will also qualify for Statutory Paternity leave.

The report findings from this survey is available in the Members' library, on the DTI website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/files/file27446.pgf and from the DTI Publications Order-line 08701 502500, quoting URN 06/836.

Nuclear Power Stations

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what consideration his Department makes of population density when considering potential locations for new power stations; [142552]

(2) whether his Department has identified any sites for potential new nuclear power stations to be built in Sussex; [142550]

(3) what criteria his Department uses to determine the location of new nuclear power stations. [142554]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answers 14 June 2007]:* DTI has not identified any locations for new nuclear power stations. Any new nuclear power stations would be built by the private sector but no decisions would be taken on any potential location for a new nuclear power station pending the carrying out of a full strategic siting assessment (SSA).

DTI is consulting on a proposed process for carrying out an SSA. If the Government confirms its preliminary view that it is in the public interest to allow energy companies the option of investing in new nuclear power stations, DTI would consult separately on the siting criteria that would underpin such an assessment. Such criteria would include demographic considerations, including with regard to population density and distribution. In addition to the SSA, any proposed new nuclear sites would need to comply with the rigorous site-specific safety and environmental requirements of the independent regulators.

Post Offices

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the performance of Crown Post Offices transferred to the private sector in *(a)* England and *(b)* Worcestershire; and if he will make a statement. [138700]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. Operational matters are the direct responsibility of the company's management.

However, results of Post Office Ltd's customer surveys from the six pilot franchises to WH Smith last year are overwhelmingly positive. The majority of customers welcome the pleasant environment, excellent levels of customer service, convenient locations and extended opening hours.

Post Offices: Somerset

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he plans to publish his proposals on post office closures in Somerset; and if he will make a statement. [143128]

Jim Fitzpatrick: On 17 May my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the Government's response to public consultation on the Post Office network.

Now that the Government have announced their decisions it will be for Post Office Ltd. to strategically develop the network through 50 to 60 local area implementation plans over the next 18 months.

Following initial input from sub-postmasters, Postwatch and local authorities, these plans will include closure proposals which will then be put to local consultation ahead of final decisions.

Radioactive Materials

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the total amount of radioactive material unaccounted for from nuclear power stations since their establishment. [141854]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* Following consultation with the hon. Member, the question will be answered with respect to nuclear material unaccounted for (MUF). MUF is the inventory difference that occurs when the result of a physical inventory of nuclear material is compared with the book inventory. The difference may be negative (an apparent loss) or positive (an apparent gain). MUF is a recognised feature of accounting for nuclear material at processing plants and is caused primarily by the uncertainties inherent in the techniques used to measure nuclear material. An explanation of MUF is available at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/safeguards/muf.htm.

There should be no such MUF for nuclear power stations. Nuclear material in the form of discrete items (fuel elements) is added to the inventory on receipt at the power station site and subtracted from that inventory when fuel is shipped from the site.

Nuclear materials balance figures for UK sites where nuclear material is processed, and hence MUF arises, are published annually. For figures since 1974, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 15 June 2004, *Official Report*, column 820W. More recent figures are available at the UK Safeguards Office website at:

http://www.hse.gov.uk/nuclear/safeguards/materials.htm.

There is no evidence to suggest that there have been any real losses or gains of nuclear material.

Royal Mail: Government Assistance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment was made of compliance with EU rules on state aid before each of the four instances of Government assistance to Royal Mail being investigated by the European Commission was announced. [140113]

Mr. Darling *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The support that the Government have given to the Royal Mail mails business has been provided on a commercial basis. This has been verified by independent sources.

Turbines: Health Hazards

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1003W, on turbines: health hazards, what qualifications Hayes McKenzie possessed in relation to infrasound emitted by wind turbines; and what role medical experts played in the production of the report. [142509]

Malcolm Wicks: The Hayes McKenzie report for DTI "The measurement of Low Frequency Noise at three UK wind farms" investigated the levels of low frequency noise and infrasound emitted by wind turbines, it was not within the remit of the study to undertake new medical analysis.

However, the study did refer to the document prepared for the World Health Organization "Community Noise" which states that

"there is no reliable evidence that infrasounds below the hearing threshold produce physiological or psychological effects".

It also referenced work undertaken for DEFRA on low frequency noise and its effects.

Dr. Andrew McKenzie and Malcolm Hayes are acoustic experts with between them over 45 years experience. They have conducted work in relation to wind turbines at over 400 proposed, consented or completed sites in the UK and overseas.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research his Department has carried out on the numbers of individuals and households adversely affected by infrasound emitted by wind turbines. [142510]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI and DEFRA have recently commissioned a report by Salford university one of the objectives of which is

"to establish the levels and nature of the noise complaints received across the UK relating to noise issues from wind farms, both historic and current, and determine whether Aerodynamic Modulation (AM) is a significant effect".

This report will be published later this summer.

TRANSPORT

Cycle to Work Scheme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many institutions are participating in the Cycle to Work scheme in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland. [143423]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not centrally collected as the scheme is not run by central Government.

Employers are responsible for implementing the scheme where they can take advantage of the tax exemption provided in the Finance Act 1999 and the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 to provide cycles for their employees to commute to work.

Freight: Blaenau Ffestiniog

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to protect the Blaenau Ffestiniog goods yard for future freight use. [141018]

Mr. Tom Harris: Blaenau Ffestiniog goods yard was marketed extensively—over and above the normal consultation process that the company undertakes prior to putting a property up for sale—to the rail freight community during 2006. No interest in purchasing the site for rail freight use was received. In addition, no objections to the sale were received from the rail industry or from the Welsh Assembly Government who stated that there was no public or private interest in the site. As such, following the formal consultation process that BRB (Residuary) Ltd. are required to undertake prior to releasing properties for sale, the site was sold at auction on 6 June 2007.

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that passengers receive compensation following the conclusions of the Office of Rail Regulation Report on the Portsmouth re-signalling project by Network Rail; and if he will make a statement. [143164]

Mr. Tom Harris: Stagecoach South Western Trains is obligated to compensate passengers where disruption to services meets its compensation obligations under the National Rail Conditions of Carriage and in particular under its Passengers Charter.

The Department has ensured that where necessary that Stagecoach South Western Trains has plans to meet its obligations to passengers.

TREASURY

Capital Gains Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department has conducted on the effect of removing exemption from capital gains tax in relation to primary residences. [142354]

Ed Balls: Primary residences are exempt from capital gains tax. Figures relating to the cost of exempting gains on primary residences from capital gains tax are published in Table 1.5 on the HMRC website.

Capital Gains Tax: Tax Allowances

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the annual value of capital gains tax taper relief on carried interest in each of the last three financial years. [141157]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual revenue yield from treating as income for tax purposes the capital gains received by private equity funds on disposals of assets held by the funds they manage; and if he will make a statement. [141427]

Ed Balls: Information is not collected in such a way as to enable these stimates to be made.

Child Tax Credit

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many parents of children aged 11 years and over were in receipt of the child care element of children's tax credit in each of the last three years. [142429]

Mr. Timms: The following table shows the number of in-work families with a child aged 11 years or over who were benefiting from the child care element of working tax credits at selected snapshot dates in the last three years.

	Snapshot date		
	April 2005	*April 2006*	*April 2007*
Families with at least one child aged 11 or over	259,500	286,500	314,600
Of which:			
Families where all children were aged 11 or over	13,800	16,900	20,600

The bottom row of figures in the table shows families where all child care costs can be attributed to children aged 11 or over. For families with two or more children, it is not possible to say which child the family are claiming child care costs for. It is likely that most families with children under and over the age of 11 are claiming child care costs for younger siblings, as opposed to any child aged 11 or over.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency has the *(a)* authority and *(b)* ability to conduct a council tax rebanding exercise without a formal council tax revaluation. [142352]

Mr. Timms: Listing officers of the Valuation Office Agency have a duty, under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, to compile and maintain council tax valuation lists. Maintaining valuation lists can include work to re-band properties individually, in relation to their market value as at 1 April 1991, where the existing entries are found to be incorrect, but does not extend to a partial or full revaluation which requires express statutory authority by secondary legislation.

Debts: Burma

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when Burma last repaid debt owed to the UK Government; what recent steps the Government have taken to recover debt owed by Burma; and what legal options are available to the Government to recover debt owed by Burma. [141625]

Ed Balls: ECGD—the Export Credits Guarantee Department—has unrecovered claims totalling £22.9 million in respect of seven contracts in the power, textile and water sectors on which claims were paid to UK banks/exporters between 1988 and 1998. There have been no recoveries since 1990.

The UK also has two outstanding aid loans amounting to £1.06 million that are managed by the

World Bank. These represent the UK's share of co-funded loans from the EU. The loans reverted to bilateral status in 2005. These loans are not currently being serviced by Burma.

Given the economic and political situation in the country, HMG does not consider that legal action would be appropriate.

Pension Funds: Taxation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the actuarial valuation assumptions referred to in the Inland Revenue policy note of 21 May 1997 as very cautious were; [141538]

(2) what evidence the Inland Revenue's Savings and Investment Division collected to support its view expressed to him on 21 May 1997 that actuarial valuation assumptions tended to very cautious. [141597]

Ed Balls: The policy note of 21 May 1997 describes actuarial valuation assumptions as tending to be "very cautious", on the basis of advice from the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) that the dividend growth model used by actuaries implicitly assumes

"a conservative real rate of return on equity. [This] tends to mean that actuarial value is somewhat less than the market value..."

GAD's rationale is explained on pages 34 and 35 of the 27 June document released on 30 March.

Taxation: Quarrying

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1630-31W, on taxation: quarrying, what steps the Government are taking to specify in their procurement policies the use of recycled demolition waste rather than virgin aggregates. [138769]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), established by Government, is encouraging major construction clients, their advisors and main contractors to make clear commitments to use products with higher recycled content. This includes encouraging the greater use in public sector construction projects of recycled demolition waste rather than virgin aggregates. WRAP's target for its 2006-08 business plan is for £10 billion worth of construction projects to set requirements for waste minimisation, recycling and recycled content. WRAP is making good progress towards achieving this target, and is working with other programmes to ensure that these commitments are put into effect.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidelines have been produced for the use of tree protection orders in relation to *(a)* Crown land and *(b)* the sale of Crown land to the private sector. [142170]

Ruth Kelly: I have been asked to reply.

Paragraph 50 of Communities and Local Government's Circular 02/2006, "Crown Application of the Planning Acts", provides guidelines on the use of Tree Preservation orders (TPOs) on Crown land.

No guidelines have been issued specifically on TPOs and the sale of Crown land to the private sector. However, the Department's policy document "Tree Preservation Orders: A Guide to the Law and Good Practice" makes clear that local planning authorities may consider it expedient to make TPOs where land, including Crown land, is about to change hands.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the project topic was of the Gateway Review undertaken for the Valuation Office Agency in October 2005. [142366]

Mr. Timms: This was a Gate 4 review of the Valuations Project, which formed part of the programme of projects in place to implement the council tax revaluation in England in 2007, which was postponed on 20 September 2005. The review was a pre-planned independent audit of the soundness of the work done up to that point, and the project was awarded 'Green status' to signal that the project was ready for implantation.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, on the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), whether the VOA carbon off-set foreign visits made by their staff; and at what cost for visits made in the last 12 months. [142402]

Mr. Timms: As part of the Government estate, and to meet the sustainable operational targets, the VOA has recently committed to offset it's carbon dioxide emissions through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). DEFRA advised, on the 18 May 2007, that the total cost to offset its emissions for 2006-07 financial year is £822.53 (for 83tCO_2 emitted). This total includes domestic and international flights.

VAT: Memorials

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many UK charities have been refunded VAT for the construction, renovation and maintenance of war memorials since August 2005; and what total sum has been refunded in that period. [142591]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Memorials Grant Scheme returns as a grant the equivalent of the VAT incurred by charities and faith groups in establishing or maintaining memorial structures. Since August 2005, grants totalling £660,000 have been made. Of this, grants totalling £529,851 have been made to nine UK charities for the construction, renovation or maintenance of war memorials. Additional sums have been paid to faith groups for the maintenance of war memorials in their care.

Welfare Tax Credits: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants of tax credit there are in Wimbledon. [143134]

Mr. Timms: Estimates for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 of the number of in-work families with tax credits awards (including out-of-work families in 2005-06), based on final family circumstances and incomes for 2003-04, 2004- 05 and 2005-06 are published in "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2003-04 Geographical Analysis", "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2004-05 Geographical Analysis" and "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06 Geographical Analysis". These publications and provisional estimates for the number of in-work families by constituency with tax credit awards as at selected dates in 2006-07 (including out-of-work families in April 2007) are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27th March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1441-2W, on Departments: public expenditure, for which losses his Department was granted Treasury approval in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [136769]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

All losses incurred by the Home Office during the last five years have been managed by the Department within the scope of authorities delegated by the Treasury, the thresholds for which were set out in the reply provided to the hon. Member on 27 March 2007.

The overall level of losses incurred by the Home Office in any one year is reported in its resource accounts.

WALES

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [142205]

Mr. Hain: 83,176 kilowatt hours—100 per cent. of the energy purchased by the Wales Office was from renewable sources in this current year.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his strategy is for renewable energy and meeting energy targets in departmental buildings; and if he will make a statement. [142208]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office, as an associated office of the Ministry of Justice, is included under the Ministry of Justice strategy.

The strategy employed focuses on procuring as-much renewable electricity as is feasible.

The strategy deployed to meet the Department's energy targets is a system of monitoring buildings of similar ages, sizes and functions. We investigate any anomalies in demand. We also invest in energy saving measures in addition, promoting best practice.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Social Security Benefits: Patients

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what benefits are available to parents whose children below the age of three years are in hospital; and if he will make a statement. [143143]

Mr. Plaskitt: Parents who are responsible for children below the age of three years who are in hospital are able to claim the same benefits and increases as all other persons responsible for children; the exact amounts that they receive will depend upon the individual circumstances of each such case.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 18 June 2007

PRIME MINISTER

Africa

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost was to the public exchequer of his recent visit to Africa; and if he will make a statement. [141420]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list.

All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for 2007-08 will be published in the normal way.

Czech Republic: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what matters concerning the deployment of missile defence systems he discussed with his Czech counterpart on 13 June. [143939]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the press conference I held with Prime Minister Topolanek on 13 June 2007 (http://www.number-10.gov.uk/output/Page11944.asp). A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Attorney-General

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister on how many occasions and on which dates since 1 January 2006 *(a)* he and *(b)* members of his staff at No. 10 Downing Street have spoken to the Attorney-General; and if he will make a statement. [143042]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost has been of his overseas visits since 10 May 2007; which countries he has visited; how many *(a)* officials, *(b)* advisers and *(c)* members of his family accompanied him; what the cost was in each case; where he and those who accompanied him stayed during each visit; what the cost was in each case; if he will list those persons he met during each visit; which British Government Departments provided briefing material for his use during each visit; and if he will make a statement. [142818]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. All Ministers' travel arrangements are in accordance with the arrangements for official travel set out in chapter 10 of the "Ministerial Code", and the accompanying guidance document, "Travel by Ministers". Information for 2007-08 will be published in the normal way.

Briefing for my visits is provided by the relevant Government Departments. I meet a wide range of people during my visits, including foreign leaders, details of which can be found on the No. 10 website.

IBM Corporation

Mr. Gray: To ask the Prime Minister when his meeting at No. 10 on 2 December 1999 with Mr. Louis Gerstner Junior of the IBM Corporation of New York was first sought to be booked; whether discussions included the transfer pricing review of IBM then being undertaken by Inland Revenue in August 1999; and whether a record of the meeting exists. [144040]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 21 February 2005, *Official Report*, column 193W.

Saudi Arabia

Mr. Laws: To ask the Prime Minister whether *(a)* he and *(b)* Downing Street staff have (i) met and (ii) had discussions with (A) Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia and (B) his representatives since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [143091]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 754W.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

BAE Systems: Saudi Arabia

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Solicitor-General if he will request the Director of the Serious Fraud Office to reopen the investigation into the allegations of bribery in relation to the Al Yamamah contract. [142300]

The Solicitor-General: No.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Solicitor-General how many times the Law Officers' Departments were found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139234]

The Solicitor-General: I am answering this question on behalf on the Crown Prosecution Service, Serious Fraud Office, Revenue and Customs Prosecutions office, HMCPS Inspectorate and the Attorney-General's office.

The definition of "found to have been in breach" can be broad. Depending on their nature, breaches by Government Departments of the Data Protection Act can be dealt with by the Information Commissioner, the courts or by Departments at an informal local level. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Minister for Children on the potential for co-ordination between efforts to identify potential abusers of children and of animals. [142887]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no discussions between DEFRA and the Department for Education and Skills on this issue.

Animal Welfare: Transport

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 334W, on animal welfare: transport, what the figure of 217 non-returned journey logs represents in terms of the proportion of journey logs approved by his Department between 5 January and 30 March 2007; how many of the 217 journey logs have still not been returned; and what steps he is taking in respect of those persons and organisations that have failed to return journey logs on time and in compliance with the legal requirements. [142693]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is set out in the following table. The data have been collated from spreadsheets completed by Animal Health Divisional Offices from 5 January 2007 to 30 April 2007.

	Number/ percentage
Total number of journey logs approved	2,004
Number of journey logs not returned within one calendar month[1]	294
Number of journey logs still outstanding	182
Percentage outstanding	9.08

[1] This figure has increased since the answer given on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 334W, due to additional data being entered onto journey log spreadsheets.

Warning letters have been issued, as the standard response, to transporters who have not returned journey logs. These letters cautioned that non-compliance with journey log rules, as per Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005, may lead to future journey logs not being processed until outstanding logs are returned, with the possibility that repeated offences will lead to conditions being imposed on Transporter Authorisations.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the State Veterinary Service/Animal Health on *(a)* the views of individual state-employed vets on bovine TB and *(b)* the communication of such views to farmers. [142886]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Minister of State and DEFRA policy officials meet with the chief executive and others from Animal Health to discuss the organisation's objectives.

Those objectives include the delivery of agreed animal health and welfare strategies and policy, as well as supporting the development of evidence-based policy.

The views of individual state employed vets and the communication of such views to farmers would not form part of those discussions.

Cotswolds Conservation Boards: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the grant aid settlements given to the Cotswolds Conservation Boards by Natural England were in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what recent discussions he has had with Natural England about the level of these grants; and if he will make a statement. [143695]

Barry Gardiner: The Cotswolds Conservation Board was established in December 2004. Responsibility for its funding initially lay with the Countryside Agency but, since its creation, lies with Natural England. The funding is as follows:

	£
2007-08	617,314
2006-07	631,816
2005-06	810,387
2004-05	456,192

The figures represent total funding for core (administrative) costs, specific projects and the Sustainable Development Fund. However, the 2004-05 figures do not include the Sustainable Development Fund (created in June 2005) nor one-off set-up costs for the board which were met by the Countryside Agency. The reduction in funding from 2006-07 to 2007-08 is attributable to a reduction in support for specific projects. There has been no reduction in core funding.

I have not had any discussion with Natural England about this matter.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139403]

Barry Gardiner: Legal fees of counsel and solicitors in private practice incurred by this Department and its agencies over the past five financial years are as follows:

	£000
2002-03	3,107
2003-04	2,810
2004-05	4,615
2005-06	3,975
2006-07	1,754

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in the Veterinary Medicines Directorate are classified as people without posts. [141640]

Mr. Bradshaw: None.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, Official Report, columns 80-1W, on Domestic Wastes: Waste Management, if he will place in the Library *(a)* the documents outlining the assumptions about the costs of alternate weekly collections and *(b)* the initial report of the preliminary benchmarking project run by Be-Environmental. [142396]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have arranged for copies of the Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) Kerbside Analysis Tool user manual to be placed in the House Library.

The aim of the Be-Environmental study was to conduct a comparison of a number of consultants' proprietary collection cost models. This formed Phase 1 of a more comprehensive study of the costs and performance of different collection systems and involved using models to determine the costs of a number of collection options.

It is not WRAP'S intention to publish this as a stand-alone report. WRAP is using the findings to inform Phase 2 and will incorporate the relevant sections in the overall study report, which is expected to be completed early next year.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many pilot projects have been established by European Union member states following the communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, "Promoting more environmentally-friendly fishing methods: the role of technical conservation measures" (COM(2004) 438 final), dated 21 June 2004; and if he will make a statement. [142282]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since the release of the communication, the UK has developed two discard pilot projects. The first focused on improving selectivity in the north east coast prawn fishery. I have arranged for a copy of the report of this project to be laid in the Library of the House. The second, for which the details are still being finalised, will be a project run jointly with the Irish Government, which will look at discarding across a range of fisheries in the Irish Sea.

Details of pilot projects undertaken by other member states are not available.

Forestry

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made pursuant to the duty imposed by section 1(3) of the Forestry Act 1967, of the adequacy of national reserves of growing trees. [143606]

Barry Gardiner: The Strategy for England's Trees Woods and Forests to be published on 20 June sets out our objectives for their future role in England. This strategy focuses on maximising the public benefits which trees, woods and forests can deliver. Changing demands from society mean that public benefit is the key test of "adequacy" today. Sustainable management of the existing resource is just as important as new woodland creation. Increased afforestation must be linked with identifiable public benefit.

We have seen a long-term increase in the area of woodland in England and the Forestry Commission monitors this through the national survey of woodland, which has been carried out every 15-20 years since 1924. In addition the Forestry Commission publishes softwood availability forecasts to help inform the plans of wood-using industries and investors. At present we estimate that only around one quarter of annual growth is harvested from England's native woodlands each year, and only 60 per cent. of the annual growth from England's conifer forests.

Nappies

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when the revised version of the Environment Agency report Life Cycle Assessment of Disposable and Reusable Nappies in the UK, May 2005, will be published. [142520]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Environment Agency expects to publish a further report on nappies by the end of the year.

Waste Disposal

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence he has examined on whether there has been a causal link between the rate of growth of gross domestic product and the rate of growth of *(a)* municipal waste and *(b)* business waste in the UK. [142612]

Mr. Bradshaw: The most recent statistics[1] show that since 2000, waste (business and municipal) has grown significantly less than the UK's gross domestic product (GDP). This equates to average growth in waste of less than 0.5 per cent. per year, over the last five years. The average municipal waste growth up to the millennium

was around 3.5 per cent. per year, indicating a significant step change in the UK's waste management. Data for 2006-07, expected in autumn 2007, will provide further useful evidence on whether the trends of recent years have been sustained.

Between 1998-99 and 2002-03, the amount of waste produced by businesses in England fell from 69 million tonnes to 68 million tonnes per year[2], while GDP increased by about 10 per cent. In this period, industrial waste fell by 6 per cent. (2.5 million tonnes), declining faster than industrial gross value added (GVA)[3], which fell by 3.5 per cent. Commercial waste increased by 6 per cent. (1.7 million tonnes), compared with the 29 per cent. increase in commercial GVA. These changes mainly reflect increased employment in the service sectors and a decrease in industrial activity, along with increasing reliance on imports.

The overall aim of waste prevention is to decouple waste growth from increases in GDP. The recently published Waste Strategy 2007 renews the Government's commitment to breaking the link between economic growth and waste growth, by placing more emphasis on waste prevention and re-use.

[1] Municipal Waste Statistics 2005-06.

[2] Environment Agency Survey of Commercial and Industrial Waste 2002-03.

[3] Gross value added (GVA) measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector. The GVA generated by any unit engaged in production activity can be calculated as the residual of the units' total output less intermediate consumption (that is, goods and services used up in the process of producing the output), or as the sum of the factor incomes generated by the production process.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what statistics his Department keeps on levels of *(a)* household waste, *(b)* commercial waste, *(c)* industrial waste and *(d)* other waste in the UK; and how these statistics are used to measure the UK's progress in reducing the amount of waste it produces. [142618]

Mr. Bradshaw: Waste statistics kept by my Department are available from the DEFRA website at the following address:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/waste/index.htm

The recently published Waste Strategy contains a series of national level performance indicators, including on household waste per head after reuse, recycling and composting and waste arisings by key sectors (municipal, commercial and industrial, and construction and demolition waste). These indicators will be used to track progress in delivering the objectives of the strategy.

Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has given to *(a)* manufacturers and *(b)* commercial enterprises on methods by which they can reduce their waste arisings. [142615]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA's Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme has been established to provide targeted guidance and support to businesses to improve their resource efficiency and to minimise the levels of waste that are unnecessarily sent to landfill. For example, the BREW Programme funds the National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP). NISP matches one operator's waste with another's raw material needs. In the first two years of its operation, in the region of 1.7 million tonnes of material have been diverted from landfill, with £70 million of cost savings.

An early assessment of selected BREW activities suggests that the programme has made a good start in returning landfill tax receipts to businesses and helping them improve their resource efficiency. Around £4 has been saved by business for each £1 of BREW-funded advice and support. There were also reductions in water use, waste sent to landfill and the amounts of raw materials used by businesses. Many of the benefits will be seen beyond 2005-06, and work is currently under way to assess the impact of programme spending in 2006-07. More details about the BREW Programme can be found on the DEFRA website.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is also working across a range of industry sectors to reduce waste arisings. For example, WRAP is working with retailers and their supply chains towards its 2006-08 business plan target to secure reductions in packaging waste of 80,000 tonnes a year. WRAP has specific programmes with the construction and manufacturing sectors.

My Department has also produced the publication "Saving money by reducing waste", which gives practical guidance on waste minimisation for farmers and growers and is available from the DEFRA website.

Apart from guidance and support offered by DEFRA, there are also two sets of regulations in place to encourage producers (including retailers) to minimise, recycle and recover packaging and reduce packaging waste. We have asked the Advisory Committee on Packaging to work with industry to find further solutions to the challenge of minimising packaging, and recommend ways of encouraging businesses to further reduce the amount of packaging they use.

The Food Industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS), which was published in April 2006, also challenged the food manufacturing sector to reduce its own waste by 15-20 per cent. by 2010. Thirteen major grocery retailers (representing 92 per cent. of the UK grocery sector) have signed up to a voluntary agreement, the "Courtauld Commitment", and are working with WRAP to:

(i) design out packaging waste growth by 2008;

(ii) deliver absolute reductions in packaging waste by March 2010; and

(iii) identify ways to tackle the problem of food waste.

WALES

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 4W, on council tax: valuation, what change there was in council tax receipts as a result of revaluation *(a)* between 2004-05 and 2005-06 and *(b)* in subsequent years. [141649]

Mr. Hain: The revaluation and rebanding exercise was intended to be revenue-neutral. Year-to-year changes in the level of council tax receipts are the result of local authority budget decisions.

The increase in Band D council tax was 3.8 per cent. between 2004-05 and 2005-06; 4.5 per cent. between 2005-06 and 2006-07, and 4.4 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Additional Learning Needs Order

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what *(a)* procedures and *(b)* schedule for all forms of consideration and agreement of the Legislative Competence Order on Additional Learning Needs he is seeking to establish by both Houses of Parliament. [143764]

Mr. Hain: The Government intend to present all proposed draft Orders in Council to Parliament for pre-legislative scrutiny in all but exceptional circumstances.

On conclusion of pre-legislative scrutiny, the Welsh Assembly Government, in consultation with the UK Government will consider the recommendations made by Parliament and prepare a draft Order in Council.

The draft Order in Council will then be formally laid before Parliament and will be subject to affirmative resolution by both Houses. If approved by Parliament the Order in Council will be submitted to Her Majesty for approval.

The Government envisage a similar procedure for proposed draft Orders in Council that are put forward by Assembly committees or Back-Bench Members.

The Government expect the proposed draft Order in Council on Additional Learning Needs to follow the procedure set out.

Legislation

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will bring forward proposals to provide for all proposed legislative competence orders laid before the National Assembly for Wales to be referred automatically to the Welsh Affairs Committee and an appropriate committee in the House of Lords for pre-legislative scrutiny. [143352]

Mr. Hain: The Government gave assurances about pre-legislative scrutiny for proposed Orders in Council during the passage of the Government of Wales Bill, 24 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 1329. Both the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Select Committee and the House of Lords Constitution Committee have announced that they will conduct pre-legislative scr[illegible] of proposed draft orders in Council and the Go[illegible]t very much welcome this approach.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House of Lords: Reform

Mark Williams: To ask the Leader of the House if he will undertake a formal public consultation on the electoral system for the House of Lords. [142122]

Mr. Straw: The Government will listen carefully and consider the issues raised during the debates earlier this year on the electoral system for the House of Lords. As I have indicated, I will return to Parliament to make a statement outlining the Government's approach on the way forward.

Members: Costs

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Leader of the House what the annual cost per hon. Member of the House is on the public purse. [142448]

Mr. Straw: The overall costs of the House of Commons are the sum of the Estimates for House of Commons: Administration and House of Commons: Members. A range of the costs within the Administration Estimate (and also within the Members Estimate) do not relate solely to Members. Information for recent years is given in the table.

£ million

Financial year	*Total cost*[1]	*Total per Member*[2]
2006-07 (provisional)	365.8	0.57
2005-06	[3]477.2	[3]0.74

[1] In accordance with the principles on which the accounts are prepared, the information is in resource rather than cash terms.
[2] Using a figure of 646 members for 2005-06 and 2006-07.
[3] Expenditure on the Administration Estimate for 2005-06 included a technical accounting adjustment for pension liabilities (£116 million) and the General Election in that year involved payment of Resettlement Grants and Winding Up Allowance to retiring Members on the Members Estimate (£9 million); adjusted for these elements, the per member figure would be £0.55 million.

Oral Questions

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Leader of the House what consideration he has given to the amount of time allocated for oral questions to *(a)* the Home Department and *(b)* the Ministry of Justice. [143156]

Mr. Straw: The allocation of time within the oral question rota for the Home Office and for the Ministry of Justice is being reviewed and announcements will be made in due course.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* off sale outlets and *(b)* licensed premises were prosecuted for serving alcohol to individuals under the age of 18 years old in Northern Ireland in each of the last three years. [142639]

Maria Eagle: The following table gives the number of prosecutions and convictions for the offences of "selling intoxicating liquor to a mi[illegible]or" and "permitting minor to consume alcohol on licensed premises" For the former, it is not possible to identify separately those proceedings brought against off sale outlets and licensed premises.

Data cover the calendar years 2003 to 2005 and are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Number of prosecutions and convictions for the offences of 'selling intoxicating liquor to a minor' and 'permitting minor to consume alcohol on licensed premises' 2003-05

	Selling intoxicating liquor to a minor		Permitting minor to consume alcohol on licensed premises	
	Prosecutions	Convictions	Prosecutions	Convictions
2003	5	3	0	0
2004	7	2	0	0
2005	8	3	5	0

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141963]

Mr. Hain: When in Northern Ireland I stay at Hillsborough castle. As well as providing overnight accommodation for me, the facilities at Hillsborough castle are also used to provide official hospitality and overnight accommodation for members of the Royal Family, visiting dignitaries and diplomats. Other activities at the castle include departmental meetings, the Annual Garden Party and Citizenship Ceremonies. In addition to its use by the Northern Ireland Office and other Government Departments, charities and local community groups can request to use the facilities, generally for fund raising purposes, and the castle and grounds are open at certain times of the year for guided tours.

The costs associated with my overnight accommodation at Hillsborough castle cannot be separated from the overall cost. The cost of running Hillsborough castle for the 2005-06 financial year was £4,948,666.27. As custodians of this listed building the NIO takes seriously the need to preserve, maintain and refurbish the fabric of the building. This cost includes the maintenance of the buildings and grounds, and the security of the castle, the grounds, and that of Ministers, officials and visitors while present at the castle. It also includes the cost of catering, hospitality and administration. £3,165,938.56 is included in this amount in respect of cost of capital and depreciation.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much has been spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139420]

Mr. Hain: In each of the last five years the Department and its agencies has spent the following on public relations:

	£
2002-03	7,758.13
2003-04	54,985.83
2004-05	29,440.29
2005-06	97,158.00
2006-07	128,901.57

The reason for the increase in spend during 2005-06 and 2006-07 is due to the Youth Justice Agency's specific strategy of raising public awareness of the additional services available locally through the roll-out of the Youth Conferencing process across Northern Ireland.

Freedom of Information

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Freedom of Information requests have been received by each Northern Ireland Office *(a)* Department or *(b)* agency since the Freedom of Information Act 2000 came into force; and how many of those requests were (i) agreed and (ii) denied. [123452]

Paul Goggins: An administrative error meant that the answer to this question was not tabled prior to restoration. Had it not been missed, the answer would have indicated that the response rates for the NI Departments are as listed in the following table.

This, however, would now be a matter for the Northern Ireland administration.

The information provided covers the period from 1 January 2005 as although the Freedom of Information Act received Royal Assent in 2000 it only came into force from 1 January 2005.

Department	Requests received—1 January 2005 to 30 September 2006[1]	Number of resolvable requests[2]	Number granted in full	Number granted in part	Number withheld in full
Agriculture and Rural Development	393	361	241	54	66
Culture, Arts and Leisure[3]	1,013	817	771	34	12
Education	272	231	193	25	13
Employment and Learning	183	163	131	23	9
Enterprise, Trade and Investment	161	133	95	21	17
Finance and Personnel	655	622	436	99	87
Health, Social Services and Public Safety	247	218	174	22	22
Environment	1,700	1,615	1,152	344	119
Regional Development	646	637	583	23	31
Social Development	295	261	213	29	19
Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister	157	139	124	13	2

[1] Figures include requests made under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
[2] Excludes requests on hold or lapsed, where information is not held or where the request was outstanding at time of reporting.
[3] DCAL figures includes requests made to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

The Department for Constitutional Affairs published quarterly reports for Whitehall Department; statistics for the Northern Ireland Office are included in these. Figures for the first quarter of 2007 (1 January to 31 March) will be published in due course.

The following table covers figures relating to the performance of the Northern Ireland Office. The information supplied in relation to the Northern Ireland Office does not include information on the agencies. The agencies are not required to monitor statistics relating to Freedom of Information requests.

Department	Requests received—1 January 2005 to 31 December 2006[1]	Number of resolvable requests[2]	Number granted in full	Number granted in part	Number withheld in full
Northern Ireland Office	400	302	140	58	54

[1] Figures include requests made under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.
[2] Excludes requests on hold or lapsed, where information is not held or where the request was outstanding at time of reporting.

Immigrants: Crime

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many foreign nationals were convicted of criminal offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [142638]

Maria Eagle: At present information in relation to nationality is not included in court sentencing data and therefore it is not possible to calculate the number of foreign nationals who were convicted of criminal offences. I anticipate that such information will become available with the development of the Causeway information system.

Northern Ireland Government

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will list those matters on which he will answer questions following the resumption of devolved government; and if he will make a statement. [142385]

Mr. Hain: I will answer questions on those matters for which I retain responsibility following the restoration of devolution in Northern Ireland—primarily for policing, security policy, prisons, criminal justice, constitutional matters and the operation of the Northern Ireland devolution settlement.

DEFENCE

Ghana

9. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance his Department is providing to peace support training in Ghana. [142917]

Derek Twigg: We provide a Defence section within the high commission and an eight man British Military Advisory Training Team as assistance to peace support training in Ghana. Ghana currently deploys upwards of 2,800 peacekeepers on peace-support operations both within Africa and elsewhere. The Defence Advisers and British Military Advisory Training Team provide day to day advice, training and assistance to this process.

Unexploded Ordnance

10. **Lynda Waltho:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the steps taken to remove land mines and explosive remnants of war. [142918]

Derek Twigg: The UK has been actively engaged in removing landmines and explosive remnants of war worldwide. This has had a real impact in reducing civilian casualties. The UK is contributing funds towards humanitarian de-mining programmes and initiatives to train de-mining personnel in Kenya and Kosovo and has built an explosive destruction facility in Bosnia. In addition since 2001, the Department for International Development has contracted at least £10 million per year on mine action. In April 2007, DFID announced a further £30 million to mine action over the next three years.

Warship Procurement

11. **Anne Main:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the types and numbers of future warships to be ordered for the Royal Navy. [142919]

Des Browne: Over the next 20 years we expect to contract for or build more than 20 major warships, including nuclear attack submarines, new aircraft carriers and more air defence destroyers, and to begin a new class of fleet escorts. Numerous support ships will also come into service over this period.

Naval Accommodation

12. **Peter Viggers:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account is taken of the implications for naval accommodation when decisions are made about royal naval training and the basing of ships. [142920]

Derek Twigg: The potential implications for naval accommodation, for both single personnel and families, are always taken fully into account whenever decisions are taken about royal naval training or the basing of ships. These considerations are an integral component of any review, such as the defence training review and the naval base review, that could have implications for the location of naval personnel.

Operational Injuries

13. **Mr. Swayne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many very serious injuries have been sustained in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in 2007. [142921]

Derek Twigg: Between 1 January this year and 31 May, seven military personnel in Afghanistan and 14 military personnel in Iraq were categorised as very seriously injured. Regretfully, there have in addition been 16 fatalities in Afghanistan and 24 in Iraq during 2007.

Super Garrisons

14. **Mr. Kidney** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the development of super garrisons in the UK. [142923]

Derek Twigg: The Army aspires to quartering the majority of its units in fewer, bigger and better garrisons, known as "super garrisons" over the coming decades. Detailed work to develop this approach is continuing. The actual locations of super garrisons have yet to be decided.

Surplus Military Equipment

15. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what safeguards are in place to prevent the acquisition of dangerous surplus military equipment by private individuals. [142924]

Des Browne: The MOD takes the disposal of military equipment very seriously. Other than major capital platforms sold on a Government-to-Government basis, the MOD does not sell any item that has a potential dangerous or offensive use, and all such items are destroyed or recycled. Other equipment sold into the commercial marketplace is demilitarised and declassified before sale, as appropriate.

Cocaine Interdiction

17. **Siobhain McDonagh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Royal Navy is playing in the prevention of cocaine smuggling in the Caribbean. [142926]

Des Browne: The Royal Navy makes a major contribution to international counter drug operations in the Caribbean as one element of the UK's broader counter drugs engagement in the region. During 2006-07 Royal Navy vessels were involved in the seizure of over 17 tonnes of cocaine, with a street value in the UK of £680 million.

Airfield Review

18. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on his airfield review. [142927]

Derek Twigg: Ministers have received a number of representations from hon. Members and the public about studies that have been and are being undertaken across military airfields.

Troop Relocations

19. **Mr. Flello:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the relocation of Army personnel from Germany. [142928]

Derek Twigg: As part of the Future Army Structures, I can confirm that the transition of 4th Armoured Brigade into 4th Mechanized Brigade has been made and the unit continues to train and equip for its new role. 4th Mechanized Brigade will move from Osnabrück to Catterick during 2008-09.

In addition the BORONA Programme is currently assessing a number of possible UK locations for elements of the British Army's Germany-based units. No decisions have yet been taken.

RAF Cosford

20. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of RAF Cosford. [142929]

Derek Twigg: The aeronautical engineering and communications and information systems training currently delivered at Cosford will relocate to St. Athan as proposed by the Metrix Consortium as part of the defence training review programme. No significant moves, however, are anticipated before 2011. There are currently no plans to close Cosford, and we are exploring a number of proposals for the future defence use of the site.

Veterans Badge Scheme

21. **Mr. Browne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the veterans badge scheme. [142930]

Derek Twigg: The veterans badge scheme has proved extremely popular since it was launched in 2004, with over 460,000 issued to date. It is my intention that all armed forces veterans should receive their badge at the earliest opportunity. A regular programme of extensions to eligibility has been conducted based on our capacity to handle demand, and further extensions of eligibility to apply for the badge will follow as soon as practicable.

BAE Systems Arms Contracts

22. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the role of his Department in the negotiation of BAE Systems arms contracts. [142931]

Des Browne: BAE Systems is the largest supplier of defence equipment to the Ministry of Defence, providing products and services in the air, sea, land and space sectors. As with all contracts placed by MOD acquisition staff, the contracts with BAE Systems are negotiated against a strict set of terms and conditions in order to deliver acquisition programmes to meet operational, programme requirements and to achieve best value for money.

As with other UK defence companies, we also support the company's efforts in the defence export market through the Defence Export Services Organisation.

CAT Scanners

23. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress is being made in ensuring the provision of CAT scanners in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [142932]

Derek Twigg: Computerised tomography scanners are now fully operational in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Bevin Boys

24. **Mr. Jones:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made towards recognising the contribution of the Bevin Boys to the second world war effort; and if he will make a statement. [142933]

Derek Twigg: Following the Prime Minister's Statement on 24 January that the Government would be announcing proposals to give recognition to the Bevin Boys, it has been agreed that responsibility for implementing the Prime Minister's decision should lie with the Department of Trade and Industry, as the Department responsible for the coal mining industry. I understand that a statement giving specific detail on the Government's proposals is imminent.

Veterans: Mental Health

Mr. Joyce: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what provision his Department has made for the mental health care of veterans. [142925]

Derek Twigg: I announced on 11 June that the Ministry of Defence was expanding the medical assessment programme at St. Thomas's Hospital, London, to provide assessments to any veteran suffering from mental health problems as a result of service in operations since 1982. For the longer term, the MOD is working with the four UK Health Departments to pilot a new community-based service that will provide NHS health professionals with access to expertise in military mental health.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of family accommodation at Pirbright barracks are occupied by squatters; and what steps are being taken to ensure such accommodation is not occupied by squatters or vandalized. [141849]

Derek Twigg: We are aware of two incidents of squatters having taken over empty Service Families Accommodation (SFA) at Pirbright, both of which occurred in the early part of last year. The properties were "outside the wire".

In both cases, the squatters were removed and steps taken to ensure that the properties are not occupied or vandalised by squatters again.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what programmes his Department is funding to look at counter measures against the RPG29 and other shaped charge threats to British armoured vehicles. [142922]

Des Browne: We constantly assess the threats facing our forces on operations and have a number of programmes in place to ensure we are fielding the most suitable protection measures.

For reasons of operational security, I cannot provide any further detail on the programmes or protection measures employed by our forces.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139319]

Derek Twigg: The proceeds from the disposal of surplus defence land and buildings are as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2001-02	185
2002-03	281
2003-04	207
2004-05	216
2005-06	258

It should be noted that 2001-02 includes disposals in the UK and North West Europe only. Disposals in the rest of the world cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

2006-07 figures will be available once the agency accounts of Defence Estates—the Ministry of Defence organisation responsible for the defence estate—have been audited. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many weapons mounted installation kits and general purpose machine guns are in theatre in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [142525]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence is currently conducting a policy review of what information can be disclosed about operational equipment without compromising operational security or effectiveness. Until that review is complete, I am withholding this information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Military Bases: Cyprus

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence upon what grounds and for what reason a currency other than sterling will be used by British troops based on UK sovereign territory in Cyprus from next year; what consultations have taken place in connection therewith; with whom those consultations have taken place; and if he will make a statement. [143140]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* Appendix O to the 1960 treaty establishing the Republic of Cyprus states

"the currency of the Republic will be legal tender in the Sovereign Base Areas (SBAs)".

Since 1960 the SBAs, including the large numbers of Cypriot citizens and British military personnel resident there, have used the Cyprus pound and not the pound sterling. The Republic of Cyprus is expected to replace the Cyprus pound with the euro from 1 January 2008. If this happens then the legal tender in the SBAs will become the euro. Use of a currency in the SBAs other

than that circulating in the Republic of Cyprus would be impractical, and would run counter to the 1960 treaty.

UK military and UK based civilian staff will continue, as now, to be paid in pounds sterling and they can continue, as now, to elect to have a portion of their salary paid in the local currency into a local bank account. The same process applies in other overseas locations including Germany which also now uses the euro.

HMG has consulted both the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and the European Commission on the practical aspects of euro use.

Veterans Day

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding his Department has allocated for local events to mark Veterans Day 2007; and whether all the funding has been allocated to local events. [142431]

Derek Twigg: £250,000 was initially allocated to regional events meeting the criteria set for Veterans Day 2007. However, in view of the high number of compliant bids received, this has been increased and a total of £319,000 has now been awarded. We have had to give priority to those proposals that have clearly supported the objectives set out for Veterans Day. The closing date for applications has now passed.

War Pensions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many ex-service personnel are waiting for financial entitlements from the Veterans Agency; [131714]

(2) how many service personnel are awaiting *(a)* war disablement pension payments and *(b)* Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments from the Veterans Agency. [131729]

Derek Twigg: At the end of March 2007 there were 6,016 claims being processed for a war disablement pension or associated supplementary allowances under the War Pension Scheme.

Under the War Pension Scheme (WPS), only medical discharge cases involve serving personnel—all others will involve ex-service personnel. At the end of March 2007 there were 348 WPS medical discharge cases under consideration. Some of these individuals may have left the service.

The Armed Forces Compensation Scheme deals with claims from both serving and ex-service personnel. At the end of March 2007 there were 111 medical discharge cases and 400 injury/illness cases being processed under this scheme.

Of the 400 injury/illness claims being considered 156 cases were from ex-service personnel and 244 cases were from service personnel.

Clearance times under these schemes reflect the fact that many claims require extensive medical evidence to be gathered under various sources, and it is often necessary to seek further information in the light of the initial evidence received. Evidence then needs to be collated and assessed before a decision is taken.

Some 35,500 WPS claims and 4,800 AFCS claims were received in 2006-07, so it is inevitable that at any one time there will be several thousand being processed. This is normal work in progress, not a backlog.

The WPS key target for 2006-07, to reduce the average time it takes to issue decisions on claims to war pensions to no more than 53 working days, was exceeded with an achievement of 49 working days. The AFCS key target for 2006-07, to issue decisions on AFCS claims in an average of no more than 35 working days, was exceeded with an achievement of 34 working days.

Not all claims being processed will result in a payment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 739W, on the Arts Council, how many projects of all sizes were cancelled by Arts Council England in each of the last five years. [143017]

Mr. Lammy: On average, the Arts Council receives approximately 8,500 applications a year, resulting in awards for 4,500 projects on average.

It is not possible systematically to identify records on the Arts Councils grants systems of awards that were cancelled. Consequently to provide an answer would involve manually examining hundreds, if not thousands of records, which would incur disproportionate costs.

Casinos

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will bring forward proposals to establish a parliamentary committee to consider the Casino Advisory Panel's report in respect of the regional casino and that of the House of Lords Merits of Statutory Instruments Committee. [143186]

Mr. Caborn: Ministers are currently considering the options in the light of the defeat of The Gambling (Geographical Distribution of Casino Premises Licences) Order 2007 in the House of Lords on 28 March, and there is no set timetable for an announcement.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in her Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [143098]

Mr. Lammy: The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes:

(a) special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and

(b) performance bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year.

(a) Staff bonuses

	2006-07
Number of staff awarded special bonuses	111
Percentage of workforce	21.5
Total value of special bonuses (£)	69,565

(b) Performance bonuses

	2006-07
Number[1] of staff awarded performance bonuses	154
Percentage of workforce	29.9
Total value of performance bonuses(£)	343,595

[1] 2006-07 relates to the financial year

Notes:

1. In any one year, some staff may receive both a special bonus and an end year performance bonus.
2. Performance bonus payments relate to performance in the previous year.

The largest single bonus payment was £10,000.

Digital Broadcasting

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what work her Department has undertaken with *(a)* Age Concern, *(b)* the Royal National Institute for the Blind, *(c)* the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, *(d)* Copeland Borough Council, *(e)* the Citizens' Advice Bureau and *(f)* other public sector or charitable organisations in relation to digital switchover in October 2007. [142842]

Mr. Woodward: DCMS and Digital UK work closely with leading charities through the Digital Switchover Consumer Expert Group. Representatives include Age Concern, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, and the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and the Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Digital UK is running an ongoing programme of drop-in sessions at a number of locations in the Border TV region and is in Whitehaven this week with the national roadshow.

Copeland borough council hosts the Digital Switchover Steering Group which meets every month. There are a number of joint events with Digital UK, including public meetings. In addition, Digital UK contributes to the council's newsletter with contributions, information and updates on switchover in the area.

In Copeland, Digital UK co-locate their offices with Age Concern North West Cumbria (ACNWC) and all ACNWC staff have been trained to provide support on the digital switchover. Digital UK also work closely with the West Cumbria Society for the Blind, with whom they held a joint event at the beginning of the month. Digital UK also hold joint events with the Cumbria Deaf Association and have worked with the local Citizen's Advice Bureau.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what work her Department is undertaking to develop public service applications delivered via digital television; and if she will make a statement. [142847]

Mr. Woodward: A return path, which would facilitate interactivity with public service applications via digital television, is not currently a requirement for set-top boxes provided by the Digital Switchover Help Scheme. However, officials continue to have discussions with various parties about how these services might be delivered, and the requirements for Help Scheme set-top boxes are kept under review so that equipment will be updated so as best to meet the needs of the groups the scheme is intended to serve.

Digital Broadcasting: Border Television

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what involvement her Department has had with Border Television in preparation for the digital switchover in Copeland in October. [142843]

Mr. Woodward: Digital UK is in regular contact with the editorial team and management at Border TV. Border TV offers a vital local service to viewers in the region, and Digital UK's regional manager for the Border TV region, John Askew, regularly appears on local news programmes to explain to viewers what they can practically do to prepare their homes for the switch.

In addition, the local news features a regular programme entitled "Ask Tim" whereby viewers send in their questions to the presenter who answers them on air. The digital TV switchover is regularly featured as a topic on "Ask Tim" and this is largely down to the ongoing and constructive relationship between Digital UK and Border Television.

Digital Broadcasting: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether her Department has collated data on the number of digital *(a)* televisions and *(b)* receivers sold in Copeland since the announcement in 2006 relating to digital switchover taking place there in October. [142844]

Mr. Woodward: Digital UK is speaking to retailers on a monthly basis to assess how much kit they are selling and the feedback from this process is included in the Whitehaven monthly progress report.

According to the Q1 2007 Digital UK Tracker, 70 per cent. of primary sets in Copeland have already been converted. A further 27 per cent. of other sets have been converted. The proportion of the total number of sets converted is 49 per cent. We expect many people to wait until very near the time of switchover until they buy their equipment.

It should be noted that there is currently no availability of Freeview in Copeland and that the only method for going digital before the switchover is satellite. It is only by switching off the analogue signal that Freeview can be made available to homes in Copeland.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology was used to decide that Copeland would be the first area in the UK in which digital switchover would occur; and if she will make a statement. [142848]

Mr. Woodward: Copeland was chosen as it offers an ideal environment in which to refine plans for the national switchover programme. The area is a clearly defined one with little broadcast overlap. Copeland has a good demographic mix, 16 per cent. 65+, 6.6 per cent. 75+, 21.4 per cent. registered disabled, living in a mix of private/rented housing/multiple dwelling units.

The area will benefit significantly as the Whitehaven, Gosforth and Eskdale Green transmitters do not provide digital terrestrial TV currently.

Digital Broadcasting: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much digital switchover implementation in October will cost the public purse, broken down by main budget heading. [142841]

Mr. Woodward: The cost of switchover in Whitehaven in October will be met by the broadcasters. In addition, it is estimated that up to £1 million of the £603 million budget for the Digital Switchover Help Scheme (which is funded through the licence fee) will be applied in Whitehaven.

Digital UK

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* regulatory and *(b)* oversight role her Department has over Digital UK. [142849]

Mr. Woodward: Digital UK is an independent organisation set up by the Public Service Broadcasters (BBC, ITV, Channel Four, Five, S4C and Teletext) and the multiplex operators. DCMS works closely with Digital UK to deliver a successful switchover.

Schools: Sight Impaired

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provisions she plans to put in place to improve the access to sport in schools for blind and partially sighted children. [143016]

Mr. Caborn: The National School Sport Strategy aims to increase the proportion of all schoolchildren who spend at least two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport. The strategy includes a variety of measures to encourage take-up among children and young people with special needs and disabilities, including those who have visual impairments.

For example, the Youth Sport Trust has recently been working with disability sport organisations, including British Blind Sport, to develop new resources for teachers and coaches working within our network of 100 multi-sport clubs for young disabled people. This network of clubs is scheduled to grow to 450 by 2009 to cover every School Sport Partnership in the country.

Swimming Pools: Finance

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what financial assistance is available to fund community swimming pools. [143129]

Mr. Caborn: Financial assistance for community swimming pools is available through Sport England's Community Investment Fund (CIF). Applicants need to meet CIF criteria and show strong links with Sport England Regional Sports and Amateur Swimming Association strategies. Since 1997 swimming has been the biggest recipient of lottery funding, having attracted £249 million of which £242 million has gone to community swimming.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1122W, on departments: training, how much expenditure was incurred on services provided by each of the two firms referred to in the last year for which figures are available. [141702]

Hilary Armstrong: Cost incurred using these suppliers in 2006-07 will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2007 summer recess.

MINISTER FOR WOMEN

Equal Opportunities: Ethnic Groups

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to address inequalities faced by ethnic minority women in the workplace; and if she will make a statement. [140849]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Edmonton (Mr. Love) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 520-21W.

Equal Opportunities: Public Bodies

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to increase diversity in *(a)* the judiciary, *(b)* the police, *(c)* Parliament and *(d)* other UK institutions; and if she will make a statement. [140848]

Meg Munn: The Government are committed to increasing diversity and equality of opportunity in UK institutions. The Ministry of Justice is working with the judiciary and Judicial Appointments Commission to increase diversity, for example, by promoting the judicial service and widening the range of people eligible to apply for judicial office. The Judicial Diversity Strategy, setting out the approach, was announced to Parliament by written ministerial statement on 17 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 25WS. The Judicial Appointments 8th Report published in March 2006 showed that the proportion of female judges appointed in the previous year had increased from 31 per cent. to 41 per cent. Between 2001 and 2006 the percentage of female judges rose from 14 to

18 per cent. The percentage of those from a BME background appointed increased from 5 per cent. to 17 per cent. over the previous seven years.

Colleagues in the Home Office are extremely active in pushing for greater diversity in the police and have introduced a number of initiatives looking at recruitment, retention and progression. These include positive action guidelines on recruitment, and a toolkit looking into the setting of targets for the recruitment of women. Twenty-Two per cent. of police officers are women, and 3.7 per cent. of police officers are from ethnic minority backgrounds. Progress has been made in recruiting minority ethnic Special Constables (6.6 per cent.) and Police Staff (6.9 per cent.) and especially minority ethnic Police Community Support Officers (15.2 per cent.).

In 2002 we introduced the Sex Discrimination (Election Candidates) Act allowing positive measures towards women's increased participation in politics. This legislation is having an impact. Women now make up 20 per cent. of MPs compared with 9 per cent. before 1997. However, there is still a long way to go: only 2.3 per cent. of MPs are from non-white backgrounds, compared with around 8 per cent. of the population. The Discrimination Law Review is considering the case for widening the scope of positive measures to target the selection of political candidates beyond gender. It is also looking at how to widen the range of voluntary positive action measures available to organisations as employers and service providers in order to prevent or compensate for disadvantage or to meet the special needs of groups protected by discrimination law. Our consultation paper, "A Framework for Fairness", setting out our proposals for a Single Equality Bill, was published on 12 June.

Refuges: Edmonton

Mr. Love: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many recorded cases there were of women being housed in refuges and safe houses in Edmonton constituency in 2006. [140756]

Meg Munn: The information requested is not available centrally at constituency level.

TRANSPORT

A303

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans are in place to upgrade the A303 to a dual carriageway; and what the likely completion date is of each scheme. [142990]

Dr. Ladyman: I have accepted the Region's advice that priority for a start on a second strategic route in the South West should be given to either the A303 Ilminster Bypass or Stonehenge, if the current review identifies a deliverable and affordable scheme.

The A303 Ilminster Bypass is included within the 10 year forward programme which forms part of a high quality strategic route to the South West. Subject to regional funding, construction on this scheme could begin in 2014-15 with completion in 2017. The Stonehenge Report is still under review.

The remaining unimproved sections of the A303 are:

A303 Chicklade Bottom to Mere Improvement

A303 Sparkford to Ilchester and Podimore Junction Improvement

A303 Wylye to Stockton Wood Improvement.

These three schemes are in the Region's longer-term list of priorities (beyond 2016) and are currently on hold.

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on the single carriageway sections of the A303 in each of the last 10 years. [142966]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of people killed and seriously injured on the single carriageway sections of the A303 in each of the last 10 years are shown in the table as follows:

	Fatal	*Serious*
1997	3	26
1998	6	29
1999	6	21
2000	2	15
2001	6	22
2002	6	28
2003	2	19
2004	6	14
2005	4	11
2006	3	16
Total	44	201

A449: Safety Measures

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will request the Highways Agency to conduct a full review of the safety of the A449 between Claines roundabout and Ombersley before the agency transfers responsibility for the road to Worcestershire county council. [142599]

Dr. Ladyman: A full safety study on this section of the A449 was carried out in 2004. The resulting recommendations for improvements to the road were promoted at a public exhibition. A safety scheme involving improvement to the elevation of the bends and signing, and the installation of two mobile safety camera sites was completed in 2005. As a result of a follow-up Road Safety Audit of these works, further improvements are to be carried out later this year. These include additional signing and installation of an anti-skid surface and hazard marker posts.

Negotiations are continuing between the Highways Agency and Worcestershire county council about the transfer of responsibility for the A449 to the local authority and no further safety reviews are anticipated.

Airbus A380

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many airports in the UK have the *(a)* facilities and *(b)* runway distance to operate the new Airbus A380 when it comes into service; [142994]

(2) how many airports in the UK have the *(a)* facilities and *(b)* runway distance to operate the Boeing 747-8 (extended range). [142995]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* Neither the A380 nor the B747-8 require any more runway length than other heavy jets currently in service.

In the UK only London Heathrow airport has so far developed facilities specifically to cater for A380 and B747-8 operations.

The development plans for London Stansted airport also include A380 and B747-8 facilities. Other UK airports have either yet to declare their plans for dealing with these aircraft or are content to operate them with existing facilities.

Automatic Train Protection: Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the 1999 Health and Safety Commission inquiry into train protection systems. [143705]

Mr. Tom Harris: £1.2 million

Blue Badge Scheme: Children

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations his Department has received on the consultation on extending the Blue Badge disabled parking scheme to include children under two years of age. [143700]

Gillian Merron: The Department is proposing to extend the eligibility criteria for a Blue Badge to children under the age of two with specific medical conditions.

The consultation exercise is due to finish on 19 June and the replies will be analysed after that date.

Eurostar: Ashford Kent

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has had from local interest groups regarding the Ashford International Eurostar service in the last 12 months. [143146]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1270-1W.

FV Gaul Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the FV Gaul Inquiry. [143714]

Dr. Ladyman: The total cost to the Department of the Re-opened Formal Investigation (RFI) was approximately £6.5 million.

FV Trident Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost is of the FV Trident inquiry; who has responsibility for chairing the inquiry; and when he expects it to report. [143719]

Dr. Ladyman: Estimates for the total cost of the Trident RFI are around £2 million. The Sheriff Principal for Grampian, Highland and Islands will be chairing the inquiry. The timing of the inquiry is dependent upon the production of technical evidence required by the experts advising legal parties, and the report will follow thereafter.

Galileo Project

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the overall change in the projected cost of the Galileo Satellite Navigation System was in each of the last three financial years; what assessment he has made of the impact of those changes on the business case for the project; and if he will make a statement. [140413]

Dr. Ladyman: Galileo is a European Community project which the Government accept should be managed at European level.

The EU, and member states of the European Space Agency (ESA) jointly fund the design and development programme for Galileo. The ESA estimate for the cost of the development phase (in orbit validation or IOV) has increased by €136.7 million, in 2001 prices, over the last three years:

cost in 2005: €1,557.4 million (€1,452.0 million in 2001 prices);

cost at March 2007: €1,788.4 million (€1,588.7 million in 2001 prices).

At the last meeting of the ESA programme board which deals with Galileo, in May 2007, the ESA executive informed its member states that it is assessing issues which may affect the costs of the programme. These relate to the contracts for the second test satellite, GIOVE-B, and the IOV phase. They were not yet able to define the costs.

The Nice European Council of December 2000 decided on a public private partnership (PPP) for the deployment and operation phase. This was to be one-third EC, two-thirds private funding, with a 20-year concession.

The draft EU Financial Regulation currently allocates €900 million, at 2004 prices, towards the deployment and operation of the system.

On 8 June Transport Council Ministers concluded that the current negotiations have failed. The Commission has been requested to submit to the October Council for decision detailed alternative proposals for taking the project forward. These should be based on an additional thorough assessment of costs, risks, revenues and timetable. The need for competition in a procurement strategy has been emphasised. The Commission was also requested to bring forward proposals for strengthening the public governance of the programme. The UK, jointly with the Netherlands and supported by Slovakia and Cyprus, submitted a minutes statement stressing our commitment to the PPP principle for major infrastructure projects, our concerns on the potential increased costs of public procurement, the need for a reassessment of the business case for Galileo, competitive procurement, sound risk management, and ensuring that any extra funds are kept within the current EU financial perspective. The cost of this phase will not be known until Council makes that decision.

The European Commission's Communication of 16 May 2007 does not provide an assessment of the impact of cost changes on the business case for the project.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the expected cost-benefit ratio of the Galileo Satellite Navigation System was in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; [140414]

(2) what limit the UK Government have set for *(a)* the maximum level of funding that it would approve for the Galileo project and *(b)* the cost-benefit ratio at which it would withdraw its support for the project. [140415]

Dr. Ladyman: No annual cost-benefit ratios have been produced by the Commission. Cost information has been updated from time to time. At the beginning of the programme, the Commission engaged Price Waterhouse Coopers. Their report of November 2001 identified a positive benefit-cost ratio of 4.6:1.

The conclusions of the December 2004 Transport Council asked the Commission to submit a reasoned analysis of the results of the public private partnership (PPP) negotiations, including on risk allocation and final costs, before any final decision was made. The UK, supported by Austria, entered a minutes statement stressing the need for the proposed risk and cost allocations between public and private sector to be acceptable to Council.

In spring 2006, three studies were commissioned by the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU) and reported to member states at the GJU Supervisory Board. The studies covered revenues, costs, and the value for money of the satellite procurement: no overall cost-benefit analysis was produced.

The most recent Commission Communication, 16 May 2007, sets out 23-year net present values (NPVs) of:

(i) €1.8 billion for a PPP as foreseen, except that four of the deployment satellites would be procured by the public sector, as risk mitigation; and

(ii) €2.2 billion for the public procurement of 18 satellites, with a further 12 purchased by the private sector; and

(iii) €1.0 billion for the public procurement of 30.

On 8 June Transport Council Ministers concluded that the current negotiations have failed. The Commission has been requested to submit to the October Council for decision detailed alternative proposals for taking the project forward. These should be based on an additional thorough assessment of costs, risks, revenues and timetable. The need for competition in a procurement strategy has been emphasised. The Commission was also requested to bring forward proposals for strengthening the public governance of the programme. The UK, jointly with the Netherlands and supported by Slovakia and Cyprus, submitted a minutes statement stressing our commitment to the PPP principle for major infrastructure projects, our concerns on the potential increased costs of public procurement, the need for a reassessment of the business case for Galileo, competitive procurement, sound risk management, and ensuring that any extra funds are kept within the current EU financial perspective.

The Government have not set either a maximum level of funding that they would approve for the project, or a cost-benefit ratio at which they would withdraw their support. The latest information from the European Space Agency is that costs of the development phase are €1778.40 million to date (2007 cash terms). The draft EU Financial Regulation allocates €900 million, at 2004 prices, to the deployment phase.

The Government are strongly committed to the existing budget ceilings and to ensuring that there is no reopening of the Financial Perspective. The principle that member states would not be required to fund Galileo from national budgets for the deployment and operational phases of the programme was agreed at the March 2002 Transport Council. The Government remain committed to this principle.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what return he expects to receive on the UK's contribution to the Galileo project; and how it will be calculated; [140417]

(2) what evaluations he has made of the market opportunities and applications of Galileo; when those evaluations were made; and when they were last revised. [140500]

Dr. Ladyman: No calculation of UK return has been made for the programme as a whole.

ESA operates an industrial policy that provides for a geographical return based on member state contributions. The UK commitment to the ESA element of the design and development phase of the programme is €142 million. The value of contracts awarded to UK companies up to 15 May 2007 was €212.7 million.

The EU's contribution to the design and development phase is made from the EC budget and is estimated by the Commission to be €790 million. The UK makes its contributions to the EC budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it.

There is not an identified UK contribution to the design and development phase of the programme via the EU budget.

The Government expect benefits from their investment in Galileo for companies that provide space technology and services, and for companies that exploit the technology in downstream applications. A study commissioned by the British National Space Centre (BNSC) in 2005 evaluated the economic impact of Galileo in the UK. It identified benefits for space segment industries and for downstream services and products.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the total cost is of the full number of satellites proposed under the Galileo project; how many there are at the moment; and how many are planned in the future; [141065]

(2) how many Galileo satellites will be purchased by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union under the new programme; and what percentage of the cost of a re-programmed and re-financed Galileo will be borne by the UK. [141053]

Dr. Ladyman: The Galileo global constellation is expected to comprise 30 satellites. The Commission has based its assessment and its proposals to the Transport Council on the provision of 30.

A first test satellite, GIOVE-A, was launched in December 2005 and is providing operational signals. A second test satellite, GIOVE-B, has been delayed and is scheduled to be launched by end 2007.

On 8 June Transport Council Ministers concluded that the current negotiations have failed. The Commission has been requested to submit to the October Council for decision detailed alternative proposals for taking the project forward. These should be based on an additional thorough assessment of costs, risks, revenues and timetable. The need for competition in a procurement strategy has been emphasised. The Commission was also requested to bring forward proposals for strengthening the public governance of the programme. The UK, jointly with the Netherlands and supported by Slovakia and Cyprus, submitted a minutes statement stressing our commitment to the PPP principle for major infrastructure projects, our concerns on the potential increased costs of public procurement, the need for a reassessment of the business case for Galileo, competitive procurement, sound risk management, and ensuring that any extra funds are kept within the current EU financial perspective. The timetable for the programme, its funding, and its organisation are subject to these decisions at Council.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans there are to strengthen the GNSS programme as referred to in the European Commission communication COM (2007) 261 of 16 May 2007; and by what mechanisms it will be strengthened. [141153]

Dr. Ladyman: In its Resolution of 24 April 2007, the European Parliament called on the Commission to:

> "make a proposal—together with the European Space Agency (ESA)—capable of solving the problem of better public governance by ensuring clear political responsibility and leadership on the part of the Commission."

The Commission Communication of 16 May 2007 refers to this request. The Communication proposes that the Commission be asked to bring forward proposals for stronger public governance of the project with clearer divisions of responsibility between the Commission, ESA and the European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA). On 8 June 2007 Transport Council asked the Commission to submit in September proposals for

> "a sound public sector management structure of the programme on the basis of a clear division of responsibilities between Commission, ESA, GSA, member states and Council".

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the scope is of the European Union EGNOS programme; what the timetable is for its implementation; what its cost will be to the UK; how the programme is regulated; which British *(a)* nationals and *(b)* firms are involved in this initiative; and if he will make a statement. [141154]

Dr. Ladyman: The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) is a satellite based augmentation system (SBAS) that will augment the two satellite navigation systems now operating, the US Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Russian Global Orbiting Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) systems, and make them suitable for safety-critical applications such as flying aircraft or navigating ships through narrow channels.

It is a joint project of the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Commission and Eurocontrol (the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation), with the involvement of the principal European Air Traffic Service Providers, including NATS plc. The programme is regulated as an ESA programme under its ARTES 9 programme. The integration of EGNOS into the Galileo programme was decided by Transport Council in its conclusions of June 2003.

The programme funding currently provides for the development and operation of the system by ESA until 31 March 2008. Arrangements and the funding of EGNOS after March 2008 are unlikely to be decided until the October 2007 Transport Council.

The ARTES 9 programme of ESA is funded by subscriptions from its member states. The European Community also contributes as have the principal European air traffic service providers. Since the start of the programme, UK contributions to ESA have been almost €35 million.

This industrial sector is international in nature but prominent firms operating in the UK that have been awarded contracts by ESA include British Telecommunications, Inmarsat UK, LogicaCMG UK, Thales (UK), and Vega UK.

Accordingly, accurate information on all specific British nationals and firms that have been involved in this initiative would be difficult to provide and only at disproportionate cost.

Galileo Project: Finance

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost and *(b)* merits of funding the Galileo project through (i) public and (ii) private finance. [141149]

Dr. Ladyman: Galileo is a European Community project which the Government accept should be managed at European level.

The most recent Commission Communication, 16 May 2007, sets out 23-year net present values (NPVs) of:

i. €1.8 billion for a PPP as foreseen, except that four of the deployment satellites would be procured by the public sector, as risk mitigation; and

ii. €2.2 billion for the public procurement of 18 satellites, with a further 12 purchased by the private sector; and

iii. €1.0 billion for the public procurement of 30.

On 8 June Transport Council Ministers concluded that the current negotiations have failed. The Commission has been requested to submit detailed alternative proposals for taking the project forward to the October Council for decision. These should be based on an additional thorough assessment of costs, risks, revenues and timetable. The need for competition in a procurement strategy has been emphasised. The Commission was also requested to bring forward proposals for strengthening the public governance of the programme. The timetable for the programme, its funding, and its organisation are subject to these decisions.

The UK, jointly with the Netherlands and supported by Slovakia and Cyprus, submitted a minutes statement stressing our commitment to the PPP principle for major infrastructure projects, our concerns on the potential increased costs of public procurement, the need for a

reassessment of the business case for Galileo, competitive procurement, sound risk management, and ensuring that any extra funds are kept within the current EU financial perspective.

The Department has not made a separate estimate of the costs and merits of funding the Galileo project through public and private finance.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the balance of risk between private and public sectors in the Galileo project is the same as that adopted by the Government in relation to domestic public private partnerships. [141150]

Dr. Ladyman: The proposed commercial public-private partnership (PPP) structure developed by the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU), and subsequently the European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA), on behalf of the European Community aimed to obtain best value for money by placing risks with those best able to manage them. Negotiations on risk allocation had not been concluded when the heads of terms, version 1, was signed in November 2006. On 8 June the Transport Council concluded that the PPP negotiations had failed and should be ended.

There are no UK PPPs directly comparable with the Galileo project.

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of the total cost of the Galileo programme between 2007 to 2013 will be paid for by the UK. [141151]

Dr. Ladyman: The EC budget commitment for Galileo under the 2007-13 Financial Perspective will not be decided until after the summer.

The UK makes its contributions to the EC budget as a whole and not to individual spending programmes within it. Before taking account of the abatement, the UK contribution to the EC budget in 2007 is estimated to be 17.1 per cent. of the total. Over the period 2007-13, the draft EU Financial Regulation allocates €900 million, at 2004 prices, to the Galileo deployment phase.

The EU and the member states of ESA jointly fund the design and development programme for Galileo. As an ESA member state, the UK has committed €142 million to the design and development phase. This represents just under 17 per cent. of the subscription made to the programme by participating member states, and is comparable with contributions made by Germany, France and Italy. By the end of March 2007, payments to ESA amounted to just over half of the €142 million, leaving the remainder to be paid during 2007-13.

ESA has recently identified additional costs for the design and development phase. It is expected that the ESA executive will apply a rule that enables them to draw down up to 20 per cent. more than the original subscription made by the participating member state. ESA has also identified other additional requirements, the cost of which has not yet been scoped.

The principle that EU member states would not be required to fund the deployment and operational phases of the Galileo programme from national budgets was agreed at the March 2002 Transport Council. The Government remain committed to this principle.

M3

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will provide estimates of the level of noise between junctions five and seven of the M3 motorway in each of the last 20 years for which data are available further to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1261W on the M3. [142773]

Dr. Ladyman: Noise data are not available to estimate noise levels between junctions five and seven of the M3 for each of the last 20 years. As explained in the answers of 27 June 2005, assessments of noise severity are made using the "Calculation of Road Traffic Noise" (CRTN model) which use distance from source, exposure, obstacles and traffic levels. Each of these factors varies significantly at any point along the road length. The range would vary between less than 60 dB to more than 72.5 dB at the road surface.

The statement in the answer of 27 June 2005 that the noise level is likely to have increased by around 4.5 dB over the last 20 years was based on the approximate increase in traffic levels over the 20-year period.

To provide retrospective assessments would require assumptions to be made about many of the variable factors which would reduce the accuracy of assessments to an unreliable level.

The Highways Agency has conducted assessments using the CRTN model at specific "noise hotspots" and implementation of a programme of local noise mitigation measures is ongoing.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT tests were carried out in each of the last three years in the UK. [144031]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) publish this information annually in an Effectiveness Report. The Effectiveness Report for 2005-06 is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk. A hard copy of the report for previous years is placed in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport section.

Motorcycles: Accidents

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of motorcyclists killed and seriously injured in the last five years had *(a)* passed their test through direct access, *(b)* passed their test less than two years previously and *(c)* taken advanced training; and if he will make a statement. [143738]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

MV Derbyshire Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the MV Derbyshire Inquiry. [143713]

Dr. Ladyman: The total cost to the Department of the Re-opened Formal Investigation (RFI) was approximately £11 million.

Paddington Rail Accident Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the Ladbroke Grove inquiry in 1999. [143706]

Mr. Tom Harris: £8.6 million.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of total rail journeys were on tickets with unregulated rail fares for each train operating company in each year since 1998-99; and if he will make a statement. [143620]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, approximately 40 per cent. of train operators revenue comes from fares which are regulated.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total change in *(a)* regulated and *(b)* unregulated rail fares was for each rail franchise in England for the period 1996-97 to 2007-08 inclusive; and if he will make a statement. [143621]

Mr. Tom Harris: Figures for average increases in fares can be found in "National Rail Trends" published by the Office of Rail Regulation and available from www.rail-reg.gov.uk. Standard class tickets increased by an average of 6 per cent. between 1995 and 2006.

Railways: Grayrigg

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on the progress of the inquiry into the derailment at Grayrigg on 23 February 2007. [143615]

Mr. Tom Harris: The investigation by the Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) is continuing. RAIB currently plans to issue a second interim report later in the summer.

Roads: Accidents

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many unlicensed vehicles were involved in road traffic accidents in each year since 2000. [144029]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 589W, given to the hon. Member for Cannock Chase (Dr. Wright).

Roads: East Sussex

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding the Government has set aside for the construction of the Bexhill to Hastings link road; and if he will make a statement. [143147]

Gillian Merron: The proposed Bexhill to Hastings link road, a Local Transport Plan major road scheme, was granted Programme Entry in December 2004 with an agreed Departmental funding contribution of £47.120 million towards the cost of the scheme. This funding is subject to a number of provisions including the satisfactory completion of statutory procedures. In addition, we also awarded East Sussex county council £0.850 million in 2005 towards eligible preparatory costs for the scheme.

Skips

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many accidents involving building skips on roads have taken place in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wiltshire in the last 10 years for which figures are available; and on how many occasions breaches of section 139 of the Highways Act 1980 have been recorded. [143335]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Southall Rail Accident Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of the Southall Rail Accident inquiry in 1997. [143704]

Mr. Tom Harris: £2.25 million.

Trains: Overcrowding

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on levels of rail overcrowding. [143406]

Mr. Tom Harris: The railway in recent years has been a success. Since privatisation, passenger numbers are up by 40 per cent.—driven by a strong economy, improving services, new trains and Government investment.

We will continue to increase capacity through the franchising process and in other ways. In particular, the Secretary of State announced on 14 March that the High Level Output Specification, to be published in the summer, will include a commitment to a thousand extra carriages. They will be targeted at the most congested routes on the network.

Vans: Safety Belts

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many serious injuries involving van drivers not wearing seat belts there were in each of the last five years. [142898]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Basic Skills

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* adults over 25 years received Skills for Life funding in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06; [138365]

(2) how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* adults over 25 years receiving Skills for Life funding were given workplace training in (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05 and (iii) 2005-06, broken down by the number of hours of workplace training given. [138366]

Phil Hope: Figures for adults funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) under the Skills for Life programme can be derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR).

Skills for Life tends to be described as a strategy rather than a funding stream. There are aims that are funded with and without a programme weighting for Skills for Life, which can all count towards the Skills for Life PSA target.

The following table shows the number of Further Education (FE) and University for Industry (UFI) LSC-funded adult learners (aged 19 and over) and adult learners aged 25 and over who could contribute towards the Skills for Life target in 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06.

	Thousand	
	Adults	*Adults aged 25+*
2003/04	210.7	148.5
2004/05	256.9	185.1
2005/06	308.7	223.2

The ILR cannot robustly be used to determine the incidence of workplace training.

Adult Education: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many adult learners were in further education in Copeland in 2005-06. [133488]

Phil Hope: Figures for those participating in further education (FE) funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the Individualised Learner Record (ILR). There were 3,436 adult learners (aged 19 and over) in FE in Copeland parliamentary constituency (based on home post code of the learner) in 2005-06.

Basic Skills

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to meet the Leitch Review of Skills' objective to eradicate low skills among the adult working age population by 2020. [142683]

Phil Hope: We have accepted the very stretching skills ambitions for 2020 that Lord Leitch recommended in his skills review. Our current plans are to publish a full response in early July which will set out the coherent package of measures we will take to meet the ambition.

Book Trust: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much funding his Department provided to the Booktrust charity in each year since 2001. [142753]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The information requested is provided in the following table.

	£
Financial year	*Total funding for year*
2001-02	290,000
2002-03	0
2003-04	150,000
2004-05	2,074,000
2005-06	8,584,000
2006-07	9,063,000
2007-08	13,018,000
Total amount to date	32,929,500

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139413]

Alan Johnson: The Department employs public relations agencies for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local regional and specialist media. The amount spent on such activities in each of the last five years has totalled significantly less than 0.01 per cent. of total departmental spend and is as follows:

	Cost[1] *(£)*
2002-03	567,987
2003-04	1,105,207
2004-05	1,593,317
2005-06	914,163
2006-07	1,630,935

[1] These figures include contracts placed by the Department and by the Central Office of Information (COI) on our behalf.

In 2006-07 the spend has covered:

Work on the London Challenge including the 'London Schools Celebrating Achievement' campaign.

Promoting a wider awareness of foundation degrees among learners, while also helping employers to understand the benefits of these qualifications to their businesses.

Student Finance—a key objective of our activity in 2006-07 was to ensure that 16 to 19- year-olds and their parents were aware of, and understood, the new student support arrangements. This was important to help ensure that finance was not seen as a barrier to participating in HE.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's employee surveys for *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2004. [142026]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department undertakes a staff survey approximately every 18 months. The survey is a powerful tool which allows the monitoring of progress across a range of staff-related issues. The survey also enables the Department to compare itself with other UK organisations in both the public and private sector, including high-performing organisations.

The Department completed a survey in 2003 and 2005. The results of these surveys will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: EC Action

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* conferences, *(b)* seminars and *(c)* other events have been funded under bilateral EU-US funding for joint activities in higher education, training and youth. [133080]

Bill Rammell: This Department does not hold information on activities carried out under the EU's bilateral co-operation programmes which are funded and administered centrally by the European Commission.

Educational Institutions: Israel

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what assessment he has made of the likely impact on UK universities of the decision by the University and College Union to boycott contacts with Israeli academics and Israeli higher educational institutions; [141593]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely impact on scientific research in the UK of the decision by the University and College Union to boycott Israeli academics and Israeli higher educational institutions. [141594]

Bill Rammell *[holding answers 11 June 2007]:* The UK Government fully support academic freedom and are firmly against any academic boycotts of Israel or Israeli academics. While I appreciate the independence of the UCU, I am very disappointed that the union has decided to pass a motion which encourages its members to consider boycotting Israeli academics and education institutions. I profoundly believe this does nothing to promote the middle east peace process, in fact the reverse. Within both Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories there are both progressives and reactionaries. The problem with academic boycotts and the problem with what the UCU is proposing is that it makes the job of the progressives more difficult and it could reinforce the stance of those who take a hard line position.

I have recently returned from a visit to Israel where I met with both Israeli and Palestinian academics. These discussions have reinforced my view that a boycott would be inconsistent with the spirit of openness and tolerance that should inform public life. Education plays a vital role in developing and aiding understanding between different people. It is therefore all the more important to keep open channels of communication with academics and educational institutions during these difficult times.

As an independent body, the union would be free to take any action, within the law, voted for by its members. UCU members, like all HE employees, must behave in accordance with their institution's own anti-discrimination policies and the UK's wider legislative framework on employment and equality.

Educational Maintenance Allowance: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many young people were in receipt of educational maintenance allowance in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since its introduction. [130951]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the DFES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's chief executive has written to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 April 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent parliamentary question that asked; "How many young people have been in receipt of educational maintenance allowance in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each year since its introduction?"

The answer to this question was covered in my letter dated 21 March 2007. I have enclosed a copy for your information.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 21 March 2007:

I am writing in response to your parliamentary questions 125444 and 125465 that asked: " How many people in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex have received an educational maintenance allowance" and; " How many young people in Eastbourne received an educational maintenance allowance in each year since the introduction of the allowance "

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received one or more Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) payment is available at Local Authority level, but not at district level.

The following table shows EMA take-up for East Sussex local authority area during each academic year since the introduction of the allowance. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year

Take-up of EMA in each academic year

East Sussex	*Number*
2004-05	2,195
2005-06	3,854
2006-07 to end February	4,735

I hope this information is useful and addresses your question.

Foundation Degrees

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to his speech on Second Reading of the Further Education and Training Bill on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 994-1003, what modelling has been undertaken by his Department which shows that *(a)* more students will take foundation degrees if further education (FE) colleges are able to award them and *(b)* FE colleges will be able to respond more quickly to the needs of employers if the Bill is enacted. [141243]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* We have not undertaken "modelling" to show this. Our decision to introduce new powers for the leading colleges to award their own foundation degrees was based on discussions with providers and employers; and is consistent too with our general view that education providers in all sectors perform better the less they are subject to restriction. The legislation

removes an unnecessary constraint on the leading providers of foundation degrees within the FE sector, while establishing strong safeguards to protect quality and the international reputation of our degrees.

Higher Education: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many entrants to university undergraduate courses came from West Lancashire constituency in each of the last five years. [143522]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the following table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Entrants to undergraduate courses[1] from West Lancashire parliamentary constituency, UK higher education institutions, academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic year	Number of entrants
2001/02	1,090
2002/03	1,100
2003/04	1,215
2004/05	1,200
2005/06	1,285

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.

Note:
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the participation rate in higher education was of people aged 18 to 21 years in West Lancashire constituency in each year since 1997. [143527]

Bill Rammell: The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled [redacted]-time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The initial participation rates for 18 to 21-year-olds can be derived from the HEIPR and the figures are shown in the following table:

HE initial participation rate for 18 to 21-year-olds

	18 to 21-year-old initial participation rate (percentage)
1999/2000	32 (32.4)
2000/01	33 (33.0)
2001/02	34 (33.6)
2002/03	34 (33.8)
2003/04	33 (32.9)
2004/05	33 (33.3)
2005/06	35 (35.1)

Note: The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time.

The HEIPR is available for English-domiciled students only, and it is not broken down by smaller areas.

The latest available figures on participation by local areas were published by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in January 2005 in "Young Participation in Higher Education", which is available from the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by parliamentary constituency, local education authority (LEA) and Government Office Region for the years 1997 to 2000.

Figures taken from this report for the West Lancashire constituency, together with the comparable figure for England, are shown in the following table:

Young participation rate (YPR (A))

Percentage

Government office region/country	Year cohort aged 18 in: 1997	1998	1999	2000
West Lancashire	33	32	32	33
England	29	29	29	30

Source: Higher Education Funding Council for England.

Lip Reading: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of the costs for lip-reading classes are met by the Learning and Skills Council; and whether individual funding of learners differs by *(a)* age of learner and *(b)* degree of disability. [132055]

Bill Rammell: There is an assumed fee contribution for all further education provision funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), including courses in lip-reading. For 2007/08 the assumed fee element will be 37.5 per cent. meaning that LSC funding will continue to account for at least 62.5 per cent. of the cost of all LSC funded FE courses. A large number of learners also benefit from full fee remission including all 16 to 18-year-olds and those on means-tested benefits including those in receipt of the Pension (Guarantee) Credit.

Additional Learner Support (ALS) funding is available from the LSC in order for providers to meet the additional needs of their learners, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The LSC also funds placements in specialist colleges for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities based on the learning and specialist support they require.

With the exception of the rules on fee remission individual funding does not differ according to age, although providers have discretion over the level of the fees they charge and many providers will have their own local fee remission policies in place. For instance in 2004/05 more than 80 per cent. of lip-reading courses were free to learners either as a result of national policy or the discretion of the provider.

Learners who do not qualify for free tuition can still receive support from Learner Support Funds administered directly by colleges. Learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, including those with hearing impairments, are given priority for these funds especially where they are at risk of not taking up or continuing in Further Education.

Midwives: Qualifications

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 706W, on midwives: qualifications, if he will make a statement on the progress made in transposing the Recognition of Professional Qualifications Directive into regulations. [143161]

Bill Rammell: Transposing regulations have been drafted by all the Departments concerned. Consultation is at various stages. The Department of Health consultation runs from 25 May until 17 August.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what timetable he has for matching spending per pupil in the maintained school sector with funding for pupils in the independent educational sector. [142682]

Jim Knight: The Government's long-term ambition is for all pupils to have access to the same level of support and opportunities that are currently available to pupils in the independent sector. In this context, the Government will aim—over time, and adjusting for inflation—to increase levels of funding towards today's private sector day school levels.

The Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for education announced in Budget 2007 allows the Government to take a significant further step towards this ambition, with total per pupil resource and capital funding rising from under £2,500 cash in 1997-98 to £4,800 in 2005-06, £5,550 in 2007-08 and £6,600 in 2010-11.

Progress over future spending reviews will depend on the Government's fiscal position, demographic change, and progress by schools in continuing to deliver improvements in results and wider support for parents and pupils.

Science: Higher Education

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many university science departments closed in each of the last 10 years; and what steps he is taking to seek to prevent further closures. [143561]

Bill Rammell: Information on the closure, merger or opening of particular university departments is not collected by the Department. However, some science subjects are starting to become more popular and the measures we are taking to increase demand and the extra £75 million announced last year should help to sustain capacity as demand increases. We have consistently made clear that if a science department closes at one institution, the Higher Education Funding Council for England should seek to maintain capacity elsewhere and we announced last year that the Council should report to us on how provision can be maintained in this way.

The latest figures from UCAS for students applying to enter full-time undergraduate courses in 2007 show that applications for the main science subjects have risen significantly: Physics is up by 12 per cent., chemistry by 11 per cent. and biology by 6 per cent.

Sure Start Programme

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many Sure Start children's centres have been set up; and what assessment he has made of progress towards the Government's target to have 2,500 centres by the end of 2008. [143553]

Beverley Hughes: As of 14 June 2007 there were 1,306 designated Sure Start Children's Centres and we are on track to meet our target of delivering 2,500 centres by 2008. DfES have appointed the consortium, Together for Children, to work with local authorities to help build their capacity to plan, commission and project manage the roll-out of sustainable high quality children's centres. Support plans are being implemented with the agreement of all 150 local authorities, with the level and type of support tailored to their individual needs.

Vocational Education: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact on attendance rates in education to employment and other vocational courses of the replacement of training grants by educational maintenance allowances. [139287]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the Council's chief executive has written to the hon. Member with this information and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 18 June 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked "what assessment he has made of the impact on attendance rates in education to employment and other vocational courses of the replacement of training grants by educational maintenance allowances".

Attendance rate data was not recorded at a national level on programmes where training allowances were paid prior to the introduction of Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).

Attendance rates of those learners in receipt of EMA have been recorded since its introduction. Attendance rate refers to the percentage of EMA payments made each week as a result of the learner meeting the agreed attendance criteria with their learning provider. The average weekly attendance rate on programmes where EMA replaced training allowances is 85.0% for the academic year 2006/07 to the end of April.

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to establish an all-age strategy for career advice and guidance public service provision in England following the recommendations of the Leitch Review of Skills. [143120]

Phil Hope: We will set out the Government's response to the recommendations of the Leitch Review of Skills in an implementation plan to be published in the summer.

Westminster Kingsway College: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* level 1 and *(b)* other entry level places available at Westminster Kingsway College of budget changes; and what assessment he has made of the financial position of Westminster Kingsway College. [139781]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* We have increased investment in further education by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997 and 2006. In line with our Skills Strategy, first set out in the Skills White Paper 2003, public funding needs to be focused on helping those without the basic and level 2 skills for employment and further progression in learning. This is a planned and continuing strategy to respond to the skills challenges we have as a country. As part of this strategy, my Department recognises the importance of colleges maintaining provision at lower levels to support progression and flow through to higher levels.

The Department does not hold information on publicly funded post-16 places at local or regional levels. Mark Haysom, the Learning and Skills Council's Chief Executive has written to the hon. Member with the information you have requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 June 2007:

I am writing in relation to your request for information about the effect of budget changes upon Westminster Kingsway College and in particular the assessments of effect on level 1 and other entry level places, and the assessment of the financial position of the college.

The 2007/08 budget allocated to Westminster Kingsway College is £25.8m, which compares to £25.9m in 2006/07. Whilst this is a marginal reduction in recurrent funding between years, it should be noted that the college would need to meet the annual cost of living increase from within its budget.

In return for the budget, the LSC has agreed stretching targets with the college to increase the proportion of full Level 2 places in 2007/08. Across the college sector in London, there is a comparatively high volume of places at entry and level 1, in particular ESOL, but there are fewer places available at level 2. There is a high proportion of the adult population who are low skilled and the LSC with colleges is keen to support employability both amongst disadvantaged groups and those in low skilled employment. To do this, it is important that there is a balance of vocational programmes at lower and higher levels. In 2005/06, some two thirds of adult provision at Westminster Kingsway College was ESOL and we wish to work with the college to achieve a range of vocational places and different levels leading into employment and higher skills.

In recognition of this change and the impact on the existing profile of provision, the LSC with its partner, the London Development Agency, has agreed a £15m package of ESOL Support Funding to ensure that entry and level 1 ESOL places are sustained in 2007/08. The consequence of this additional funding will be that the budget for Westminster Kingsway College is unlikely to show a reduction in real terms against 2006/07. In view of this outcome, we do not envisage that the financial health of the college will be adversely impacted by the 2007/08 budget change.

If you have any further questions about this matter, do please contact Christopher Wright at the London Central area office on 0207 904 0729.

Young People: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what proportion of young people in West Lancashire constituency were not in education, employment or training in each of the last 10 years; [143520]

(2) how many people not in employment, education or training were aged *(a)* under 19, *(b)* under 21 and *(c)* under 25 years in West Lancashire constituency in each year since 1997. [143528]

Bill Rammell: The following table gives the estimated proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in the Lancashire local authority area in each of the last three years:

Proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds NEET

	Percentage
2004	7.9
2005	8.1
2006	7.7

These figures are drawn from the client management systems maintained by Connexions services. Local authority level information is available only from 2004, and is not available for the West Lancashire constituency area. Comparable figures are not available for older ages.

Connexions data relate to young people known to the service; those who attended independent schools or were at school outside England are unlikely to be included. The age relates to those of calendar year age 16 to 18 on the date of measurement.

These figures cannot be compared with the national figures published by the Department and used to measure the NEET PSA. Along with not covering the entire population, the Connexions NEET measure excludes those on gap years, or in custody. The PSA measure is for academic rather than calendar age 16 to 18.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to eradicate the poppy crop in Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [142719]

Dr. Howells: The UK is spending £270 million over three years in support of the Afghan Government's national drug control strategy (NDCS), to bring about a sustainable reduction in the cultivation, production and trafficking of opium. This includes £130 million on efforts to provide alternative legal livelihoods, introducing new, innovative and sustainable ways for farmers to make a living. The NDCS is a well balanced strategy with four key priorities—targeting the trafficker; strengthening and diversifying legal rural livelihoods; reducing demand; and developing state institutions. As Afghanistan's partner nation on counter narcotics we are helping the Afghans sharpen the implementation of the NDCS and encourage international partners to provide continued support and resources.

Burma: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to promote the passage of a resolution on Burma at the UN Human Rights Council in September. [142609]

Mr. McCartney: We have repeatedly raised our concerns about the serious human rights situation in Burma. We co-sponsored a UN Security Council Resolution on Burma in January. However the resolution was not adopted, as two permanent members of the Security Council—China and Russia—voted against, as did South Africa.

We agree that the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) should address the situation in Burma. On 13 March I raised the serious human rights situation in Burma in my address to the HRC in Geneva. The EU raised Burma at the HRC on 23 March, expressing concern about the situation and calling for the release of all political prisoners and an end to the systematic human rights abuses in Burma. The EU also took part in discussions with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma at the March session of the HRC.

We will continue to discuss with our EU partners about how to take the most effective action on Burma at the HRC.

Cambodia: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the *(a)* UK, *(b)* EU and *(c)* UN has pledged to aid the bringing to trial of those involved in the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia; and when she expects talks on procedural issues to be resolved. [143224]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is a strong supporter of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, also known as the Khmer Rouge Tribunal, established under an agreement between the Royal Government of Cambodia and the UN. The purpose of the Tribunal is to bring to trial those most responsible for serious violations of Cambodian and international law and custom during the period from 17 April 1975 to 6 January 1979.

The Tribunal is a hybrid model composed of national and international elements and costs are funded through voluntary contributions. To date, the UK has contributed £1.5 million. The UK is also active in meetings of interested states in New York and Phnom Penh. Other EU states (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Sweden) are also supporting the Tribunal and we encourage others to do so. The UN Office of Legal Affairs is closely involved in the management of the court.

A Plenary Session in Phnom Penh of national and international judicial officers unanimously adopted The Internal Rules of Procedure on 12 June, further paving the way for the process of holding fair and transparent trials.

Chad: Overseas Aid

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the Government have made to France's request for EU partners to send a force of 12,000 troops to Chad to provide aid for civilians seeking refuge from the Darfur conflict. [142555]

Mr. McCartney: We support renewed French efforts to improve the humanitarian situation in eastern Chad. The UK has long supported the proposal for a UN deployment to Chad, including through adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1706, and welcomes initial preparatory work in this direction by the UN Secretary-General. The UK is prepared to consider other proposals to move the situation forward, including the possibility of an EU role, although no formal request for such a role has yet been made and force numbers have not been discussed.

We remain very concerned about the humanitarian and security situation in eastern Chad. We are particularly concerned about: increasing levels of internal displacement due to inter-ethnic fighting and cross-border attacks from Darfur; the protection of refugees and internally displaced people; the security environment for humanitarian agency operations; and the fragility of the natural resource base to support displaced populations. We and our international partners continue to urge the Chadian government to accept a UN mission.

Chad: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK has made *(a)* unilaterally and *(b)* multilaterally through the (i) UN and (ii) EU to encourage Chad to allow international peacekeeping troops to deploy along its common border with Sudan. [143229]

Mr. McCartney: Officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our high commission in Yaounde (which represents our interests in Chad) visit Chad regularly, most recently at the beginning of June, and raise the issue of UN deployment. A UK delegation, including the UK Ambassador-at-Large for the Sudanese Peace Proce[illegible] visited N'Djamena in February. The delegation met the Chadian Foreign Minister and senior officials of the Government of Chad and took the opportunity to impress on them the need for Chad to accept a UN mission.

On 16 April my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for UN Security Council agreement to a UN peacekeeping operation in Chad, as called for under UN Security Council Resolution 1706. We are working with the UN and partners in the Security Council to seek to address any concerns raised by the Government of Chad about the possible deployment of a UN peacekeeping force, including by sending a UN team to visit Chad. The UK and EU partners have supported a UN mission to Chad in the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council conclusions, for example on 23 April, calling for its urgent deployment.

China: International Relations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has held with representatives of the Chinese Government on the situation in *(a)* Darfur and *(b)* Burma. [143231]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly discuss Darfur with the Chinese Government, including at the UN. We want China to use its influence with the Sudanese Government to ensure Khartoum supports the deployment of joint UN peacekeeping forces in Darfur, as well as committing to a ceasefire and renewed political process. We gave this message to the Chinese Government before President Hu's visit to Africa earlier this year. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Sudan with the Chinese Government during her trip there last month, as did my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister during his visit to China in April.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no discussions with the Chinese Government about Burma. However, she urged China, in a speech to the Central Party School, to use its influence to improve the situation in Burma when she visited Beijing on 17 May. I discussed the human rights situation in Burma with the Chinese Government on 20 June 2006 and again during my visit to Beijing in July 2006.

Cyprus: Military Bases

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have taken place in the last 12 months between the UK Government and the Government of Cyprus on the status of the British Sovereign base areas in Cyprus. [143051]

Mr. Hoon: No formal discussions have taken place in the last 12 months between the Government and the Government of the Republic of Cyprus on the status of the Sovereign Base Area (SBAs). The UK's sovereignty over the bases, reaffirmed in the 1960 Treaty of Establishment, is not in question.

The offer under the Annan Plan to cede part of the territory of the SBAs to a reunited Republic of Cyprus fell away following the failure of the plan. But we will look favourably on renewing the offer as part of a future settlement.

The Sovereign Base Area administration maintains open and regular dialogue with the Republic of Cyprus, with excellent co-operation on a range of issues.

Departments: Mittal Steel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which events held by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* UK embassies have been sponsored by Mittal Steel since 1997. [141910]

Mr. McCartney: The Indian company Mittal Steel has not sponsored any events held at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at our High Commission in New Delhi, or at other British diplomatic posts in India. Information on sponsored events hosted at British diplomatic posts is not held centrally; to conduct a survey of other posts throughout the world would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Engagements

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* external and *(b)* internal appointments (i) she and (ii) her Ministers attended in each week of March 2007. [130987]

Margaret Beckett: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties. Cabinet, Cabinet Committee and parliamentary commitments of Ministers are already in the public domain. Details of all Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Ministers' meetings with external interest groups for the period the right hon. Member has specified follow. However, it is not standard practice for Ministers to disclose details of internal meetings and meetings with foreign governments and international organisations as this may prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs and formulation of Government policy.

Secretary of State

6 March—Labour Friends of Israel (to discuss Israel and related matters).

14 March—FCO employee trade unions (to discuss FCO/union issues).

29 March—Amicus and T and G (to discuss Colombia).

Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon)

12 March—Eurostar (to discuss new East Midlands link to Europe).

21 March—Trade Union Congress (to discuss Europe issues).

Minister for the Middle East (Dr. Howells)

8 March—president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (to

discuss ICRC's work in the Middle East).

12 March—chairman and representatives of the Zionist Federation (to discuss the Zionist Federation's plans for commemorating the 60th anniversary of the State of Israel).

14 March—director of International Operations, Save the Children (to discuss Save the Children's work in the middle east, south Asia and Afghanistan).

Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Mr. McCartney)

1 March—Black Country Metals—plans for UK trade and investment engineering sector.

1 March—Great Britain China Centre—Human Rights Project Work.

6 March—Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)—ROSPA's current work and relationship with the Department of Trade and Industry.

6 March—TrustMark—Promotion of the TrustMark consumer work.

7 March—China Britain Business Council—introductory meeting.

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham)

22 March—speech—The Politics and Economics Society of St. Paul's School.

22 March—meeting with members of the National Executive Committee to discuss Columbia.

Departments: Pressure Groups

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings took place between Ministers in her Department and outside interest groups between 1 January and 31 March; and what the date was of each such meeting. [131031]

Margaret Beckett: Ministers and civil servants meet a large number of people and groups in the course of their official duties. Cabinet, Cabinet Committee and parliamentary commitments of Ministers are already in the public domain. Listed as follows are details of all Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Minister' meetings with outside interest groups for the period the hon. Member has specified.

Secretary of State

9 January—British Overseas Aid Group (to discuss overseas conflict issues).

9 January—Standard Chartered Bank (to discuss global operations).

23 January—UN Association (to discuss UN matters).

29 January—International Crisis Group (to discuss current global issues).

6 March—Labour Friends of Israel (to discuss Israel and related matters).

14 March—FCO employee trade unions (to discuss union matters).

29 March—Amicus and T and G (to discuss Colombia).

Minister for Europe (Geoff Hoon)

15 January—Burson Marsteller (to discuss Government Policy).

17 January—Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (to discuss EU Wildlife Legislation).

20 February—Confederation of British Industry (to discuss European business issues).

12 March—Eurostar (to discuss new East Midland link to Europe).

21 March—Trade Union Congress (TUC) (to discuss Europe issues).

Minister for the Middle East (Kim Howells)

18 January—Head of Hajj Advisory Group and Chief Medical Adviser—(to discuss UK Delegation to Hajj 2007).

22 January—Chairman of Israeli TUC—(to brief on the work of the Israeli TUC).

8 March—President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)—(to discuss ICRC's work in the Middle East).

12 March—Chairman and Representatives of the Zionist Federation—(to discuss the Zionist Federation's plans for commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the State of Israel).

14 March—Director of International Operations, Save the Children—(to discuss Save the Children's work in the Middle East, South Asia and Afghanistan).

Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs (Ian McCartney)

9 January—T and G—(to discuss the poultry industry).

11 January—Non-governmental organisation—(to discuss Economic Partnership Agreements).

16 January—Spirits Industry—(to discuss Market Access/Trade Barrier Issues)

25 January—Caritas International—(to make contact with the Vatican).

6 February—Lloyds TSB—(general discussion on Lloyds position on a number of different issues).

22 February—British Bankers Association—(to discuss protection for consumers in hamper industry).

28 February—Caterpillar—(to discuss emerging Markets and construction).

1 March—Black Country Metals—(to discuss plans for UK Trade and Investment engineering sector).

1 March—Great Britain China Centre—Human Rights Project Work.

6 March—Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (ROSPA)—(to discuss the ROSPA's current work).

6 March—TrustMark—(to discuss the promotion of the TrustMark consumer work).

7 March—China Britain Business Council—(an introductory meeting).

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Lord Triesman of Tottenham)

22 March—Members of the National Executive Committee—(to discuss Columbia).

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* services and *(b)* products her Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143795]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has no record of procuring services or products from Remploy in the last 12 months.

Deportation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM High Commission in Kingston has *(a)* served a notice of refusal against revocation of a deportation order on Mr. E.A., husband of Mrs. J.A. of Aylesbury (reference A505053), and *(b)* supplied Mr. E.A. with information about his rights of appeal. [142630]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in Kingston has not served a refusal notice or any associated appeal papers to Mr. E.A. against the revocation of his deportation order; the high commission has not yet received the refusal notice from the Home Office Border and Immigration Agency.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM High Commission in Kingston has received from the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate the notices of refusal and associated papers concerning the application for revocation of a deportation order by Mr. E.A., husband of Mrs. J.A. of Aylesbury (reference A505053). [142631]

Dr. Howells: Our high commission in Kingston has not received the refusal notice or any associated papers from the Home Office Border and Immigration Agency concerning the application for revocation of a deportation order by Mr. E.A. UKvisas has contacted the Border and Immigration Agency to request a new copy of the refusal notice for the high commission to serve to Mr. E.A. as soon as possible.

Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which nations have been in breach of the Vienna Convention in their dealings with UK citizens since 1 May 1997; and if she will make a statement. [143044]

Dr. Howells: Under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, states are under an obligation, when requested to do so by a foreign national arrested or detained, to notify their consular representatives and that consular representatives shall be free to communicate with nationals of the sending state and to have access to them.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not keep a central record of those states which may have breached this obligation. But we take very seriously any complaint that signatories to the Convention have not fulfilled this obligation, and we will continue to make representations with host Governments on a case by case basis. We also work with host Governments to promote greater awareness of their obligation with regard to British nationals among their law enforcement authorities, for example poster campaigns where posters are displayed in local police stations.

East Timor: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to assist in ensuring that parliamentary elections in East Timor are free and fair. [143227]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is working through the UN Security Council to ensure that the East Timorese parliamentary elections are held in a free and fair manner. We supported the Security Council statement which was issued following the successful presidential elections, calling upon all parties in East Timor to ensure that the upcoming parliamentary elections scheduled for 30 June take place in a free, fair and peaceful environment.

The EU has deployed an Election Observer Mission, including one British national, to East Timor for a period of five weeks, to observe and report on the forthcoming elections.

In addition an official from our embassy in Jakarta will visit East Timor shortly to stress the importance of ensuring that the elections are free and fair.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what meetings the British ambassador in Jakarta has had with *(a)* the UN Mission in East Timor and *(b)* the East Timorese Government to discuss the conduct of the parliamentary elections. [143228]

Mr. McCartney: Our ambassador in Jakarta has not had any meetings with the UN Mission to East Timor (UNMIT) or the East Timorese Government specifically to discuss the conduct of the forthcoming parliamentary elections in East Timor. An official from our embassy in Jakarta will visit Dili shortly and plans to raise this issue with UNMIT and the East Timorese Government, and highlight the importance of ensuring the elections are conducted in a fair and peaceful manner.

We welcome the fact that all the 16 competing parties have signed both an electoral Code of Conduct and a Political Party Accord, committing themselves to due process in the elections and democratic principles of governance after them. We continue to work through the UN, and with EU partners, to support the democratic process in East Timor.

European Constitution Treaty

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Polish and *(b)* Czech counterparts on the EU Constitution. [140220]

Mr. Hoon: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have frequent contact will all our EU counterparts, including Polish and Czech Foreign Ministers. Discussions cover a wider range of issues, including the way forward on EU institutional reform.

G8

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will *(a)* place in the Library copies of all documents circulated by the United Kingdom at the G8 Heads of Government meeting in Heiligendamm, *(b)* publish those documents on the appropriate departmental website and *(c)* give the URL of each document so published. [143308]

Mr. McCartney: The German G8 Presidency circulated all documents at the G8 Heads of Government meeting in Heiligendamm. Copies of all final summit communiqués have been placed in the Library of the House. Further copies can be found at: http://www.g-8.de/Webs/G8/EN/G8Summit/SummitDocuments/summit-documents.html.

India: Burma

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has held with representatives of the Indian Government on the situation in Burma. [143232]

Mr. McCartney: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with the Indian Government about Burma.

We raise Burma at official level with the Government of India as part of our regular dialogue with the Indians on regional security. We encourage India to use their contacts with the regime to make strong messages on the need to restore democracy and respect human rights.

Most recently, I raised Burma with the Indian Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on 27 November 2006.

Saudi Arabia: Detainees

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens

were held at the Mabatha Interrogation Centre in Saudi Arabia in each year since 1990; and if she will make a statement. [143053]

Dr. Howells: Our embassy in Riyadh is unaware of a specific place called the Mabatha Interrogation Centre, but is aware that UK citizens have been detained by the Mubahith, the General Investigations Department of the Ministry of Interior, which has offices across Saudi Arabia. Although consular records are only retained for three years, we are aware of at least nine cases since 2001.

Saudi Arabia: Diplomatic Relations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since 1995 the Saudi Government has refused to grant UK consular access to UK citizens held in custody in Saudi Arabia; and if she will make a statement. [143054]

Dr. Howells: Consular records are only held for a period of three years. Although we are aware of delays in getting consular access to detained British nationals during this period, to our knowledge the Saudi Arabian Government has never refused access.

Saudi Arabia: Human Rights

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since 1 May 1997 the UK Government has made representations to the Government of Saudi Arabia about human rights abuses; and if she will make a statement. [143045]

Dr. Howells: We regularly discuss our concerns about human rights with the Saudi authorities at all levels. Human rights are also raised on our behalf by the European Union, which has decided to keep the details of these discussions confidential.

Saudi Arabia: Terrorism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the funding which has been accrued by the Al Qaeda terrorist network from charitable bodies in Saudi Arabia; and if she will make a statement. [143046]

Dr. Howells: Preventing the misuse of charitable organisations for the financing of terrorist groups, including Al-Qaeda, is an important part of the international counter-terrorism effort.

Our international counter-terrorism partners, including Saudi Arabia, are concerned that terrorists are able to send and receive funds, often through abuses of the charitable sector, from sources in many countries. A number of Saudi Arabian based charities are currently designated on the UN Consolidated List established and maintained by the 1267 Committee with respect to Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden, the Taliban and other individuals, groups, and entities associated with them.

The Saudi Arabian authorities are committed to tackling the threat from terrorism and we work closely with them on all aspects of the counter-terrorism agenda.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently funding a £1.2 million International Programme run by the UK Charity Commission that works to reduce the risk of misuse of the charitable sector for terrorist financing. They provide technical assistance and capacity building for the regulatory systems in a number of countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether investigations by the UK Government and their agencies have shown that any terrorist activities since 11 September 2001 have been funded by groups based in Saudi Arabia; and if she will make a statement. [143269]

Dr. Howells: The Government are concerned that terrorists are able to send and receive funds from sources in many countries. As a matter of course, we do not comment in detail on ongoing counter-terrorism investigations.

The authorities in Saudi Arabia have introduced and are developing a programme to take action to tackle terrorist financing. They have introduced tighter banking regulations and are seeking to ensure that donations from charitable organisations in the Kingdom are directed in accordance with international requirements. Saudi Arabia is one of the UK's key partners in counter-terrorism and we enjoy a high level of co-operation across the spectrum, including countering terrorist financing.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka; and if she will make a statement. [142949]

Dr. Howells: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Edmonton (Mr. Love) on 5 June, *Official Report*, column 460W.

The disgraceful abduction and murder of two Red Cross volunteers, whose bodies were discovered on 2 June, and the constant reports of disappearances in Colombo and Jaffna suggest a continuing deterioration in the situation. There is no justification for terrorism or the abuse of human rights no matter which side is responsible for them.

Thailand: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the *(a)* likely date for a general election in Thailand and *(b)* dissolution of Thai Rak Thai political party. [143237]

Mr. McCartney: A referendum on the new constitution is due to be held on 19 August. The general election is due to take place on 23 December.

On 30 May the Constitutional Tribunal ruled that the Thai Rak Thai (TRT) party was guilty of violating

the Political Party Act. As a consequence, the tribunal dissolved the TRT and revoked the political rights of all their executive members at the time of the 2 April 2006 general election for five years. The only right they retained is the right to be an ordinary member of a political party.

Uganda: Corruption

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the theft in Uganda of $1.6 million from Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation. [142889]

Mr. McCartney: On 22 May, arrest warrants were issued for three former Health Ministers (Jim Muhwesi, Mike Mukula and Alex Kamugisha) and a former State House official (Alice Kaboyo) for the misappropriation of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation funds. This followed an investigation carried out by the Ugandan Inspector General of Government. The accused have been charged with various offences including abuse of office, theft, and forgery, and their trial is due to commence on 16 July. I cannot comment further as the matter is *sub judice*.

Corruption remains a serious problem in Uganda and we welcome all steps taken by the Ugandan authorities to investigate thoroughly corruption allegations and to seek prosecutions where the evidence allows. Our High Commissioner in Kampala most recently discussed the need for action against corruption with President Museveni on 10 May.

Vietnam: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will make representations to the Government of Vietnam for assurances that it will not enforce the instructions to local authorities to compel Protestants in the northern highlands to recant their religious beliefs. [143238]

Mr. McCartney: We, with our EU partners, regularly discuss human rights issues, including religious freedom, with the Vietnamese Government. The biannual EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue, which was established in 2003, is the main forum for raising our concerns. The most recent dialogue was held on 20 December 2006. Freedom of religion, restrictions on religious organisations and the situation of ethnic minority Protestant groups were among the issues raised by the EU. The next EU-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue is scheduled to take place on 28 June.

We are aware of reports of the continued harassment of some religious groups in some areas. We have urged the Vietnamese authorities to increase awareness and capacity among local authorities and to guarantee the right of all religious groups to practise their faith freely in the community through full implementation of the appropriate legislation and to adhere to its international human rights obligations. Regulations in force since 2004 establish criteria for the recognition of hitherto non-sanctioned religious groups. We remain concerned that progress in registering congregations in the northern uplands in particular remains slow.

On 18 May, senior officials from our Embassy in Hanoi, and several other EU missions, raised our specific concerns with the Vietnamese Government authority responsible for registering religious organisations. Additionally, I raised human rights issues at a recent bilateral with Vietnamese Vice Minister Le Cung Phung during the EU/Association of South East Asian Nations Foreign Ministers Meeting on 14 and 15 March.

Western European Union

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans she has to ensure that UK contributions to the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly are paid when due. [143767]

Mr. Hoon: UK contributions to the Western European Union (WEU) are paid twice yearly on request from the WEU. Our latest payment was delayed because there is no record of the original WEU request being received. To help avoid delayed payments in the future, we have asked the WEU to establish a system for monitoring the delivery of payment requests.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Consultants

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenses are paid to consultants working for his Department in Burma in addition to their basic pay. [142604]

Mr. Thomas: Expenses paid to consultants are to reimburse reasonable expenditure necessary for undertaking the assignment—for example, travel and subsistence costs. These are specified in the contract agreed in advance with each consultant.

Burma: Corruption

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what monitoring and auditing of UN Development Programme projects in Burma funded by his Department takes place to counter corruption and to ensure that funds do not end up in the hands of the regime. [142605]

Mr. Thomas: All UN Development Programme (UNDP) work in Burma is carried out in compliance with guidelines established by its Executive Board. These stipulate that all UNDP assistance to Burma should be clearly targeted towards programmes having grass-roots-level impact in a sustainable manner, particularly in the areas of primary health care, the environment, HIV/AIDS, training and education and food security.

In order to deliver this mandate, UNDP has established the Human Development Initiative (HDI), funded by DFID and other donors, with the objective of meeting basic needs and alleviating poverty in some of the poorest areas of Burma. In accordance with the Executive Board restrictions, UNDP does not transfer funds to the Burmese authorities. However, like other international organisations operating in Burma,

UNDP has been required to purchase items such as fuel and telecommunications services and pay rent for its premises, and the authorities remain the sole provider of such services.

UNDP has a network of approximately 1,500 national staff based in the 57 townships in which the HDI operates in Burma. These staff—at the state/division level, township level and community level—undertake extensive routine process monitoring for all project activities. They are involved in all aspects of implementation, verification of accounts and expenditures, review of problems, and provision of technical support to ensure effective implementation. Their monitoring is supplemented by national programme managers, which in turn is overseen by UNDP international staff who also regularly visit programme sites. No difficulty has been encountered in such monitoring on account of any Government control or restrictions. National staff can travel freely; they do not have to ask for travel permission and are not accompanied by counterpart or local officials in the performance of their project work. Internationals do have to ask for permission but there has been no case when permission has been denied. Furthermore, the formulation of the Operating Guidelines by the Government (February 2006) has not had any significant impact on UNDP's ability to engage effectively in the field, or to abide by its Executive Board mandate, adhering to humanitarian principles.

On the basis of their programme monitoring, UNDP provides DFID with periodic written progress reports on HDI activities. This includes substantive information on activities, achievements, challenges/issues and recommendations as required, as well as budgetary information. A detailed financial report accounting for the previous tranche of support from DFID is necessary before the next tranche is provided to UNDP. Donors themselves carry out an annual joint assessment mission to review the HDI programme. Further ad hoc fieldtrips are made by donors to project sites—in DFID's case, about four times a year.

Finally, in order to ensure compliance with the Executive Board mandate, independent assessments of the HDI are carried out regularly and reported to the Executive Board. The assessment teams include a team of external consultants who undertake 3-4 week field trips to prepare their report. The report for the period May 2006 to April 2007 is now being finalised and will be presented to the Executive Board in September 2007. The initial findings conclude that the HDI programme is in full compliance with the Executive Board mandate and addresses the needs of the poor and vulnerable in rural areas of Burma with humanitarian assistance. The 2006 Assessment—covering the period 2005-06—also echoes the conclusion of previous reports, namely, that the HDI programme effectively provides humanitarian support on a large scale and that

"all projects operate independently of the Government and target the village-level groups and needs described in the [EB] mandate."

The full report can be found on the Executive Board website at:

www.undp.org/execbrd/adv2006-second.htm

Burma: International Assistance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many grants have been given to the UN Development Programme for projects in Burma in the last four years; for what purposes; and to what value. [142606]

Mr. Thomas: In the last four years, DFID has funded the following projects implemented by the UN Development Programme in Burma:

£10 million over four years (2003 to 2007) support to the Fund for HIV/AIDS in Myanmar—which was managed by UN Development Programme—to enhance capacity for the prevention and care of people living with HIV/AIDS.

£4 million over four years (2005 to 2009) to the UN Development Programme's Human Development Initiative to strengthen the capacity of poor communities to address their basic needs, particularly those of the poor and disadvantaged.

£110,000 (2004) and £67,000 (2006) to part-fund a liaison officer within the UN Development Programme to improve coordination and effectiveness of development agencies providing assistance to Burma.

Burma: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he expects to announce the annual budget from his Department for Burma for 2008-09. [142607]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's 2008-09 budget is subject to the conclusions of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which is expected to be announced in October 2007. Subsequent individual country programme budgets are expected to be announced in January 2008.

Colombia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to make aid available to Colombia following recent flooding in Antioquia province. [143236]

Mr. Thomas: We have been monitoring the flooding in Colombia. The Colombian authorities have announced that they are providing relief and have not requested international assistance. There has been no international appeal for help by the international agencies. Should any such request be made we will consider a response.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on its *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142340]

Mr. Thomas: The only publication that DFID has received advertising revenue from is the free quarterly magazine "Developments". Due to changes in accounting practices, figures are only available from 2003 onwards. To establish figures from 1997 onwards would incur disproportionate cost. "Developments"

magazine only accepts advertising from educational or training institutions. The figures are given in the following table.

	£
2003	19,787.00
2004	30,455.66
2005	29,025.80
2006	42,524.20

Figures are not yet available for 2007.

DFID has never run any adverts on its corporate website.

Developing Countries: Construction

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding and resources the UK has pledged to the construction sector transparency initiative. [142533]

Mr. Thomas: Working with partners internationally and in a number of developing countries, DFID has led the development of the construction sector transparency initiative (CoST).

Corruption and inefficiency caused by corruption wastes billions of dollars of public money and leads to poor quality schools, hospitals and roads which do not meet people's needs.

CoST aims to make sure people get good quality, sustainable infrastructure at a reasonable price from the money which Government spend on their behalf. The starting point will be provision of clear information which allows the public to compare original contract commitments about price and quality of planned infrastructure with the actual results—allowing them to ask the right questions about any wastage or poor, or non-existent, work.

Working with stakeholders in Vietnam, Ghana and Tanzania, as well as international partners (European Commission, World Bank, and others), industry and international civil society, we now have an outline design ready to be tested through country pilots.

CoST builds on the success of the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI) by applying principles of transparency and accountability to construction procurement.

Application of EITI principles to other sectors was supported by G8 countries at the recent Heiligendamm summit, and their specific application to the construction sector was a commitment in the 2006 International Development White Paper.

DFID has committed £0.5 million this year to support the CoST design and pilots. As pilots progress we will assess the wider resources needed and DFID will work with other donors and development partners to secure the necessary resources to support CoST.

A major meeting for CoST partners will be held on 20 June, and be addressed by the Secretary of State. An official launch will take place in October, with the launch of pilots in around three countries to develop a model approach to increased transparency in construction procurement.

Developing Countries: Education

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many 10-year agreements under the Education for All initiative announced in April 2006 have been signed with developing countries since then; how much of the $15 billion fund earmarked has been delivered; and how many extra pupils are in education full-time in those countries. [142593]

Mr. Thomas: The authoritative source of global education data is the Education for All Global Monitoring Report. The 2007 report was published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in November 2006. It includes statistics by country of primary aged children enrolled at school up to the year 2004. This is the most recent source of global data available. Statistics up to the year 2005 will be available in the 2008 report which is due to be published by December 2007. Therefore, it is too soon to report on the additional numbers of children receiving an education in particular countries since the UK's education initiative launched in April 2006.

The UK education initiative involves the provision of long-term predictable support to education through a commitment of £8.5 billion over a 10-year period from April 2006. The amount of bilateral aid disbursed in support of education in developing countries for the financial year 2006-07 will be reported in DFID's Statistics on International Development to be published in October 2007. DFID's total spend on education also includes funds disbursed via multilateral organisations.

In launching the UK education initiative, we asked governments to prepare ambitious 10-year education sector plans to which donors should contribute funding support. In Africa, 25 countries are involved. Of these, to date, 17 have produced their plans. The Education for All Fast Tract Initiative (FTI), supported by 15 donors, is also supporting the development of education sector plans. The FTI's Education Programme Development Fund provides technical assistance to help with the preparation of plans and the Catalytic Fund for the implementation of endorsed plans. 31 countries have obtained FTI endorsement since its inception in 2002 and a further 30 countries are working towards endorsement in 2007 and 2008. The UK is contributing some £150 million through the FTI.

Since April 2006, the UK has announced 10-year agreements to support education plans in Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique and Tanzania totalling £646 million. The UK has also made recent commitments to support education plans in Burundi, DRC, India, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

Developing Countries: Medical Treatments

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's proposals on a Medicines Transparency Alliance. [142532]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is working with a wide range of partners, including the World Health Organisation, developing country Governments, pharmaceutical

companies and non-governmental organisation on the development of the Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA).

MeTA seeks to increase transparency over vital information on the price, quality and availability of essential medicines in developing countries so as to help tackle high prices, challenge corruption and address inefficiency. One third of the world's population lacks access to essential medicines. The prices patients pay are often much higher than the price agreed at procurement, with cumulative mark-ups of 300 per cent. not being uncommon as medicines move from procurement through storage, supply, distribution and ultimately to health centres and pharmacies. In addition, up to a third of medicines on the market in developing countries are fake.

Procurement and supply systems are generally opaque, meaning excessive price mark-ups, corruption and inefficiency can go unchallenged. Most people have little idea about what medicines should cost, or what a good-quality medicine looks like.

MeTA seeks to change this by securing high-level political commitment to increased transparency and accountability over medicines procurement and supply in countries that choose to take part, and by bringing the right people around the table—Government Departments, civil society organisations, companies and others—to agree ways of disclosing information on the price, the quality and the availability of essential medicines into the public arena, with the aim of ultimately reducing the cost, improving the quality and increasing the availability of medicines.

MeTA builds on the success of the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI) by applying principles of transparency and accountability to medicines procurement and supply. Application of EITI principles to other sectors was supported by G8 countries at the recent Heiligendamm summit, and their specific application to the health sector was a commitment in the 2006 International Development White Paper.

A major stakeholder meeting for MeTA was held on 18 April, attended by all relevant groups and addressed by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development. An official launch will take place in the summer, with the launch of pilots in around five countries to develop a model approach to increased transparency and accountability in medicines procurement and supply.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Defence Equipment: Exports

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether export licences for military equipment are required by a *(a)* private individual and *(b)* museum or collection for the export of historic former military aircraft. [142129]

Malcolm Wicks: The requirement for an export licence is determined by the nature of the goods being exported, not the exporting entity. In general, military equipment, including historic former military aircraft, is highly likely to require an export licence but a definitive decision can only be given where detailed information is made available by the exporting entity in order to allow for a full assessment against the "UK Military List".

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many export licences for arms and other military equipment were applied for in the last three years for which figures are available; and how many applications were refused. [142132]

Malcolm Wicks: For the last three years for which figures are available, the Government received 5,385 (2004), 5,378 (2005) and 6,003 (2006) applications for Standard Individual Export Licences (SIELs), 486 (2004), 449 (2005) and 364 (2006) applications for Open Individual Export Licences (OIELs); for arms and other military equipment. In addition, there were 703 (2004), 434 (2005) and 354 (2006) registrations for Open General Export Licences (OGELs) for dual-use and military listed items.

The Government publishes detailed information on its export licensing decisions, including the total number of licences refused, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls. The Government's Annual Reports are available from the Libraries of the House and the DTI Export Control Organisation website at http://www.dti.gov.uk/europeandtrade/strategic-export-control/index.html

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on his Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [140669]

Jim Fitzpatrick: These records are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140785]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department uses the guidelines for "Company Reporting on Greenhouse Gas Emissions" produced by DEFRA. These guidelines provide a set formula for calculation of carbon emissions from a variety of activities listed within the guidelines schedule.

To demonstrate the commitment and achievement in carbon reduction, up to year end March 2006, the Department and its executive agencies have made a 17 per cent. reduction since the base year 1999-2000, as published by BRE.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his estimate is of the value of the specialist natural health product *(a)*

manufacturing and *(b)* retailing sectors; what recent discussions he has had with representatives of these sectors on the regulatory and economic impact of European regulations on food supplements and associated issues; and if he will make a statement. [141950]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has recently carried out an informal consultation on an initial regulatory impact assessment that sets out the current position in the United Kingdom with respect to food supplements and seeks information from stakeholders to measure the potential impact in advance of future European Commission proposals for setting daily dosage levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements. The information will be used to inform the draft regulatory impact assessment, which will then be subject to a formal consultation process.

Based on the information provided by 25 May 2007, the FSA has not concluded on an estimate of the value of the natural health product sectors to date. I met with the specialist manufacturing and health food retail sectors in March 2007, to discuss the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive and associated issues.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many civic amenity sites there are in England and Wales; and how many such sites will have facilities to collect waste electrical and electronic equipment under the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [142772]

Malcolm Wicks: There are 807 civic amenity sites in England and Wales all of which will have facilities to collect waste electrical and electronic equipment. How much they collect will vary according to the size of the site.

Energy Technologies Institute: Wales

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 336W, on Energy Technologies Institute: Wales, in what ways the Welsh Energy Research Centre fell short against the selection criteria; and whether he expects there to be opportunities for the Welsh Energy Research Centre to collaborate with the Energy Technologies Institute in the future. [142442]

Malcolm Wicks: The submissions to host the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) Director were considered in confidence by a group of representatives of the industrial and public sector funding partners. The group has already indicated that it will provide feed-back to those organisations which made a submission, if they so request.

There will be opportunities for energy research organisations to engage in the research activities of the ETI as the technical priorities begin to emerge over the course of the year.

Exhaust Emissions: Aviation

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if his Department will commission research and development into minimising *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* general environmental impacts caused by commercial aircraft engines. [140603]

Margaret Hodge: The DTI is currently funding a number of research programmes to assess the environmental effect of aviation emissions and to explore developments in technology to reduce their harmful effects. In particular, the OMEGA project being led by Manchester Metropolitan University and supported with a £5 million HEFCE grant, covers, among other things, characterising aviation emissions (Particulate Matter, NOx, CO_2), airframe and engine design for low carbon emissions and alternative fuels and bio-fuels. Another recent project with Airbus and academic partners has developed trade-off modelling for aircraft design and climate impact.

The Government are also working closely with industry to ensure that the UK's aerospace industry responds to environmental concerns. The most recent project, known as the "Environmentally Friendly Engine" is supported with funding of £95 million of which £30 million is being provided by DTI. This research will develop specific technologies to improve engine efficiency and thereby minimise CO_2 emissions from future aircraft.

The DTI will continue to consider the need for additional research to address the environmental impact of aviation and to ensure the competitiveness of UK aerospace companies and their European partners.

India: Intellectual Property

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what progress he has made on the creation and development of an intellectual property rights agreement between the UK and India; and if he will make a statement. [139651]

Malcolm Wicks: The Joint Statement of Intent was signed in June 2006. Under the JETCO agreement between India and the UK, we are currently developing a bilateral action plan with the Indian IPR authorities in order to put in place a technical assistance programme for Indian government officials dealing with IP.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1816W, on Iran: Export Credits Guarantee, in what way the Export Credits Guarantee Department has restricted the availability of cover for Iran; for what reasons; and for how long. [138554]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD undertook a review of its cover policy for Iran in December 2005. Taking account of the prevailing risk outlook, cover capacity was reduced in order to contain growth in exposure. Cover is decided on a case-by-case basis and priority is given to UK goods and services. More recently, an

arrangement has been made whereby Ministers will be consulted before cover is committed for any particular transaction.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report,* column 1816W, on Iran: Export Credits Guarantee, what steps are being taken to seek clarification of the applicability of the UN Security Council Resolution 1747 to the provision of export credits to Iran. [138555]

Malcolm Wicks: Representatives of HM Government have been consulting European Union member states in the light of the Council Common Position (2007/246/CFSP) dated 23 April to clarify the applicability of UN Security Resolution 1747 to the provision of export credits to Iran.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report,* column 1816W, on Iran: Export Credits Guarantee, how many applications for export credits to Iran were made in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [138556]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD has received 153 applications for export credits to Iran in the last five years. The following table details how many applications were received in each of the financial years.

Financial year	*Number of applications*
2002-03	26
2003-04	50
2004-05	33
2005-06	24
2006-07	20
Total	153

Nuclear Power: International Cooperation

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions he has had with the United States Administration on participation by the UK in the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. [142805]

Malcolm Wicks: There have been no recent discussions between UK Ministers and the US Administration on UK participation in Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP).

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will publish a timetable for the removal from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of responsibility for the setting of packaging standards for radioactive waste. [141795]

Malcolm Wicks: Currently, advice is provided to nuclear operators on packaging of radioactive waste via a system known as the "Letter of Compliance" system. This is administered by the Radioactive Waste Management Division of the NDA (RWMD). This packaging advice is used by operators in developing safety cases which must be approved by the independent safety regulators. The work of the RWMD in administering the Letter of Compliance system is also overseen by the independent regulators.

In due course we anticipate that the future operator of a geological waste disposal facility will take on the responsibility for setting and administering formal acceptance criteria for all waste to be disposed of in the facility. This will continue to be done under the scrutiny of the independent statutory regulators.

Working Hours

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans he has to improve the balance of working and non-working hours for people in full-time employment. [142684]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In April we extended the right to request flexible working to carers of adults. Over six million employees are now eligible to work flexibly. Latest data (summer 2006) show that 80 per cent. of all requests are agreed and that 87 per cent. of all employees are satisfied with their current working pattern.

Last week we laid regulations before the House to increase the holiday entitlement to give time off for bank holidays. These regulations will benefit six million workers who currently get less than 28 days' holiday a year, pro rata for part-time staff.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2007, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth), *Official Report,* column 1132W, on Air Passenger Duty, if he will publish the econometric analysis used to assess the impact of changes in air passenger duty rates on passenger and flight numbers. [112555]

John Healey: The HMRC econometric analysis suggests that the annual suppression of air passengers as a result of the air passenger duty decision announced at pre-Budget report will be around 5 million out of a total 140 million passengers by 2010-11. Translating this figure into flights and emissions reductions suggests that the emissions saving as a result of the decision will be in the range of 0.2-0.5 million tonnes of carbon (MtC) per year. Taking into account the effect of the other, non-carbon dioxide emissions of aviation suggests that there will be an annual climate change impact equivalent to saving 0.75 million tonnes of carbon by 2010-11 from the change to air passenger duty.

Child Benefit: Armed Forces

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which partner child benefit is payable in circumstances where a member of the armed forces and his wife are posted overseas while in receipt of child benefit. [143139]

Mr. Timms: Child benefit continues to be payable to the same member of the couple who was receiving payment prior to the posting.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what powers are available to representatives of the Valuation Office Agency in conducting investigation for valuation purposes. [142355]

Dawn Primarolo: Valuation Officers and Listing Officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), and those members of their staff authorised by them, have powers, under Section 26 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and powers to request the supply of information about property under Section 27 of the same Act.

Departmental Expenditure

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 4 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 196W, on departmental expenditure, what payments have been made by his Department to *(a)* Opinion Leader Research and *(b)* other opinion research companies since December 2006. [136309]

John Healey: In December 2006, the Economic Secretary commissioned Brian Pomeroy, chairman of the Financial Inclusion Taskforce, to undertake a review of commercially run hamper schemes and savings clubs to consider whether the savings needs of consumers of such products might be better met by mainstream financial providers. As part of the review, HM Treasury commissioned Opinion Leader to carry out two half-day workshops with consumers of these types of products to gain first hand evidence to support the review at a cost of £50,955 including VAT. A response to *(b)* could be provided only at disproportionate cost as the nature of a supplier's business is not recorded in the Treasury's accounting system and may not be self evident from the supplier's name.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on his Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142726]

John Healey: The Treasury has not received any advertising revenue from its public information leaflets or public websites in the last five years. Information on advertising revenue, if any, in the earlier years could be provided only at disproportionate cost due to a change in accounting system in 2002-03.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by HM Revenue and Customs on flights within England in 2005. [125783]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC promotes sustainable transport policies and the use of video conferencing as transport alternatives.

However, where travel is essential, the Department encourages staff to use the most cost-effective and efficient means of travel.

Total expenditure on flights during 2005 by HMRC was £860,810.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140783]

John Healey: The Treasury calculates carbon emissions by using carbon emission conversion factors provided by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). This can be can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/business/envrp/gas/envrpgas-annexes.pdf

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* value was of each payment made by his Department to Professor Iain Maclean of Oxford university since 1997. [141297]

John Healey: The Treasury has made no payments to Professor MacLean. Professor MacLean gave an unpaid seminar on regional issues for which he was reimbursed £51.20 for Travel expenses in February 2006.

Departments: Credit Cards

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department have corporate charge cards. [133314]

John Healey: HM Treasury does not generally issue staff with corporate charge cards (e.g. American Express cards). However, 201 staff—generally frequent travellers—are currently issued with corporate credit cards to pay for expenses, generally for transport and accommodation. They are required to submit travel expense claims on their return and produce receipts for all transactions.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139389]

John Healey: The Treasury's spending on external legal advice in 2006-07 was £698,000. For the earlier years, I refer to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1738W.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which recruitment agencies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have employed to provide services since 1997. [141909]

John Healey: The information requested is as follows:

Department	Agencies
HMT	Accountancy Additions, Badenoch and Clark, Brook Street, Campion Willcocks and Associates Ltd., Hudson Global Resources Ltd., Huntress Search Ltd., Josephine Sammons Ltd., Macdonald and Company, Methods Consulting Ltd., Michael Page International, Office Angels
DMO	Veredus, BMI, Hays City Response Advertising International Ltd., ComputAppoint, Practicus, Hays Accountancy and Finance, Computer People, Morgan Hunt, Orgtel Communications, The Whitehall and Industry Group, Mission Testing Europe Ltd., Barclay Simpson Associates Ltd., Odgers Ray and Berndtson, Hudson Shribman, KPMG LLP, RDF Resources Ltd., Marks Sattin
OGC	Adecco UK Ltd., élan Computing Ltd., Reed Personnel Services, Computer People Ltd., Spring Technology Staffing Solutions

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142501]

John Healey: The departmental website is compliant with accessibility guidelines set out the Cabinet Office's Guidelines for government websites:

http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/e-government/resources/handbook/html/htmlindex.asp

and provides transcripts for any audio content.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter of 2 May 2007 from the hon. Member for North-East Milton Keynes on MKSnap, a charity based in Milton Keynes. [143196]

Dawn Primarolo: Receipt of the correspondence referred to could not be traced. A copy has been supplied by the hon. Member and a reply will be sent shortly.

Pension Funds

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the total value is of assets held in *(a)* self-administered private sector occupational defined benefit schemes, *(b)* self-administered private sector occupational defined contribution schemes, *(c)* self-administered public sector defined benefit schemes, *(d)* insured occupational defined benefit schemes, *(e)* insured occupational defined contribution schemes, *(f)* group personal pensions, *(g)* group stakeholder pensions, *(h)* individual personal pensions and *(i)* individual stakeholder pensions. [141552]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the total value of assets held in each category of pension scheme is not available. The market value of self-administered pension funds in total is collected by ONS as part of the annual balance sheet survey to self-administered pension funds and published as part of the Business Monitor Investment by insurance companies, pension funds and trusts on the National Statistics website. The market value is the difference between their asset holdings and short-term liabilities such as borrowing and other creditors. The latest published figure is £970 billion for end 2005.

The value of other private pension funds is included in aggregates collected by ONS in the annual balance sheet survey to long-term insurance companies. However, the aggregates cover all long-term business, including life assurance, pensions and other business, written by the companies. A split of the insurance companies' funds between pensions and other business is not available. Consultation with insurance companies has indicated that this split would be too difficult for them to produce on a company basis and that the respondents would not be confident of any data provided on this basis.

Population

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the population in England live in *(a)* London boroughs, *(b)* two-tier areas, *(c)* unitary areas and *(d)* metropolitan areas. [142374]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 18 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding the proportion of the population in England living in (a) London boroughs, (b) two-tier areas, (c) unitary areas and (d) metropolitan areas. I am replying in her absence. (142374).

Table 1 shows these data for mid-2005. Mid-2006 population estimates will be published on 22 August 2007. The City of London has been included in the London Boroughs category and the Isles of Scilly have been included in the Unitary Areas category.

ONS is making improvements in August 2007 to the methods used to distribute international migration figures to local areas as part of its "Improving Migration and Population Statistics" work programme. The figures quoted will therefore be subject to revision.

Table 1: Percentage of mid-2005 Population in England by type of area

Area	Percentage of population
London boroughs	15
Two tier areas	47
Unitary areas	17
Metropolitan areas	22

Note:
Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number, and may not sum to 100 due to rounding.
Source:
Office for National Statistics

Registration: Databases

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the estimated total expenditure *(a)* by the Office for National Statistics and *(b)* from local authority contributions was on the new computer database for registry offices; [142370]

(2) what assessment he has made of the causes of the IT problems with the local authority registry offices' new RON computer database. [142372]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 18 June 2007:

As National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions concerning what assessment has been of the causes of the IT problems with the local authority registry offices' new RON computer database and what the estimated total expenditure by the Office for National Statistics and from local authority contributions was on the new computer database for registry offices. (142370, 142372)

A team of experts has been looking at the system and have identified a proposed resolution plan of activities. A full independent review is to be undertaken in due course.

The total cost of the new system (known as "RON") was estimated as just over £6m, of which some £3.5million is for the software, £2.5 million is for IT infrastructure. Local Authorities have not directly contributed to its development.

Smuggling: Drugs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* arrests were made and *(b)* convictions were secured by HM Revenue and Customs for (i) drugs trafficking and (ii) associated criminal finance in each year since 1998, broken down by offence. [131611]

John Healey: This information is not available in the format requested.

Tree Preservation Orders

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether tree protection orders may be placed on a tree or series of trees prior to a planning application that would result in the trees being removed or cut down. [142169]

Ruth Kelly: I have been asked to reply.

A tree preservation order (TPO) may be made to safeguard trees on a potential development site in the interests of amenity. This ensures that the effect of any proposed development on trees would be properly considered by the local planning authority alongside other material considerations. If full planning permission is subsequently granted, the TPO would not prevent any felling or pruning needed to implement the approved development.

Valuation Office Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 2134W, on the Valuation Office Agency, what the purpose was of the visits to *(a)* America, *(b)* Malaysia, *(c)* Japan, *(d)* Thailand, *(e)* Spain, *(f)* France, *(g)* China and *(h)* Belgium. [142403]

Dawn Primarolo: All overseas travel by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service code. Overseas travel is typically undertaken in order to share international expertise in the field of property valuation. Detailed information on each visit is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Valuation Office Agency: Assets

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which datasets maintained by the Valuation Office Agency are held on the Government's Information Asset Register. [141808]

Dawn Primarolo: None.

VAT: Registration

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of complete and accurate VAT registration applications were processed within 21 days of receipt in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [142798]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* HM Revenue and Customs currently record processing time for all applications and no longer distinguish between those that are either complete or incomplete. The latest available monthly figures are as follows:

Month	*Percentage of applications processed within 21 days of receipt*
2006	
April	60
May	56
June	57
July	57
August	59
September	71
October	88
November	85
December	79
2007	
January	58
February	63
March	60

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints HM Revenue and Customs received on the time taken to process VAT registrations in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [142799]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* HMRC registers over 280,000 new businesses every year. Over the past 12 months less than 1 per cent. of these businesses have complained about registration delays.

The recent increase in the number of complaints is the result of the introduction of more rigorous pre-registration checks designed to combat MTIC fraud. HMRC are working to reduce the number of registration delays.

The number of complaints received about registration delays is as follows:

Month	*Number of complaints*
2006	
June	109
July	96
August	92
September	65
October	78
November	65
December	54
2007	
January	69
February	85
March	100
April	131
May	133

VAT: Repayments

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of HM Revenue and Customs' performance in repaying VAT to claimants where claims are properly claimed and payments are properly payable; [142795]

(2) what the percentage of cases is in which the extended verification process for VAT repayments have been determined by HM Revenue and Customs to be *(a)* connected with missing trader intra community fraud and *(b)* otherwise incorrectly claimed or improperly paid. [142796]

John Healey: The vast majority of VAT repayment claims are paid promptly. However, in response to the rapid increase in missing trader intra-community fraud activity in late 2005 and early 2006, HM Revenue and Customs are actively checking a greater number of suspect claims. HMRC have deployed an additional 700 staff in 2006-07 to ensure that verification of these claims can be carried out as effectively and efficiently as possible.

The latest data indicates that over 95 per cent. of traders, whose returns are subject to the current verification programme, have so far been found to be participating in, or profiting from, MTIC fraud, or there is sufficient suspicion to warrant further investigation. Only 1 per cent. of the VAT withheld under this programme has been found to be properly payable. To date, the courts have found that HMRC's actions have been proportionate and reasonable.

HMRC does not hold centralised information relating to "*(b)* otherwise incorrectly claimed or improperly paid". VAT incorrectly claimed or improperly paid can result from a diverse number of factors, including other fraud, avoidance or error and gathering such data would incur disproportionate costs.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in West Lancashire constituency received tax credits in each of the last five years. [143537]

Dawn Primarolo: New tax credits were introduced in April 2003, and are currently in their 5th year of operation.

Statistics of finalised annual tax credits awards for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and provisional estimates as at April 2007 by constituency are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many appeals against repayment of overpaid tax credits remain unresolved due to computer or other technical issues; and how many of the outstanding cases have been unresolved for *(a)* one to three months, *(b)* three to six months, *(c)* six to 12 months and *(d)* over 12 months. [142477]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs has around 19,500 disputed overpayment cases that cannot be fully resolved due to technical issues.

A breakdown of this figure in the requested format is not readily available and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what definition he uses of the sub-category of toxicological procedure Substances used in the Household in the context of his Department's Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals; and whether this sub-category applies to both finished household products and their ingredients. [141929]

Joan Ryan: The information published in the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals in Great Britain on toxicological procedures is classified according to the nature of the substance tested. There is no authoritative definition of the term 'household products' within toxicology and it is not defined in any national or international legislation.

However, in the context of the Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals, regard is paid to the definition of finished household products as set out in the 2002 publication on The Use of Animals in Testing Household Products produced by the Boyd Group, a forum encompassing a wide rage of expertise and perspectives concerned with the use of animals in scientific procedures. As part of the quality assurance process for compiling the statistics each return for the use of household products is scrutinised to ensure appropriate categorisation.

All products that are primarily intended for use in the home fall within the sub-category 'Substances used in the household' and would include such products as detergents and other laundry products, household cleaners, air-fresheners, toilet blocks, polishes, paper products such as infant nappies, paints, glues (and removers), other furnishing and DIY products and household pesticides. The sub-category applies to both finished household products and their ingredients, although in practice mainly the latter are tested.

Procedures for toxicological purposes accounted for 14 per cent. of all procedures started in 2005 and, of that, 0.005 per cent. of procedures were for the evaluation household products. The number of procedures for the testing of household products remains very small and has reduced dramatically from 1,032 procedures in 2002 to 21 in 2005, a fall of 98 per cent. It is anticipated that it will always be the case that only very small numbers of animals will be used for this purpose.

Asylum Seekers

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many meetings he had with hon. Members to discuss the reconsideration of tribunal verdicts on the expulsion of failed asylum seekers in each month of 2006. [118673]

Mr. Byrne: I meet with hon. Members, both formally and informally, on an almost daily basis to discuss issues relating to representations made by hon. Members.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which countries' agencies the immigration and nationality directorate co-operated in order to return failed asylum seekers in the last 12 months. [141403]

John Reid: The 1944 Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation, to which some 190 states are signatories, underpins the framework within which those, who no longer qualify to remain on the territory of a particular country, can be removed. Those arrangements generally operate successfully on a day- to-day basis, but there may be a need to enter into discussions or secure more formal arrangements with individual countries to enhance our ability to return. As part of strengthening this process we have signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on returns with Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somaliland, United Arab Emirates (Dubai) and Vietnam. The UK has also opted-in to decisions to mandate the EU Commission to negotiate 16 readmission agreements on behalf of member states. In addition, we have bilateral readmission agreements with Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Switzerland. An agreement has been signed with Algeria and is currently in the process of ratification.

In effecting the removal of those who do not qualify to remain in the United Kingdom (UK), we do not distinguish between failed asylum seekers and other immigration offenders.

Asylum: Employment

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of individuals awaiting a decision on their asylum claim are refused the right to work. [142271]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested cannot be provided except by examining individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Community Support Officers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the recruitment and retention of police community support officers. [143035]

Mr. McNulty: The target of 16,000 new police community support officers employed by forces by the end of April 2007 has been achieved. This met the very challenging target set out in the 2006 Budget, requiring in total almost a doubling in the numbers of PCSOs over a seven-month period. This represents a considerable achievement for forces.

Community Support Officers: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers were originally planned to be in post in Kent in March 2008; and how many are now expected to be in post on that date. [143440]

Mr. McNulty: To achieve a national target of 24,000 police community support officers (PCSOs) Kent Constabulary would have employed 571 PCSOs by March 2008. A written ministerial statement on 27 November announced changes to this plan in the light of the progress that the police service has made towards delivering neighbourhood policing and requests from the service for greater flexibility. Kent Constabulary were accordingly due to have 382 PCSOs by 30 April 2007 as their share of the national target—which the police service achieved—of 16,000 PCSOs.

It is open to Kent and other forces, depending on local circumstances and resources, to increase the number of PCSOs further if they consider it appropriate to meet the neighbourhood policing needs of their communities, but there is no expectation on them to do so. The aim now is to have a dedicated neighbourhood policing team embedded into every area in England and Wales by April 2008.

Community Support Officers: Manpower

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what changes he plans to make to the numbers of police community support officers in *(a)* Essex, *(b)* Hampshire, *(c)* Kent, *(d)* Surrey, *(e)* East Sussex and *(f)* West Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [143351]

Mr. McNulty: It is for Chief Constables to determine the deployment of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) within their force area. The following table

gives the number of PCSOs that these forces were due to have by 30 April 2007 as their share of the national target—which the police service achieved—of 16,000 PCSOs. It is open to all forces, depending on local circumstances and resources, to increase the number of PCSOs further if they consider it appropriate to meet the neighbourhood policing needs of their communities, but there is no expectation on them to do so. The aim now is to have a dedicated neighbourhood policing team embedded into every area in England and Wales by April 2008.

Police force target number of PCSOs at 30 April 2007

	Number
Essex	362
Hampshire	333
Kent	382
Surrey	222
Sussex	354

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total costs incurred by his Department from the departmental split resulting in the formation of the Ministry of Justice have been. [140204]

Mr. Byrne: There will be no additional costs to the Home Office arising from the establishment of the Ministry of Justice; certain agreed costs incurred by the Home Office as part of this process will be reimbursed by the Ministry of Justice.

Departments

Mr. Mudie: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent staff are working on priority legacy cases. [141120]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* In presenting a report on IND Reform to House on 25 July last year, the Home Secretary set out priorities for the asylum legacy programme. The director general of IND (now chief executive of BIA) then wrote to Home Affairs Committee on 19 February with update on legacy programme. This letter confirmed that a new directorate had been established to deal specifically with legacy cases and had been in operation since 1 November last year, with significant case working capability.

Further casework resources will progressively come on stream over coming months.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140788]

Mr. Byrne: To account for its carbon emissions the Home Office measures the consumption of electricity, gas and fuel oil across the estate and converts these figures into carbon equivalents with the assistance of the Building Research Establishment. Carbon emissions from road travel undertaken by Home Office staff are accounted for in accordance with DEFRA's guidance to business on environmental reporting. We measure the amount of travel by hire cars, pool cars, private vehicles and taxis and take account of vehicle fuel type in calculating emissions. These figures are submitted for inclusion in the Sustainable Development in Government report published annually by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Separately the Department participates in the Government's carbon offsetting scheme, which calculates the carbon dioxide emissions created by official air travel. Central data are provided to DEFRA who then adjust these to take into account the total impact that aviation imposes on climate change and purchase credits from projects which prevent or remove an equivalent amount of emissions from the atmosphere.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments his Department made to MVA Limited in each of the last three years; and what the purpose was of each payment. [125957]

Mr. Byrne: The Department has records of one payment made to MVA Limited, of £68, in May 2004. The purpose of the payment could be determined only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what official *(a)* lunches, *(b)* dinners and *(c)* receptions he has hosted in each of the last six months; and what the (i) location, (ii) total cost and (iii) purpose was of each event. [133324]

John Reid: I have hosted numerous lunches, dinners and receptions regarding Home Office business during the last six months. Details of the exact location, total cost and purpose of each event could be obtained only by reviewing the records of each meeting. This could be done only at disproportionate costs.

In each case, any hospitality was provided in accordance with the departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years; [139314]

(2) what properties his Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years; [139354]

(3) how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years; [139333]

(4) what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139469]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the ownership, rents, and disposals is not collected centrally and would require a review of individual historical records. This could be

done only at disproportionate cost. Following the Machinery of Government changes of 9 May, the Home Office has reduced its estate so that it does not include properties relating to the National Offender Management Service including Prisons and Probation. In future years, a new central unit within the re-focused Home Office will collate and hold data on its property portfolio.

Departments: Publications

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to his Department of the unpublished research paper Sizing the Illegally Resident Working Population. [129042]

John Reid: The report into the 'Sizing of the Illegally Resident Working Population', released as part of Freedom of Information Act release FOI 3517, was technical in nature and the relevant aspects of this research are already contained in the published RDS online report 58/04—'Sizing the illegal population in the UK'. The research cost £20,020.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of the unpublished research paper Development of a study into the impact of Government policy on asylum flows. [129079]

John Reid: The report 'Development of a study into the impact of Government policy on asylum flows' was released as part of Freedom of Information Act release FOI 3517. It was not previously published because it had not been developed into a report of publishable standard and there was not a sufficiently strong case for putting further resource into improving the report, given the rapid pace of change in asylum pressures and processes. The cost of the research is not available centrally.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to his Department was of the unfinished report Enforcement of warrants. [129083]

John Reid: The report into the 'Enforcement of Warrants' was released as part of Freedom of Information Act release FOI 3517 and was previously released with limited distribution. The research was produced internally and separately identifiable costs are not available.

Departments: Reviews

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 599-600W, how many Home Office reviews have been instigated or agreed to by Ministers since 5 May 2006; what the subject matter was of each review; and what the outcome was of each review. [134214]

John Reid: As soon as I became Home Secretary, I undertook three major reviews of (a) the Home Office as a whole; (b) the immigration and asylum system; and (c) the criminal justice system. The outcomes of each of these reviews was published in July 2006. In addition, the Prime Minister asked me to instigate a review of counter terrorism, but there is a limit to what I can report on the results of this review due to national security considerations. Finally, I have recently instigated a review of policing, led by Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Sir Ronnie Flanagan. My drive to improve delivery in the Home Office's objectives means that a wide range of other reviews of policy and operational issues have been undertaken and continue to be undertaken (such as a review of deportation of foreign national prisoners and Sir Ian Magee's review of the criminal records of offences committed abroad by UK nationals). To identify every one could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139895]

Mr. Byrne: The Department does not hold the information, at the requested level of detail, in a readily accessible form. An answer could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Detainees: Religious Practice

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps his Department is taking to ensure the right to religious observance is upheld in immigration removal centres. [141401]

John Reid: The Detention Centre Rules 2001 require arrangements to be in place for ministers of religion to conduct religious services for detainees.

Each centre is monitored by an on-site Border and Immigration Agency team and is subject to scrutiny by the Independent Monitoring Board. Both are able to pursue any issues where it is felt that the right to religious observance is not being upheld.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines his Department has issued on collective worship in immigration removal centres. [141402]

John Reid: All centres have in place arrangements where detainees can attend collective prayers. The Detention Centre Rules 2001 require arrangements to be in place for ministers of religion to conduct religious services for detainees.

Detainees: Transport

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on moving asylum claimants between immigration removal centres in each of the last five years. [141394]

John Reid: The contract price for in country escorts is inclusive and covers all required escort movements for immigration detainees including inter-detention estate transfers.

Driving Offences

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many roadside enforcement checks dealing with *(a)* speed, *(b)* drink driving, *(c)* driving under the influence of drugs, *(d)* use of seat belts and child restraints, *(e)* mobile telephone use and *(f)* vehicle safety have taken place in each police force area in the last 12 months. [142963]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the driving population has been stopped by the police for a roadside check to deal with *(a)* speed, *(b)* drink driving, *(c)* driving under the influence of drugs, *(d)* use of seat belts and child restraints, *(e)* mobile telephone use and *(f)* vehicle safety in the last 12 months. [142964]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the number and purposes of vehicle stops carried out by the police is not collected centrally. Information on the number of screening breath tests carried out by the police and on the number of motoring offences detected is contained in the annual publication "Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales" available in the Library and at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html

Firearms: Crime

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents involving the use of ball-bearing guns have been reported in the last five years; and what action he intends to take to tackle the misuse of such guns. [142508]

Mr. Coaker: Available figures relate to the use of BB guns. A BB gun is a low powered weapon which fires pellets (rather than ball bearings) at a low velocity.

Statistics on the number of offences involving BB guns have only been collected separately since April 2004.

There were 2,864 and 2,753 BB gun offences during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

The Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 will double the maximum custodial sentence for possessing an imitation firearm in a public place without reasonable excuse to one year. It will also make it illegal to sell any imitation firearm to a person under 18 and will ban the manufacture, import and sale of realistic imitation firearms. We intend to commence these provisions with effect from 1 October.

Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff applied for the Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies' scheme in each year since its introduction. [143242]

Mr. McNulty: A breakdown of applications received for the Fulbright Fellowship from police staff for the period 2004-05 to 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

Previous records do not show a breakdown whether the applicant was a police officer or police staff, however, awards made in 2006-07 went to a detective inspector and a member of police staff.

			Number
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total applications:	12	16	22
Ethnic minority	1	2	4
Female	1	6	8
Interviewed:	6	6	6
Ethnic minority	0	1	1
Female	1	2	2
Awards made:	5	2	2
Ethnic minority	0	0	1
Female	1	0	1

Identity Cards

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which locations facilities are *(a)* in existence and *(b)* planned for (i) the manufacture of identity cards and (ii) the processing of identity card applications. [142735]

Joan Ryan: The Identity and Passport Service will be responsible for the issue of identity cards to British citizens alongside the issue of British passports. However, no final decisions have yet been taken on the precise arrangements for the processing of applications or the manufacture of identity cards and this will depend on the outcome of future procurements.

Immigrants: Health

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what systems his Department has put in place for monitoring the response made in immigration decisions to the advice of medical inspectors. [142056]

Mr. Byrne: As part of the implementation of the Port Health Review recommendations, a survey was conducted at Heathrow and Gatwick at the end of last year to determine the part the medical inspector's advice plays in making immigration decisions. The results of the survey are still being considered.

Immigrants: Health Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what formal arrangements his Department has made for the health care of sick travellers detained by the immigration service. [142057]

Mr. Byrne: Any passengers subject to immigration control detained by the immigration service would normally be kept in holding rooms at ports only for short periods.

There is no on-site health care provision in those holding rooms without sleeping accommodation. In the event of a medical emergency, an ambulance is called. Where medical advice is required (for example relating to medication) arrangements are in place for detention custody officers to phone an advice line similar to NHS Direct, who advise on what further medical attention is required. Detainees held in immigration removal centres have access to on-site health care.

Immigrants: Tuberculosis

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government tests those who wish to enter the UK for a period of six months or more from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis in their country of origin. [142052]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Warley (Mr. Spellar) on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 80W.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of people from countries with a high prevalence of tuberculosis and seeking entry into the UK for a period of six months or more were tested for tuberculosis at ports of entry in the last period for which figures are available. [142054]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics are not recorded in this form.

Immigration Controls: Russia

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Russian citizens have been refused entry into the United Kingdom on the grounds of a threat to national security in the last 12 months. [141245]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* As a matter of policy we do not comment on matters relating to national security. However, all applicants for entry clearance must meet the requirements of the immigration rules and associated policies, as set out on the UKVisas website at

www.ukvisas.gov.uk .

Immigration: Applications

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-English speaking immigrants applied for residency in the UK in each year since 1997. [129390]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is not available. The Border and Immigration Agency do not hold any details of the language(s) spoken by applicants who apply for indefinite leave to remain or enter in the United Kingdom. Changes to the immigration rules were announced on 4 December 2006 and took effect on 2 April 2007. These will require persons subject to immigration control and in a category that leads to settlement to demonstrate knowledge of the English language and of knowledge of life in the United Kingdom before settlement can be granted.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall, North of 8 May regarding a constituent, ref: M10538/7. [142658]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 13 June 2007.

National Identity Register

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of omissions and errors in the postcode address file on the proposed national identity scheme; and if he will make a statement. [135844]

John Reid: It is proposed that the national identity scheme will make use of the postcode address file as a method of address validation. However, it will not be the sole source of validation and provisions will be made to permit non-PAF compliant addresses to be recorded appropriately.

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* injured and *(b)* killed as a result of knife crime offences in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire and (vi) Norfolk in each year since 1997. [140688]

Mr. Coaker: The information available centrally relates to homicides by sharp instrument recorded by the police and is given in the table. Data for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by sharp instrument in the East of England region[2], 1997-98 to 2005-06

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	2	7	1	1	2	3
Cambridgeshire	1	1	4	0	1	2	5	1	2
Essex	1	5	9	2	10	7	5	0	7
Hertfordshire	2	1	5	4	3	4	4	5	4
Norfolk	0	5	2	4	1	0	3	1	1
Suffolk	0	0	0	3	2	0	2	2	3

Offences currently recorded[1] as homicide by sharp instrument in the East of England region[2], 1997-98 to 2005-06

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
East of England total	7	14	21	15	24	14	20	11	20

[1] As at 9 October 2006: figures subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information comes to light.
[2] England and Wales totals published in "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2005/06". (Home Office Statistical Bulletin 02/07).

Police Cautions: Children

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children were cautioned by police in each year since 1997, broken down by age of child. [132926]

John Reid: Information from the Cautions database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform showing the number of juveniles aged 10 to 17 cautioned by the police for all offences in England and Wales from 1997-2005, broken down by age, are provided in the following tables. Both cautions and convictions have increased since 1997.

Number of offenders aged 10 to 17 cautioned in England and Wales, by age, 1997-2007[1,2,3,4]

Age	1997	7998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
10	2,052	2,297	2,207	2,061	1,979	1,611	1,650	1,719	2,095
11	4,283	4,775	4,599	4,484	4,422	3,537	3,559	3,847	4,536
12	7,744	8,807	8,278	8,247	8,182	6,878	6,990	8,004	9,235
13	12,219	13,746	13,244	12,713	13,296	10,862	11,353	13,356	15,597
14	17,383	17,979	17,662	17,529	17,473	15,227	15,908	18,984	22,397
15	19,737	20,896	19,788	19,267	19,567	17,005	18,732	21 ,663	24,826
16	20,404	20,583	19,008	17,505	17,920	16,313	17,714	20,346	22,149
17	20,698	20,642	19,192	15,735	15,203	15,156	16,027	17,089	18,040
Total	104,520	109,725	103,978	97,541	98,042	86,589	91,933	105,008	118,875

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] Offenders aged under 10 cannot be cautioned for an offence.

Number of juveniles found guilty at all courts or cautioned for all offences, England and Wales 1997 to 2005[1]

	Found guilty			Cautioned[2]		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1997	69,697	9,454	79,151	80,866	23,654	104,520
1998	75,701	10,805	86,506	82,441	27,284	109,725
1999	79,389	10,891	90,280	78,478	25,500	103,978
2000	80,513	10,910	91,423	72,089	25,452	97,541
2001	84,128	11,402	95,530	72,070	25,972	98,042
2002	83,181	11,365	94,546	63,554	23,034	86,588
2003	80,849	11,692	92,541	66,910	25,023	91,933
2004	83,413	12,775	96,188	74,476	30,532	105,008
2005	82,431	13,726	96,157	83,199	35,676	118,875

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] From 1 June 2000 Cautions for 10 to 17-year-olds were replaced by reprimands and final warnings under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Police: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on police funding in Cambridgeshire. [144067]

Mr. McNulty: Cambridgeshire police authority, like every other police authority in England and Wales, has received a sustained increase in police funding over the last 10 years. Total grants to Cambridgeshire have increased by nearly £30 million (51.2 per cent.) since 1997-98.

Police: Complaints

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Wrexham (Ian Lucas) of 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 960W, on police complaints, when he last met the Independent Police

Complaints Commission (IPCC) to discuss the number of complaints made to the IPCC. [141789]

Mr. McNulty: I have met the IPCC on a number of occasions to discuss issues around the police complaints system, the most recent being in March 2007 when complaints statistics were discussed.

Police: Death Benefits

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance he provides to the dependants of fallen police officers; and if he will make a statement. [143204]

Mr. McNulty: The Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations 2006 provide for certain awards and gratuities to be paid by the police authority for the force where the officer last served to his or her dependants where the officer died as the result of an injury received without default in the execution of his or her duty as a constable. A surviving spouse or civil partner will receive a pension of up to half the officer's pensionable pay plus a lump-sum gratuity of up to either five times the officer's pensionable pay or four times the officer's total remuneration for the last twelve months of his or her service, whichever is the lesser amount. Other awards are available for surviving children and adult dependent relatives, subject to eligibility, the amount of any such award depending on the circumstances.

Police: Electronic Equipment

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in providing front-line police officers with electronic hand-held devices to assist in reducing officer time away from such duties. [142198]

Mr. McNulty: Many forces are trialling the use of hand held devices, with support and guidance from the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). Through the NPIA, the Home Office has directly funded mobile data trials in progress in six forces.

These trials will enable national standards to be created and provide valuable assessments of operational benefits; the time saved by officers not having to return to the station; and the differences between the bearers and devices in different situations.

Police: Finance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the use by police authorities of the allocation of receipts from taxation on second homes and the allocation of such funds to the district from which they were collected. [143762]

Mr. McNulty: We have received no such representations.

Police: Health

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been allocated to police authorities to enable police officers to maintain high levels of physical fitness in 2007-08. [143252]

Mr. McNulty: Police authorities are responsible for setting their own budgets and therefore determining how the funds received from central and local government are spent.

Police: ICT

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces are equipped with National Strategy for Police Information Systems in respect of *(a)* custody and *(b)* case preparation; when he expects the remaining police forces to adopt such systems; and if he will make a statement. [143206]

Mr. McNulty: 23 police forces have implemented the National Strategy for Police Information Systems (NSPIS) electronic custody management application in at least one site. 18 of these have the system deployed in all relevant sites. 26 forces have the NSPIS electronic case management application in live use in at least one site, with full implementation completed in 20 forces.

The implementation programme is now entering its final stages and will be completed in all forces—other than the Metropolitan Police (MPS)—by the end of 2007. The MPS will complete their implementation in 2008.

Police: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police authority operating in West Lancashire constituency spent on training *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* special constables in each of the last 10 years. [143684]

Mr. McNulty: Spending on local staff training is an operational issue for the chief constable of Lancashire constabulary.

Police: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce the levels of road accidents involving police response vehicles. [143201]

Mr. Coaker: In responding effectively to emergency situations the police must have due regard to the safety of other road users. We welcome the guidance given in this area by ACPO and have been co-operating with the current inquiry into police related road traffic incidents being carried out by the Independent Police Complaints Commission. We look forward to its report and acting, with the police, on any lessons to be learned. The Home Office Scientific Development Branch is also currently working to enhance police driver training through a project to develop a simulator. This will enable trainees to develop their skills for pursuit and emergency response in realistic scenarios off-road.

Police: Ports

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate he has made of the cost of policing the UK's borders and entry points in the last year for which figures are available. [120408]

Mr. Byrne: The requested information is not held centrally by the Department.

Police: Road Traffic

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces do not have a dedicated roads policing division; and what the title is of the units and divisions in each force which have responsibility for roads policing among their other duties. [142959]

Mr. McNulty: Force organisation and deployment of resources are matters for individual chief officers and such information is not collected centrally.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average number of roads policing officers on duty at any given time was in each police force in the last period for which figures are available; and what percentage of the force's total number of officers on duty each figure represents. [142961]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not available centrally.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average number of roads policing officers on duty at any given time in each of the police forces in the last period for which figures are available were *(a)* carrying out patrolling duties and *(b)* carrying out roadside enforcement checks. [142962]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Police: Terrorism

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to his answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 265W, on the police: terrorism, how many police officers are planned to be equipped with specialist training skills in order to deal with a terrorist attack under the Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear Resilience Programme. [143248]

Mr. McNulty: As part of the Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Resilience Programme the police currently intend to increase the number of officers specially trained in CBRN to approximately 12,000. This total is driven by operational requirements and as such is kept under review and may change.

Ports: Health

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what action his Department has taken with the Department of Health and the Health Protection Agency to publish an explanation of accountabilities and responsibilities for stakeholder organisations and staff with regard to port health; and where this written explanation is available. [142055]

Mr. Byrne: An explanatory document entitled Health activity relating to people at ports, airports and international train stations in England was published on 31 July 2006 on the Department of Health website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4137780

and on the Home Office and Health Protection Agency websites in early August 2006 at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/6353/6356/healthactivity.pdf

and

http://www.hpa.org.uk/porthealth/who_is_responsible_for_what_at_ports.pdf

respectively.

Safer Neighbourhoods Programme

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each London borough contributed to safer neighbourhood teams match funding in each of the last three years. [143023]

Mr. Coaker: We do not collect this information centrally. Local authorities, among other partners, are encouraged to provide matched funding to enhance community safety. Partnership working is key to successful delivery of neighbourhood policing and the more matched funding forces acquire, the better placed they will be to invest further in policing their local communities.

Stop and Search: Vehicles

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people whose vehicles have been stopped and searched under the Terrorism Act 2000 have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of (i) a notifiable offence and (ii) a terrorism-related offence; and if he will make a statement. [142730]

Mr. McNulty: The stops and search statistical collection, held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, identifies vehicles and occupiers searched under s44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000 by resultant arrests only.

The information is not linked with details of any subsequent prosecutions and convictions.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were stopped and searched in each police force area in England in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08; how many of these vehicles in each year were stopped and searched under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [142731]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following tables from 1998-99 to 2004-05 (latest available). Information on "vehicles only" searches is not available for 1997-98.

Total searches[1] of vehicles[2] and searches of vehicles under section 44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000[3], by police force area in England, from 1998-99 to 2004-05

	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
Police force area	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*
Avon and Somerset	749	—	672	—	399	—	504	—
Bedfordshire	40	—	58	—	39	—	53	—
Cambridgeshire	90	—	77	—	114	—	207	—
Cheshire	966	—	796	—	615	—	583	7
Cleveland	277	—	190	—	218	—	159	—
Cumbria	475	—	360	—	284	—	281	—
Derbyshire	1,259	—	1,583	—	501	—	437	5
Devon and Cornwall	944	—	702	—	601	—	709	2
Dorset	242	—	450	—	486	12	193	—
Durham	101	17	93	—	64	—	352	235
Essex	725	—	887	—	1,115	—	775	—
Gloucestershire	519	—	650	—	580	—	572	4
Greater Manchester	1,752	—	1,557	—	1,365	—	1,338	—
Hampshire	216	9	451	2	243	—	202	—
Hertfordshire	488	—	407	—	372	—	307	3
Humberside	—	—	6	—	144	—	23	—
Kent	7,231	3	5,684	2	2,662	39	1,231	—
Lancashire	n/a	n/a	620	—	438	—	700	—
Leicestershire	878	—	303	—	439	—	1,075	1
Lincolnshire	734	—	314	—	149	—	155	—
London, City of	6	4	13	3	27	14	7	1
Merseyside	1,095	—	581	—	1,753	—	1,770	—
Metropolitan police	5,373	710	2,626	72	5,074	2,276	4,072	1,108
Norfolk	522	—	346	—	463	—	1,091	—
Northamptonshire	181	—	337	—	278	—	268	—
Northumbria	1,147	—	632	—	437	—	377	—
North Yorkshire	402	6	386	—	205	3	251	—
Nottinghamshire	246	—	152	—	289	—	269	—
South Yorkshire	703	—	863	—	929	—	939	205
Staffordshire	212	—	174	—	149	—	205	—
Suffolk	813	1	490	—	306	—	262	—
Surrey	119	—	71	—	82	—	69	—
Sussex	480	—	639	—	811	73	825	64
Thames Valley	775	—	467	—	437	—	343	—
Warwickshire	304	—	424	—	331	—	272	—
West Mercia	479	—	3,416	—	2,317	—	1,093	—
West Midlands	247	—	35	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Yorkshire	4,310	—	4,510	—	3,219	—	4,910	—
Wiltshire	851	—	543	—	432	—	349	—
England	35,951	750	32,565	79	28,367	2,417	27,028	1,635

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
Police force area	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*	*Total vehicles only searched*	*Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act*
Avon and Somerset	697	—	587	—	265	—
Bedfordshire	48	—	48	—	16	—
Cambridgeshire	223	—	202	—	167	1
Cheshire	694	58	422	—	888	—
Cleveland	150	—	129	—	126	—
Cumbria	96	—	78	—	91	—
Derbyshire	433	—	424	—	366	—
Devon and Cornwall	481	—	295	2	92	—
Dorset	157	—	126	—	74	—
Durham	85	—	79	—	84	—
Essex	518	—	161	4	265	124
Gloucestershire	633	4	564	1	618	—
Greater Manchester	1,685	89	727	37	963	235
Hampshire	184	2	220	17	256	35

Police force area	2002-03 Total vehicles only searched	2002-03 Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act	2003-04 Total vehicles only searched	2003-04 Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act	2004-05 Total vehicles only searched	2004-05 Vehicles only searched under s44(1) Terrorism Act
Hertfordshire	62	—	185	—	244	—
Humberside	170	—	144	—	164	—
Kent	548	8	n/a	n/a	n/a	—
Lancashire	633	—	696	—	611	—
Leicestershire	476	3	815	—	1,753	—
Lincolnshire	219	—	217	—	127	—
London, City of	67	42	29	24	51	21
Merseyside	1,313	—	202	—	147	—
Metropolitan police	14,373	10,198	5,558	4,157	4,033	2,935
Norfolk	132	2	180	—	164	—
Northamptonshire	296	—	246	—	79	—
Northumbria	365	—	193	—	236	40
North Yorkshire	227	—	180	—	50	3
Nottinghamshire	356	—	820	—	106	—
South Yorkshire	794	105	419	—	424	—
Staffordshire	214	—	279	—	161	—
Suffolk	321	1	153	—	204	—
Surrey	88	8	92	1	68	5
Sussex	477	32	496	10	604	59
Thames Valley	607	—	278	3	214	1
Warwickshire	229	—	173	—	105	—
West Mercia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Midlands	n/a	n/a	46	—	106	—
West Yorkshire	7,804	—	1,116	—	1,430	—
Wiltshire	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
England	35,855	10,552	16,579	4,256	15,352	3,459

n/a = Not available. "Vehicles only" searches not separately identifiable from other searches recorded.

[1] Total searches includes searches: under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984; Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Firearms Act 1968; also included are other legislation which relates to searches under other powers, such as under the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989 s15 (which since 19 February 2001 has been replaced by section 43 of the Terrorism Act 2000); various poaching and wildlife conservation legislation; the Aviation Security Act 1982, s27(1); the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, s163 and 164; and the Sporting Events (control of Alcohol, etc) Act 1985; s60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994; and s44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly s13A and 13B of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989.

[2] Searches may be conducted on vehicles only, occupants only or both may be searched. Where a vehicle and driver occupier are searched simultaneously the search is recorded against the driver (occupant). Any other passengers searched are recorded as occupants. Data given in the table are where a "vehicle only" has been searched.

[3] S44(1) of the Terrorism Act 2000 (formerly s13A of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act 1989).

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

Stops/Searches collection held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

Sussex Police: Finance

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the percentage change in Government funding for Sussex police has been over the last 10 years. [141827]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

Sussex police—funding

	1997-98	2007-08
General Government grants (£)	127,990,358	161,716,484
Percentage change in general Government grants	—	26.4
Specific grants and capital provision (£)	4,258,000	36,110,087
Total Government grants (£)	132,248,358	197,826,571
Percentage change in total Government grants	—	49.6

Theft: Dogs

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice he has given to police forces on the policing of dog thefts. [142151]

Mr. McNulty: Where dog thefts emerge as a local crime issue it is for the police, in consultation with their local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, to take appropriate action.

There is no national strategy to manage dog theft and we have no plans to issue guidance to police forces.

Vetting: Maladministration

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people's Criminal Records Bureau checks were incorrect in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; [139224]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of people whose Criminal Records Bureau information is incorrect. [139225]

Joan Ryan: The following table illustrates the number of disclosures issued where the applicant details were matched by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) to an individual who had a criminal record due to the similarities in the personal details. In these cases, the details were challenged by the applicants and their disclosures were subsequently amended.

		Upheld matching disputes	
Financial year	*Disclosures issued*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2004-05	2,434,290	1,181	0.048
2005-06	2,772,929	678	0.024
2006-07	3,283,356	724	0.022

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Aerials: Planning Permission

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications for telecommunications masts were approved by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years. [141680]

Meg Munn: The number and outcome of planning appeals relating to telecommunications masts dealt with by the Planning Inspectorate in each of the last five years is set out in the following table.

Financial year	*Allowed*	*Percentage allowed*	*Dismissed*	*Percentage dismissed*	*Total*
2002-03	127	58.53	90	41.47	217
2003-04	73	55.30	59	44.70	132
2004-05	63	55.75	50	44.25	113
2005-06	126	52.28	115	47.72	241
2006-07	81	45.00	99	55.00	180

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she *(a)* has taken and *(b)* proposes to take during the next 12 months to secure implementation of her response to the Report of the All Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism; and if she will make a statement. [142817]

Mr. Woolas: The Government welcomed the All-Party Parliamentary Inquiry into Anti-Semitism and published their response in March this year. In order to take the recommendations forward, we have set up a cross-government working group. Jewish stakeholders and others have been invited to the first meeting which will take place on the 20 June.

Best Value

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how the Comprehensive Area Assessment will differ from the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Best Value. [143630]

Mr. Woolas: Unlike the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (CPA) which was established to bring together views on the current performance of a local authority, the new risk assessment will look at risk and will focus more on areas rather than just institutions. The risk assessment will be undertaken jointly by all local services inspectorates and will be the primary source for determining future inspection programmes allowing a better targeted, more proportionate approach. The majority of existing rolling programmes of inspection will cease during 2008-09.

Under best value local authorities are required to secure continuous improvement in they way they exercise their functions having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Evidence of how well authorities complied with or achieved best value was considered as part of CPA and will continue under the new CAA. The Audit Commission will continue to have powers to inspect under Best Value, with any inspection in future being triggered by the risk assessment.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to prevent increases in council tax valuations arising from the making of environmental improvements to properties. [137479]

Mr. Woolas: Making environmental improvements will have no effect on the current council tax banding of a property. If a property is sold, any environmental or other improvements may have a positive or negative effect but only if they are such that they push the value of the property into the next band range.

Departments: Equality Act 2006 (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what public awareness-raising activities her Department is planning to increase understanding of the Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007. [143123]

Meg Munn: Officials have attended a wide range of events in order to raise awareness of the regulations, which came into force on 30 April. These have included presentations to lesbian, gay and bisexual rights groups such as Stonewall and the Intercom Trust, as well as taking part in a sexual orientation law event, open to members of the public.

This awareness raising activity will be ongoing in advance of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights opening its doors this October, with officials

participating in events in Birmingham, Leicester, Gateshead and Manchester, which will highlight the effects of the new regulations alongside other anti-discrimination measures. Officials are also organising outreach events specifically directed at improving understanding of the regulations among service providers and faith groups.

The Government published guidance on the regulations on 30 April and further information, including a 'quick guide' to the regulations and answers to 'frequently asked questions' are also available on the Department's website.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total work force they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if she will make a statement. [143103]

Angela E. Smith: The Department for Communities and Local Government made bonus payments to 561 staff under the terms of the 2006 pay settlements. This represents 24 per cent. of the total work force as at 1 April 2006. This does not include staff in Government offices.

The total amount paid as bonus payments under these arrangements in 2006 was £838,250 and the largest single payment was £12,000.

The Department has a Special Bonus Scheme to reward exceptional performance over a limited period, in particularly, demanding tasks or situations. The maximum bonus under these arrangements is £600 but records are not yet available to show the number of payments made under this scheme in 2006-07.

The Department has not yet reached agreement on the level and award of bonus payments for 2007.

Empty Property

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department's Electronic Survey of Empty Homes Data Collection Scheme records Empty Dwelling Management Orders issued by local authorities. [143631]

Yvette Cooper: No.

Empty Property: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty or abandoned properties there were in the Elevate area of East Lancashire when the body was established; and how many there are now. [142793]

Yvette Cooper: Elevate, the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder for East Lancashire, was formed in 2003. In December of that year they submitted their first strategic plan for housing market renewal, which indicated that there were 8,000 empty properties in the Pathfinder intervention area. These are properties that have been empty for six or more months. At the end of the financial year 2006-07 there were 6,017 empty properties.

Fire Service: Contracts

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to inform fire-fighters of changes to the terms and conditions of those retained under a second contract. [142888]

Angela E. Smith: Firefighters are employed by fire and rescue authorities who have a duty to inform them of any changes to their terms and conditions of service. Communities and Local Government provides authorities with guides to the pension and compensation arrangements which are made under statutory powers and these should be made available to employees.

Fire Services: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the full combined costs are of all the interim solutions needed for the *(a)* FireControl and *(b)* FireLink projects. [142954]

Angela E. Smith: These costs are contractually and commercially confidential and cannot be disclosed.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the market price of a home information pack, including VAT, excluding the Home Condition Report element. [128549]

Ruth Kelly: Estimates of the cost of compiling a Home Information Pack are set out in the Impact Assessment that was published alongside the Home Information Pack Regulations.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether details of energy performance certificates will be held on the Home Condition Report database. [129251]

Ruth Kelly: There will be separate registers for Energy Performance Certificates and Home Condition Reports.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's latest estimate is of the average market cost of a home information pack, including VAT, *(a)* with a home condition report and *(b)* without a home condition report following the publication of the Home Information Pack Regulations 2007. [137570]

Ruth Kelly: Estimates of the cost of compiling a Home Information Pack are set out in the Impact Assessment that was published alongside the Home Information Pack Regulations.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many accredited home information pack inspectors are ready to operate in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the South West; and how many are expected to be ready by 1 June 2007. [138411]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State on 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1107, and the answer given to the hon. Member for Banbury (Tony Baldry) on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 817W.

Housing

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of four bedroom properties likely to be placed for sale on the housing market between 1 August and 31 December 2007; and if she will make a statement. [140691]

Yvette Cooper: As the Secretary of State said in her statement on 22 May, properties with four bedrooms or more represent approximately 18 per cent. of total housing stock.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many owner occupiers in each of the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders in England have had their properties demolished and are now in a new home with greater mortgage or loan costs than before. [142794]

Yvette Cooper: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collect this data.

Since the Housing Market Renewal programme began, over 38,000 properties have been refurbished and approximately 9,000 demolished. The Pathfinders operate a wide range of loan and grant schemes to support those who relocate.

Housing: Advisory Services

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what resources have been provided for the National Housing and Planning Advice Unit to deliver its mission; how many staff are employed in the unit; whether there are any plans to expand the unit's staffing; and what assessment she has made of the unit's performance to date. [143690]

Yvette Cooper: The National Housing and Planning Advice Unit was established on 7 November 2006 and became fully operational in March. An expert board of six members is steering the work programme of a small technical unit of 12, which includes Economists, Planners and Statisticians. There are no current plans to alter this staffing arrangement.

Funding from the Department for Communities and Local Government for the year 2006-07 amounted to £1.056 million. Funding for 2007-08 has not yet been finalised.

The Unit's first publication, "Affordability Matters", was released as part of the Unit's official launch on 7 June 2007. This document is welcomed by government, and provides compelling evidence of the need to increase housing supply to address affordability problems across the country.

Housing: Newcastle upon Tyne

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether Ministers agreed the target of 25 per cent. of new affordable homes for the Strategic Commission areas in West Newcastle set by the Newcastle Gateshead Pathfinder. [141652]

Yvette Cooper: No. Decisions on detailed affordability targets for specific areas within a pathfinder are taken locally, and are agreed by the relevant local authority, in this case Newcastle city council.

Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to increase the effectiveness of the housing private finance initiative programme. [143465]

Yvette Cooper: Since the early Pathfinder schemes were accepted onto the Housing Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Programme, the Department has made a number of changes, both to regulations and in respect of internal resourcing, to increase the effectiveness of the programme.

We have made two legislative changes, one to allow the sub-contracting of housing management functions and the other to provide new financial freedoms to build new social housing in Housing Revenue Account PFI schemes.

We have improved the guidance and tools available for PFI by publishing the Housing PFI Procurement Pack and issuing a new housing PFI financial model, increasing certainty about costings and affordability and streamlining the data required from authorities. In addition, more emphasis is now placed on improving the scoping and costings of proposals at an early stage.

We have also established a departmental Central Private Finance Unit (CPFU) to strengthen PFI governance, ensure consistency in programme management and provide commercial and management advice and support to PFI policy teams.

We are in the process of reviewing the costs of new build housing PFI schemes and we are currently undertaking further work with a number of local authorities and the Housing Corporation on new build costs.

Housing: Rents

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the outstanding arrears of rent on council-owned *(a)* residential and *(b)* commercial property are in each London borough. [143026]

Yvette Cooper: The outstanding arrears of rent on council-owned residential property in each London borough are available in the following table. This information for council-owned commercial property is not collected centrally.

Outstanding arrears of rent on council-owed residential property in each London borough, as reported by local authorities

March 2006	*£000*
Barking and Dagenham	3,618
Barnet	2,309
Bexley	—
Brent	2,460
Bromley	—
Camden	4,122
City of London	198
Croydon	2,790
Ealing	5,500
Enfield	2,900
Greenwich	14,991
Hackney	10,909
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,746
Haringey	6,143
Harrow	1,007
Havering	1,096
Hillingdon	2,292
Hounslow	2,190
Islington	10,419
Kensington and Chelsea	1,630
Kingston upon Thames	1,367
Lambeth	16,059
Lewisham	7,125
Merton	1,001
Newham	7,956
Redbridge	1,011
Richmond upon Thames	—
Southwark	13,472
Sutton	n/a
Tower Hamlets	4,099
Waltham Forest	3,434
Wandsworth	4,646
Westminster	6,203

'—' All or most of the local authority stock has been transferred to the registered social landlord sector, so the rent arrears is no longer applicable.
n/a = Data not provided by the London borough of Sutton.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy Form, 2nd Advance.

Infrastructure: Planning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide financial or other resource support to members of the public and voluntary stakeholder groups to participate in the consultation on draft national policy statements on infrastructural planning. [143781]

Yvette Cooper: Paragraph 1.44 of the White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (cm 7120) states that, alongside the introduction of the new infrastructure planning system, the Government intend to increase grant funding for bodies such as Planning Aid to ensure members of the public get the advice and support they need to get involved on site-specific proposals in national policy statements, and in the planning inquiries on major infrastructure projects.

Local Authorities: Cost Effectiveness

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* Gershon Review and *(b)* annual efficiency savings were set for local authorities in each year since their introduction. [143458]

Mr. Woolas: The Gershon Review identified scope for 2.5 per cent. per annum efficiency gains in local government during the 2004 Spending Review period, and this figure was adopted by the Government as a target for every local authority. This equated to £1 billion of new efficiency gains from councils in each year. At least half of these gains had to be cashable, i.e. release cash that could be reallocated by councils to meet local priorities. The Gershon Review set no targets for headcount reduction in local authorities.

Councils reported that they achieved £1.2 billion of new efficiency gains during 2005-06, of which £0.9 billion were cashable. They are due to report on the new gains achieved during 2006-07 in the summer. Information on the efficiency targets for individual councils, and the gains they have achieved so far, is available on the Department's website at:
http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1134484

Local Government Finance Funding Changes Independent Inquiry

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department is planning to produce a formal response to the Lyons inquiry; and what the timetable is for considering the report's recommendations. [141797]

Ruth Kelly: Sir Michael Lyons' work played a major contribution in the development of the Local Government White Paper, which is being implemented through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. His report and recommendations will continue to inform the development of Government policy.

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Government will provide additional financial assistance to central London local authorities with large numbers of arrivals from A8 nations. [139054]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have made available over £600,000 to central London local authorities in recognition of the pressures on their homelessness services caused by A8 nationals. In particular to support work to tackle rough sleeping.

Local Government: Greater London

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received recommending local government restructuring in Greater London in the last 12 months. [141732]

Ruth Kelly: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has not received any representations on this issue in the last 12 months.

Local Government: Pensions

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for publishing the valuation of the Local Government Pension Scheme. [141817]

Ruth Kelly: Local authority pension funds in England and Wales underwent an actuarial valuation of their funds from 31 March 2007, as required by the Scheme's regulations. The outcome for each fund will not be known until later in the current financial year. Details of individual fund valuation results may be requested directly from each local authority who has responsibility for a pension fund.

The Department has not, in the past, published the results of the Scheme's triennial valuations, but discussions with interested parties will commence shortly to explore the scope for publication.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the Treasury's estimate was in 1997 of the financial cost to the Local Government Pension Scheme per year of abolishing tax credits on dividends; [142173]

(2) what estimate she has made of the gross financial cost to the Local Government Pension Scheme in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales of the effect of the abolition of dividend tax credits in each year since 1999-2000. [142360]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 2211W, to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles).

Local Government: Reform

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of the local election purdah period in setting the timetable for the consultation on local government restructuring; and what guidance has been produced for local authorities on statements that may be made on such restructuring during the purdah period. [141847]

Ruth Kelly: In deciding the consultation period, the Secretary of State had regard to the date of the local elections. The code of practice on local authority publicity makes it clear that local authorities should not at any time use public funds to mount publicity campaigns whose primary purpose is to persuade the public to hold a particular view on a question of policy, and that authorities must take particular care when publicity is issued immediately prior to an election. In particular, where publicity is used to comment on the proposals or policies of central Government or other local authorities the content should be objective, balanced, informative and accurate.

Multiple Occupation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of *(a)* discretionary and *(b)* mandatory licensing of houses of multiple occupation on the (i) buy-to-let and (ii) housing market. [141798]

Ruth Kelly: The Building Research Establishment (BRE) was commissioned to undertake a baseline survey on Houses in Multiple Occupation prior to licensing. This will be published shortly. BRE have also been commissioned to conduct a follow up study on the practical implication, effectiveness and impact of mandatory and discretionary licensing and this research is due to commence in early 2008.

North Lincolnshire Council

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the capital allowance to North Lincolnshire Council was in each of the last 10 years. [110019]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 19 December 2006]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

Planning

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she plans to take to improve parliamentary scrutiny of national planning policy statements following paragraph 1.44 of the planning white paper, Cm 7120. [139956]

Yvette Cooper: Paragraphs 3.27 and 3.28 of the White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (Cm 7120), explain that as Ministers would no longer be taking decisions on individual applications, it believes that draft national policy statements should be subject to parliamentary scrutiny, and that further work is needed to identify the most appropriate mechanism for ensuring parliamentary scrutiny. The White Paper consults on what mechanisms might ensure appropriate parliamentary scrutiny.

Planning Obligations

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps her Department is taking to support the development of a landowner and developer tariff for infrastructure delivery in growth areas as an interim measure pending the introduction of the proposed Planning Gain Supplement; [143167]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of existing landowner and developer tariff schemes as a means of capturing land value and securing funds for infrastructural development; [143168]

(3) what definition her Department uses of a landowner and developer tariff for the purposes of infrastructure delivery. [143169]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government does not use a definition for landowner and developer tariffs. In practice landowner and developer tariffs are planning obligations negotiated between the landowner, developer and the local planning authority under section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by section 12 of the Planning and Compensation Act 1991.

Communities and Local Government has provided support to local planning authorities and local delivery vehicles in the growth areas:

(i) they have submitted a bid for funding from the Growth Area Fund towards studies underpinning the schemes,

(ii) our costs contribute to specific infrastructure projects in the Growth Areas which meet our strategic objectives, and;

(iii) through advice and expertise provided via English Partnerships.

For example, in Kent Thameside, Communities and Local Government has been working in partnership with Local Planning Authorities, Kent County Council, Highways Agency and Department for Transport to develop a solution enabling local and regional transport infrastructure to support development aspirations.

Planning Policy Commission

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements are in place for taking account of the views of Ministers in the devolved administrations in decisions on the Planning Policy Commission, where those decisions potentially have an impact on Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland. [142445]

Yvette Cooper: Chapter 10 of "Planning for a Sustainable Future" (cm 7120) explains that decisions on major energy infrastructure projects in Wales presently made by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry would be transferred to the independent planning commission. Decisions on all other major infrastructure projects would continue to be made within Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The commission would consult Welsh Ministers during its consideration of any energy scheme within Wales, including at the decision stage.

The Government will also work with Scotland and Wales to put in place effective arrangements for any cross border projects which need to be jointly determined by the commission and Scottish or Welsh Ministers.

Planning: Housing Improvements

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from the Federation of Master Builders on the proposals in the Planning White Paper to amend the planning regime for household extensions. [143637]

Yvette Cooper: We have received no representations from the Federation on this issue. However officials have arranged to meet the Federation to discuss the Government's consultation proposals.

Rescue Services: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much financial support was made available for urban search and rescue teams in each fire authority area in each financial year for which support was made available. [143158]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government (CLG) has provided financial support direct to fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) to assist urban search and rescue (USAR) teams through grants under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. Details of all these grants are published in Fire Service Circulars. The following table summarises this funding, the amounts provided to individual FRAs and the financial year they were paid.

Government have also funded over £8.7 million in new USAR training facilities at the Fire Service College to enable USAR teams to undertake generic and specialist training. To date over £6.8 million has been spent on training courses for USAR technicians primarily at the college.

Other funding, paying for the initial purchase and maintenance of equipment hosted by the USAR teams, has been undertaken collectively with other New Dimension assets and it is not possible to separate out the USAR costs in isolation.

S31 grant funding paid to FRAs in support of USAR teams

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*		
Fire authorities	*Crewing and training (resource)*	*Crewing (resource)*	*PPE (capital)*	*Accommodation (capital)*
Avon Fire Authority	—	306,000	42,469	—
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	—	306,000	42,469	—
Cheshire Fire Authority	115,900	150,000	—	—
Devon Fire Authority	109,800	459,000	42,469	—
Essex Fire Authority	103,700	306,000	42,469	—
Greater London Authority	1,695,800	1,836,000	169,876	—
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	146,400	150,000	—	—
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority	128,100	612,000	42,469	—

S31 grant funding paid to FRAs in support of USAR teams

£

Fire authorities	*2004-05*	*2005-06*		
	Crewing and training (resource)	*Crewing (resource)*	*PPE (capital)*	*Accommodation (capital)*
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	—	306,000	42,469	—
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	85,400	306,000	42,469	—
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	—	306,000	42,469	—
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority	103,700	459,000	42,469	—
Lincolnshire County Council	189,100	306,000	42,469	24,535
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	146,400	612,000	42,469	—
Norfolk County Council	—	459,000	42,469	—
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	384,300	459,000	42,469	13,804
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority	109,800	459,000	42,469	—
West Sussex County Council	103,700	150,000	—	—
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	122,000	459,000	42,469	—
Total	3,544,100	8,406,000	806,911	38,339
Overall total	—	—	—	—

£

Fire authorities	*2006-07*				
	PPE (resource)	*Accommodation (capital)*	*Timber (resource)*	*Local training facilities (capital)*	*Crewing (resource)*
Avon Fire Authority	18,753	387,800	10,000	122,100	719,942
Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority	18,753	—	10,000	—	719,942
Cheshire Fire Authority	—	—	—	—	75,000
Devon Fire Authority	18,753	321,893	10,000	155,000	359,971
Essex Fire Authority	18,753	316,754	10,000	122,100	719,942
Greater London Authority	75,012	1,050,327	40,000	244,200	2,879,768
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	—	—	—	—	75,000
Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority	18,753	270,157	10,000	122,100	719,942
Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority	18,753	148,000	10,000	122,100	719,942
Kent and Medway Towns Fire Authority	18,753	310,000	10,000	103,940	719,942
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	18,753	283,765	10,000	103,940	719,942
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combined Fire Authority	18,753	102,500	10,000	122,100	719,942
Lincolnshire County Council	18,753	—	10,000	103,940	719,942
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority	18,753	111,310	10,000	103,940	719,942
Norfolk County Council	18,753	191,550	10,000	122,100	539,957
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority	18,753	—	10,000	103,940	719,942
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority	18,753	307,227	10,000	122,100	719,942
West Sussex County Council	—	—	5,000	—	359,971
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority	18,753	215,000	10,000	122,100	675,526
Total	356,307	4,016,283	195,000	1,895,700	13,604,497
Overall total	—	—	—	—	32,863,137

Notes:
1. Crewing Grants were provided to cover the employment costs of crewing the USAR teams.
2. PPE Grants were for the provision and maintenance of personal protective equipment for USAR technicians.
3. Accommodation Grants were given to cover the costs associated with housing USAR equipment at fire stations.
4. The Timber Grant covered the cost of replenishing wood required for shoring.
5. The Local Training Facilities Grant was for the purchase of a training rig to allow USAR teams to undertake maintenance of skills training at their own fire stations.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding is available for the provision of urban search and rescue teams; and if she will make a statement. [143159]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government (CLG) has already provided fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) with over £32 million in funding under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to support urban search and rescue (USAR) teams. For a summary of this funding, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today. CLG has also paid over £8.7 million directly to the Fire Service College for the provision of USAR training facilities and over £6.8 million for USAR technicians on training courses.

We would expect to announce funding to support USAR teams in financial year 2007-08 around half way through the year, after discussion with the Chief Fire Officers Association (CFOA) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

Second Homes

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the use of receipts from the local taxation of second homes. [143271]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 15 June 2007]*: Communities and Local Government does not hold a record of representations received about the use of receipts from the local taxation of second homes. Since 1 April 2004, billing authorities have had the freedom to reduce the council tax discount on second homes from 50 per cent. to 10 per cent. In 2005-06 authorities raised an additional £92 million from the reduced second homes discount. The use of that revenue is a matter for individual authorities to decide in light of local priorities.

Tenants: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers are available to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the police and *(c)* other agencies to evict tenants causing antisocial behaviour when the landlord refuses to co-operate. [143329]

Yvette Cooper: Where the property is let by a private sector landlord there are provisions in the Housing Act 2004 that enable local authorities to make a special interim management order.

Powers are available to the police, through an order of the court, to enable the temporary closure of properties taken over by drug dealers and users of class A drugs, which cause disorder or serious nuisance to the local community. These orders are called crack house closure orders.

In addition, both antisocial behaviour orders (available to range of agencies including the police and local authorities) and antisocial behaviour injunctions (available to social landlords) can carry powers to exclude persons from their place of residence for a specified period under certain circumstances.

Travelling People: Planning Permission

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to require all local planning authorities to report biannually to her Department on *(a)* the details of all applications for planning permission for Gypsy and Traveller sites, *(b)* the outcome of those applications, *(c)* details of planning appeals and enforcement appeals and *(d)* the outcomes of appeals. [142405]

Meg Munn: From October 2007 local planning authorities will be required to provide information on the number of planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites and their outcome as part of their PS1 and PS2 (planning statistics) returns. This information is published on a quarterly basis. Details of planning and enforcement appeals and their outcomes are maintained by the Planning Inspectorate.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* publish the details of progress by local planning authorities in fulfilling, through pitch allocation and site provision, the needs identified by Gypsy and Traveller accommodation assessments. [142406]

Meg Munn: Local authorities must allocate sufficient sites for Gypsies and Travellers in site allocation development plan documents. Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires every local authority to make an annual report to the Secretary of State containing information on the implementation of the local development scheme, which includes development plan documents, and the extent to which policies set out in local development documents are being achieved.

Travelling People: Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to local planning authorities on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites ahead of the adoption of regional spatial strategies. [142348]

Meg Munn: Advice to local planning authorities on the provision of Gypsy and Traveller sites is provided in ODPM Circular 01/2006 "Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Sites". The circular advises that where there is a clear and immediate need, local authorities should bring forward development plan documents containing site allocations in advance of any regional consideration of pitch numbers, in a regional spatial strategy.

Waste Disposal: Planning Permission

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civic amenity sites have had to amend planning permission as a result of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and what the estimated cost was of such amendments. [142771]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally.

Waste Management

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what research her Department and its agencies has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated into the operation of joint waste authorities; [141715]

(2) what research the Audit Commission has conducted into the merits of *(a)* joint waste authorities and *(b)* alternate weekly collections of household rubbish; [141716]

(3) what research *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has conducted into joint waste authorities. [142254]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

No research has been commissioned or evaluated by my Department, or its agencies, specifically relating to joint waste authorities (JWA). I am not aware of any similar research undertaken by the Audit Commission on JWAs or on alternate weekly collection.

However, AEA Technology has carried out work on DEFRA's behalf to examine potential economies of scale in waste management and barriers to achieving them. This highlighted the importance of authorities sharing waste disposal facilities if we are to meet our environmental objectives. The final report, "Economies of scale: waste management optimisation study", is available from DEFRA's website. This gives examples of a number of joint working models that could be used by local authorities, including JWAs.

In addition, a report on 'Joint working on wastes management', published by the Innovation Forum, highlights the benefits of joint working in two tier areas, citing possible efficiency savings of around £150 million nationally. The report identified the limited legal basis for joint working as one of the key barriers to joint working on waste. In response to this report, the Government have introduced clauses in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill to allow the establishment of JWAs to enable local authorities to put their waste partnerships on a statutory basis if they wish to do so.

The Audit Commission has published a number of guidance documents containing advice to local councils on how they can meet their statutory requirements with regards to waste by improving their waste management and adopting best practice. The Audit Commission also examines the performance of councils and the services they provide, including waste, through the Comprehensive Performance Assessment, and provides recommendations for improvement.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what incentives will be provided to local authorities to join joint waste authorities. [141728]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are not proposing to provide specific incentives to local authorities to create joint waste authorities (JWAs).

The new powers and freedoms, announced earlier this year as part of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, were requested by local authorities and will allow authorities that wish to put joint working on a statutory footing to create stronger partnerships in delivering their waste services.

Joint working between local authorities is becoming increasingly important as a means of delivering quality services to residents and meeting the UK's environmental objectives. Joint working is particularly important in two-tier areas, where responsibilities for waste collection and waste disposal are split between different authorities. Partnership working and integrating collection and disposal services also have the potential to generate efficiency savings.

We will consider whether there is a case for making some funding available to help local authorities to set up the first JWA.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits: Eligibility

Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission a study to find out how many people are eligible for bereavement benefits. [143763]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department for Work and Pensions is keen to ensure that people claim their full entitlement to state benefits. The Bereavement Benefit Scheme is well known and has been in operation for some time with a high public profile. We are, therefore, confident that the Department's publicity of the scheme is sufficient to alert individuals who have been bereaved.

For this reason we do not believe that the proposed study is necessary.

National Insurance Contributions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of people in contracted-out defined benefit schemes in each year from 2001-02 to 2015-16; and if he will make a statement. [141206]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Membership of contracted-out defined benefit schemes

Tax year	*Estimates of number of people contracted out (million)*
2001-02	7.7
2002-03	7.6
2003-04	7.6
2004-05	7.6
2005-06	7.6
2006-07	7.6
2007-08	7.5
2008-09	7.5
2009-10	7.4
2010-11	7.3
2011-12	7.2
2012-13	7.1
2013-14	7.0
2014-15	6.9
2015-16	6.8

Notes:
(i) Source: Actual figures from Second Tier Pension Provision Statistics for 2001-02 2003-04 and then estimates.
(ii) Figures are for UK.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the cost of contracted-out rebates for *(a)* defined benefit and *(b)* defined contribution pension schemes in each year from 1997 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [141207]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table:

Estimated cost of contracted out rebates

Tax year	*Defined Benefit*	*£ billion Defined Contribution*
1997-98	4.9	2.8
1998-99	5.1	2.8
1999-2000	5.2	3.1
2000-01	5.5	3.3
2001-02	5.7	3.4
2002-03	6.5	4.1
2003-04	6.7	3.7
2004-05	6.7	3.2
2005-06	7.0	2.9
2006-07	7.3	2.7
2007-08	7.8	1.9

Notes:
1. Rebate expenditure is estimated in all years.
2. Figures are for UK and expressed in cash terms.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the average pension value for individuals in defined benefit schemes of the contracted out rebates for each year from 2007-08 to 2050-51. [141569]

James Purnell: Due to the way the funding of contracted-out defined benefit schemes works, the value of the rebate does not necessarily equate to a pension value. The information requested is not, therefore, available.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what advice he has received about the prospects for removing legal obstacles to the use of automatic enrolment in group personal pensions and group stakeholder pensions. [141550]

James Purnell: European law prohibits inertia selling of financial products, including personal pensions. This means that it is not possible to automatically enrol individuals into workplace personal pension arrangements, such as group personal pensions and group stakeholder pensions.

The DWP is consulting on how best to ensure that such arrangements can continue in the run-up to 2012 and beyond, when our reforms to the UK private pensions system come into effect. DWP officials continue to work closely with industry representatives to understand the issues involved and to devise pragmatic solutions.

Inertia selling is the provision of unsolicited services with a demand for payment.

Pensioner Poverty

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate *(a)* how many pensioners were living in deep poverty, defined as a household income below 40 per cent. of median household earnings and *(b)* how many such pensioners were not claiming the full pension credit or minimum income guarantee they were entitled to in each year since 1997-98. [113565]

James Purnell *[pursuant to the reply, 29 March 2007, Official Report, c. 1721-24W]:* The most common and internationally recognised threshold to measure poverty is income below 60 per cent. of median. We do not present information covering 40 per cent. of median income in our Households Below Average Income series as it is not a good measure of poverty. This is because households stating the lowest incomes to the Family Resources Survey (FRS) may not actually have the lowest living standards. Many people who report very low incomes appear to have high spending. Hence any statistics on numbers in this group may be misleading.

Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06" (HBAI). This annual report, which is a National Statistics publication, includes the numbers and proportions of individuals, children, working age adults and pensioners with incomes below 50 per cent., 60 per cent. and 70 per cent. of median income, and the proportions in persistent poverty.

Pension credit has been highly successful in reducing pensioner poverty; since its introduction, the number of pensioners in relative poverty has fallen by over 700,000. Now, for the first time in a period of sustained economic growth, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole, after housing costs are accounted for.

We continue to make every effort to ensure that pension credit goes to those who are entitled to it. It is more challenging to reach those entitled to smaller amounts, or to the savings credit only, who may be less familiar with the entitlements available to them. The Pension Service has contacted pensioners to encourage them to take up entitlement to pension credit many times already as part of extensive marketing activity. Over 70 per cent. of those pensioners who appear to have entitlement to pension credit have been contacted over five times already. And around 25 per cent. of customers visited about pension credit say that they do not want to make a claim.

However, we are committed to improving take-up and are continually looking at further ways to target these groups and encouraging them to apply.

The information requested for pensioners in Great Britain is shown in the following tables. Estimates of entitled non-recipients of MIG or pension credit should be treated with caution. This is especially the case given that we are looking at the extreme of the income distribution and so are less sure of pensioners' modelled entitlement. Results are based on small sample sizes and have not been corrected for biases that may be inherent in estimates of entitlement to income related benefits—that is, they may be based on the data for those who appear to be entitled non-recipients but will not all actually be entitled non recipients and vice versa. Figures are therefore presented as proportions of the total pensioner population below the 40 per cent. of median household income.

Table 1 : Number of pensioners living in households with less than 40 per cent. of contemporary median household income, and as a proportion of all pensioners, for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06, Great Britain

	After housing costs (million)	As a proportion of all pensioners (percentage)
1997-98	0.47	5
1998-99	0.49	5
1999-2000	0.49	5
2000-01	0.46	5
2001-02	0.51	5
2002-03	0.47	5
2003-04	0.51	5
2004-05	0.45	4
2005-06	0.46	4

Notes:
1. Figures are presented after housing costs as this is our preferred measure for pensioners.
2. The table shows number of individuals in millions, rounded to the nearest 10 thousand.
3. These figures are not National Statistics and caution must be applied because those people stating the lowest incomes in the FRS may not actually have the lowest living standards.
4. Estimates cover the private household population of Great Britain. The data source is the Family Resources Survey.
5. These figures are calculated using OECD equivalisation factors. Prior to 2002-03 they are based on a GB median and from 2002-03 it is based on a UK median. This is consistent with low income estimates published in the latest edition of Households Below Average Income. The GB median is similar to the UK median.

Table 2: Proportion of pensioners living in households with income below 40 per cent. of contemporary median household income who were also living in a benefit unit that is entitled but not receiving IS/MIG/PC, Great Britain

Percentage

	After housing costs	As a proportion of all pensioners
1997-98	36	2
1998-99	35	2
1999-2000	42	2
2000-01	45	2
2001-02	57	3
2002-03	55	3
2003-04	50	2
2004-05	64	3
2005-06	60	3

Notes:
1. Figures are presented after housing costs as this is our preferred measure for pensioners.
2. Estimates of the pensioner population cover those above state pension age (60 for women and 65 for men). The estimates therefore exclude some men aged 60 to 64 and partners of pensioners aged under 60, who may have been eligible but not claiming pension credit.
3. Estimates also exclude those cases where respondents have reported they are awaiting the outcome of a claim for a benefit and have been modelled as entitled to that benefit.
4. Estimates cover the private household population of Great Britain. The data source is the Family Resources Survey.
5. These figures are calculated using OECD equivalisation factors. Prior to 2002-03 they are based on a GB median and from 2002-03 it is based on a UK median. This is consistent with low income estimates published in the latest edition of Households Below Average Income. The GB median is similar to the UK median.
6. Minimum income guarantee (MIG) was introduced for pensioners in April 1999 paid through income support.
7. Pension credit (PC) was introduced mid-way through 2003-04; therefore, estimates for 2003-04 cover those pensioners who were entitled but not receiving either MIG or PC. As this relates to the first six months of pension credit the figures should be treated with some caution.
8. For the purposes of this analysis, benefit unit based data (take-up statistics) were combined with household equivalised income based results (Households Below Average Income statistics).
9. Estimates for 2000-01 and 2003-04 onwards incorporate the results of a data matching exercise, which links the Family Resources Survey with DWP administrative data in order to identify 'hidden recipients' of MIG-PC, i.e. those people who tell the FRS they do not receive pension credit, but actually do.
10. Estimates are presented as proportions of the total pensioner population below the 40 per cent. of median household income, as the analysis is based on single-year survey data and the absolute numbers of such pensioners who were not claiming the pension credit or minimum income guarantee they were entitled to might be biased due to small sample sizes.
11. These analyses have not been corrected for the biases that may be inherent in estimates of entitlement to income-related benefits—that is, they may be based on the data for those who appear to be entitled non recipients (ENRs) but will not all actually be ENRs and vice versa—and so they should be treated with some caution.
12. The estimates relate only to those who were modelled as entitled to receive benefit but were not identified to be in receipt of any amount of benefit. It therefore does not include cases where a pensioner is in receipt of some benefit, but this is less than the amount they are truly entitled to. Including these cases may not give a reliable indication of full take-up due to the potential error that exists in modelling entitlement.

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many defined benefit schemes reduced the cap on indexation of pensions in payment from 5 per cent. to 2.5 per cent. for accruals from April 2005; and how many active members there are in aggregate in these schemes. [141526]

James Purnell: The information is not currently available. Information on the indexation of pensions in payment after April 2005 was requested in the Office for National Statistics' 2006 Survey of Occupational Pension Schemes, work on which is continuing.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will break down the figures in table 7.12 of the Family Resources survey to show the proportion of working age private sector employees with pension provision in 2005-06; and what the comparable figures were for each year since 1996-97. [141537]

James Purnell: This information is not available.

The Family Resources Survey does not collect information about employment sector. Employees are asked to identify the main activity at the place where they work but these broad industry classifications are not robust enough to provide an accurate breakdown of public and private sector employment.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of *(a)* schemes and *(b)* members included in the sample of defined benefit schemes analysed in the Purple Book were in the public sector; [141541]

(2) if he will publish the figures which form the basis of chart 3.11 of the Purple Book indicating how many defined benefit schemes in the sample closed in each year since 1995. [141570]

James Purnell: This is not a matter for the Secretary of State.

The Purple Book was a joint study by the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund (PPF). The statistics were generated through analysis of information collected by the Pensions Regulator from pension scheme returns. Some of this information was further processed by the PPF in collaboration with the Government Actuaries' Department so that valuation information was as at a common date.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the figures illustrated by the graph in figure 8 of Security in retirement: towards a new pension system. [141548]

James Purnell: The following table gives the updated numbers from Figure 8 of Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system. Since the White Paper these numbers have been updated to 2007-08 earnings terms and include state second pension simplification policy.

Income for a median earner retiring in 2050-53 (current system/reform)

(£)

	Basic state pension	*State second pension*	*Pension credit*	*Private pension*	*Total*
Reform with saving	81	71	0	86	237
without saving	81	71	0	0	151
Current with saving	36	73	38	37	184
without saving	36	73	53	0	162

Notes
In 2007-08 earnings terms, income shown before tax. Assumes a median earner works from age 25 to SPA, retiring in 2050 at age 65 under the current system and at age 68 in 2053 under reform. Under the current system it is assumed that saving is five per cent of salary between the Primary Threshold and the UEL into a stakeholder pension, with a 1.5 per cent. annual management charge. This is equivalent to employee-only contribution rate into the new personal accounts. After reform it is assumed that saving is 8 per cent. of salary between the primary threshold and the UEL into a personal account (which includes 3 per cent contribution, and has 0.5 per cent. annual management charge). Amounts may not sum due to rounding.
Source:
DWP modelling

Pensions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what plans he has to review the level of contracted out rebates for pension schemes from 1 April 2008; and if he will make a statement; [141089]

(2) what plans he has to revise the level of contracted-out national insurance rebates for *(a)* April 2008 and *(b)* April 2012; and if he will make a statement; [141172]

(3) what plans he has to review the levels of the contracted-out rebates for pensions; what plans the Government has to make further changes from April 2008; and if he will make a statement. [141181]

James Purnell: There is a legal requirement to review the level of contracted-out rebate rates at least every five years—the next review is due to set rates from 2012 to 2017. However, the Secretary of State can, if he considers it necessary or appropriate, review rebate rates more frequently.

The Government have considered the timing of the next review, taking account of both the current fiscal circumstances and of the pension reforms being introduced in the Pensions Bill. As a result, we do not believe it is necessary to review the rebate rates in the short term. However we will continue to monitor the impact on contracting out of the various pensions reforms, in particular the decision to abolish contracting out for defined contribution schemes. These factors will be taken into account when considering the timing of future reviews.

Personal Savings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assumption has been made on the annual uprating of the contribution limit for personal accounts in the stochastic modelling described on pages 113 and 114 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment to Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save. [141528]

James Purnell: To estimate the impact of the personal accounts contribution limit on individuals' pension income it was assumed that the limit would be uprated in line with average earnings.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to what year the figures in table 5.2 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment to Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save pertain. [141533]

James Purnell: The figures in table 5.2 refer to the financial year 2003-04. It was erroneously labelled as being data from 2005-06. The correct title of the table should be "Personal and stakeholder pensions: average contribution by status and earned income in 2003-04. The full table and notes can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/7-10-200405.xls

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the average contributions to personal and stakeholder pensions detailed in table 5.2 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment to Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save include contracted-out rebates. [141534]

James Purnell: Table 5.2 is replicated from HMRC Pensions Table 7.10 which can be found at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/pensions/7-10-200405.xls .

Footnote 5 states that these contributions include minimum contributions, which is another name for contracted-out rebates.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 2004W, on pensions, how much state pension and savings credit would be received by a median earner working continuously from the age of 25, reaching the age of 68 in 2053, and saving in line with the assumptions in figure 8 of security in retirement: towards a new pension system *(a)* with pension reform and *(b)* without pension reform but with collection of state pension deferred until the individual turns 68. [141436]

James Purnell: Under reform a median earner who works from age 25 reaching state pension age at 68 in 2053 and saves in line with the assumptions set out in "Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system" could expect to receive around £152 a week in state pension. They would not receive any savings credit but could expect to receive around £86 a week in private pension income. In total they would receive around £237 a week under reform.

Without reform a median earner who worked and saved in the same way reaching state pension age at 65 in 2050 and then deferred their state pension for a further three years until they reached 68 could expect to receive around £143 a week in state pension. They could also expect to receive around £17 a week in savings credit and around £37 a week in private pension income. In total they would receive around £197 a week under the current system.

Notes:

1. In 2007-08 earnings terms, income shown before tax.

Assumes a median earner works from age 25 to SPA, retiring in 2050 at age 65 and deferring until the age of 68 under the current system and retiring in 2053 at age 68 under reform.

2. Under the current system it is assumed that saving is 5 per cent. of salary between the primary threshold and the upper earnings limit (UEL) into a stakeholder pension, with a 1.5 per cent. annual management charge. This is equivalent to employee-only contribution rate into the new personal accounts.

3. After reform it is assumed that saving is 8 per cent. of salary between the primary threshold and the UEL into a personal account (which includes 3 per cent. contribution, and has 0.5 per cent. annual management charge). Amounts may not sum due to rounding.

Source:

DWP modelling.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many grievance procedures have been initiated in his Department in the last 12 months. [135152]

The Deputy Prime Minister: None.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 354W, on Departments: internet, what the cost was of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* maintaining the websites for which he is responsible. [138469]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and for Social Exclusion and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong) on 23 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 1624W.

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) how much has been spent by his Department on legal fees since its establishment; [139405]

(2) how much has been spent by his Department on public relations since its establishment; [139412]

(3) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations have supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for his Department since it was established; and what the cost of these services was; [139432]

(4) how much has been spent on advertising by his Department since its establishment. [139535]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139904]

Mr. Francois: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department has paid to recruitment consultants since its establishment. [140029]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Expenditure will be accounted for in the departmental resource accounts in the usual way.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party

political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on 16 May; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140114]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister (1) what properties his Department has *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented since its establishment; [139359]

(2) what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio; [139381]

(3) what the cost of leasing buildings and office space has been for his Department since it was established. [139455]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since its creation on 5 May 2006, my Office has been based in 26 Whitehall. This is a Cabinet Office building and I refer the hon. Member to the statement given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and for Social Exclusion and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Hilary Armstrong) on 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 12WS.

Departments: Training

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how much his Department has spent on *(a)* anti-bullying training and *(b)* diversity awareness training since its creation. [137661]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Staff in my Department are seconded from Communities and Local Government and take part in that Department's diversity and respect training in the same way as other members of staff.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 568W, on abortion, on what date the Annual Abortion Statistics 2006 will be published; if she will place copies in the Vote Office; and if she will make a statement. [142835]

Caroline Flint: "The Abortion Statistics, England and Wales: 2006" will be published on 19 June 2007. Copies will be placed in the Vote Office and the Library.

Acute Beds

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of acute beds required in *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years and *(c)* five years time; and if she will make a statement. [143278]

Andy Burnham: Decisions on the number of acute beds required are made locally.

Aerials: Health Hazards

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies her Department has carried out into the health effects of mobile telephone masts since March 2006; and if she will make a statement. [142806]

Caroline Flint: The Stewart Report in 2000 comprehensively reviewed the scientific literature and concluded that

'the balance of evidence to date suggests that exposures below international guidelines do not cause health effects to the general population'.

However, the report also recommended further research as part of an overall precautionary approach to the use of mobile phone technology pending the availability of more robust scientific research results. Further information is available at

www.iegmp.org.uk.

The independently managed Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme, jointly funded by Government and industry, was set up in 2001 in response to the Stewart Report recommendations. It is currently supporting a number of studies into the possible health effects of technology relating to mobile telephones and masts. A description of all the individual studies can be found on the MTHR website at www.mthr.org.uk. Individual studies under the MTHR programme relating directly to base stations include:

1. A measurement study on microcell and picocell base stations carried out at the Health Protection Agency, and published in the *Journal of Radiological Protection* (Cooper etal. J. Radiol. Prot. 2006 Vol. 26, 199-211).

2. A study of cancer incidence in early childhood near mobile phone base stations being carried out at Imperial College London. This study started in April 2003 and is ongoing.

3. A study of symptoms associated with radio frequency electromagnetic field exposure carried out at the University of Essex. This study was completed at the end of 2006 and publication is expected in the near future.

4. A study of electrical hypersensitivity in relation to exposures typical of those from terrestrial enhanced trunked radio base stations started in January 2007 at the University of Essex. As this study has recently started, it will be some considerable time before results are published.

Ambulance Services: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial rewards for performance ambulance services were eligible for in the financial years *(a)* 1991-92 to 1997-98 and *(b)* 1998-99 to 2006-07; and what financial rewards for performance ambulance services will be eligible for in the financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11. [139002]

Andy Burnham: Information is not available in a single central place in the format required, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Such information as is available is as follows:

From 2001-02 to 2003-04, national health service trusts that received three stars in the NHS performance ratings received a capital allocation of up to £1 million to support service development. Ambulance trusts received a rating for their performance across a range of areas, including ambulance response times.

The Department launched two capital incentive schemes to reward NHS ambulance trusts for marked performance improvement against the Category A 8-minute standard, one for 2004, the other for 2006-07.

No future financial rewards for ambulance trust performance have been considered by the Department for 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to make sutent available in England for the treatment of cancer. [141215]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Sunitinib (sutent) is licensed for use in the treatment of renal cell carcinoma and gastrointestinal stromal tumours.

The Department is currently considering referring Sunitinib for renal cell carcinoma to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for appraisal.

In the meantime, it is for local primary care trusts to decide whether to make Sunitinib available to patients. In doing so, they need to take into account the available evidence. It is not acceptable for national health service organisations to refuse to fund a treatment simply because it has not been appraised by NICE.

Community Care: Expenditure

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the annual expenditure on home care services was per care recipient of each local authority in England with social services responsibilities in 2006-07; [141433]

(2) what average annual charge was paid to each local authority in England with social services responsibilities by home care services users that contribute towards the cost of their care in 2006-07. [141434]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information for the financial year 2006-07 is being collected and is due to be published in February 2008.

Table one shows the annual expenditure on home care services for each local authority for 2005-06.

Table two shows the actual income recouped via sales, fees and charges to clients receiving home care services funded fully or in part by councils with social services responsibilities for each local authority for 2005-06. Both tables have been placed in the Library.

Information is collected only on the total number of people receiving services. Data on the number of those who are contributing to the funding of their care are not collected separately and so the average annual charge requested cannot be calculated.

Community Development: Essex

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what factors the North Essex Primary Care Trust took into account in deciding to fund a community development worker to liaise with Colchester and Tendring Black and Minority Ethnic Partnership; and how much she expects to be spent on the worker; [141392]

(2) what guidelines her Department has issued on the appointment of community development workers by primary care trusts (PCTs); what account a PCT is expected to take of the financial position of its other mental health provision in making a decision on whether to appoint a person to such a post; and what discussions her Department has had with North East Essex Primary Care Trust on its recent decision to appoint such a worker. [141596]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is a local matter. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure that the services they commission meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

The PCTs decision to appoint a community development worker (CDW) is in accordance with the 2007-08 operating framework for the national health service that states that PCTs are expected to recruit 500 CDWs nationally by December 2007. The appointment of CDWs is a leading priority for mental health services and the Department has supported recruitment with £16 million per annum in PCTs' baseline financial allocations.

There have been no discussions with North East Essex PCT on the subject.

Community Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the communities hospitals fund budget has been allocated to projects in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [143698]

Andy Burnham: 25 schemes were submitted in wave two. We approved and announced details of 10 schemes, including two that were carried forward from wave one, on the 11 April 2007.

This funding was allocated in 2007. To date, £49.976 million of the communities fund budget has been allocated to community hospitals projects in 2007-08.

The schemes announced on the 11 April are listed in the following table.

Strategic Health Authority	*Primary care trust*	*Amount awarded (£ million)*
South Central	Southampton City PCT (Royal South Hampshire hospital)	6.079
East of England	Suffolk PCT (Felixstowe Community hospitals)	1.76
London	Barking and Dagenham PCT (Barking Hospital)	5
London	Richmond and Twickenham PCT (New health and social care centre—Teddington Memorial hospital)	3.98
London	Haringey PCT (Hornsey Central hospital)	1.658

Strategic Health Authority	Primary care trust	Amount awarded (£ million)
Yorkshire and Humber	Calderdale Kirklees PCT (Redevelopment of Sites, Huddersfield)	13.79
Yorkshire and Humber	Rotherham PCT (Primary care centre, Rotherham)	0.96
East Midlands	Nottinghamshire County PCT (Redevelopment of Ashfield hospital)	1.149
South West	Bristol PCT (South Bristol community hospital)	3.9
South East Coast	Hastings and Rother PCT (Station Plaza Primary Health Centre)	11.7
	Total	49.976

Dental Services

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children are registered for NHS dentistry in (i) Milton Keynes, (ii) the south east and *(c)* England. [142488]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment.

The closest equivalent measure to registration is the numbers of patients receiving NHS primary dental services (patients seen) in a given area over a 24-month period, expressed as a percentage of the estimated population for that area. Numbers and proportions of adult and child patients seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 in England, NHS south central and Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust, are available in Section F2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006 report. Copies are available in the Library and at

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006.

Data for the 24-month period ending March 2007 will be published on 19 June 2007.

Dental Services: Barnsley

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis the allocation of funding for orthodontic services for Barnsley for 2006-07 was calculated. [138734]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The primary dental service resource allocations awarded to primary care trusts for 2006-07 took into account expenditure on general dental services and personal dental services pilots in each area during the reference period October 2004 to September 2005. This captured payments for both general dental services and specialist services such as orthodontic services. The allocations also included adjustments to reflect nationally agreed increases in dentists' remuneration, provision for growth plans previously submitted to and approved by the Department, and some margin to accommodate any new services that may have started during or after the reference period but could not be fully reflected in the calculation of reference period earnings.

Dental Services: North Eastern Region

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total value of orthodontic treatment was carried out during the reference period of *(a)* October 2004 and *(b)* October 2005 in (i) Barnsley, (ii) Doncaster, (iii) Rotherham and (iv) St. Helens. [138736]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The reference period used in calculating funding levels for the new primary dental service arrangements was 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005. The following table sets out the total payments during that period for courses of treatment which included orthodontic care. The Department does not have data on the value of treatments carried out during the reference period but submitted for payment later.

Primary care trust name	Orthodontic earnings 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005 (£)
Doncaster, Central	895,608.83
Doncaster, East	109,620.51
Doncaster, West	137,177.76
Rotherham	80,205.19
St. Helens	59,398.90
Barnsley	207,375.93

Notes:
1. The data relate to claims from dentists working under the terms of the former general dental services (GDS) only. They exclude orthodontic work carried out within former personal dental service (PDS) pilots, where the value of orthodontic as opposed to general dental treatments can be less easily identified. The Department is aware of at least two specialist orthodontic practices, in Doncaster Central and Rotherham, which converted to personal dental service pilots either before or during the reference period, which would mean the GDS data above are not fully representative of all elements of orthodontic care.
2. The data are presented by the primary care trust (PCT) areas that were operational during the reference period, rather than the new PCTs that assumed responsibility for services from 1 October 2006.

Source:
Dental Practice Division of the NHS Business Services Authority

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what methodology is used by her Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140789]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department collects energy consumption data from its buildings. We also collect data on official air travel, taxi use and the use of personal vehicles for business purposes. These data will be used to calculate our total carbon emissions, using Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs guidance.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people with epilepsy are employed by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [139911]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department holds records of those staff who have declared a disability. However, this is not broken down by reason, therefore epilepsy cannot be separately identified. When staff are absent from work due to an epileptic episode, this is recorded on the Department's sickness absence database as a neurological condition and not specific to epilepsy.

Departments: Newspaper Press

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which regional newspapers are regularly monitored by her Department. [141290]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department commissions regional press cuttings using a press cuttings agency and Government News Network. The following regional newspapers are read by the agency and News Network on the Department's behalf:

Accrington Observer
Alcester Chronicle
Arden Observer
Barking and Dagenham Post
Barking Express and Post
Barnet Free Press
Barnet Times
Barnoldswick and Earby Times
Barnsley Star
Basildon Evening Echo
Bath Chronicle
Berrows Worcester Journal
Berwick Advertiser
Bexley Shopper
Bexley Times
Birmingham Evening Mail
Birmingham News
Birmingham Post
Blackpool Evening Gazette
Bolton Evening News
Bootle Times
Borehamwood Times
Bradford Telegraph and Argus
Brighton Argus
Bristol Evening Post
Bromley and Beckenham Times
Bromley Shopper
Bromsgrove Advertiser
Bromsgrove Standard
Burnley Express
Burntwood Mercury
Burntwood Post
Burton and South Derbyshire Advertiser
Burton Mail
Burton Trader
Bury Times and Journal
Cambridge Evening News
Camden Gazette
Camden New Journal
Cannock and Rugeley Chronicle
Cannock Chase Mercury
Cannock Chase Post
Carlisle News and Star
Chester Chronicle
Chester Evening Leader
Chorley Citizen
Clitheroe Advertiser
Colchester Evening Gazette
Congleton Guardian
Cotswold Journal
Coventry Evening Telegraph
Coventry Observer
Coventry Times
Craven Herald
Crewe Guardian
Crosby Herald
Croydon Advertiser
Croydon Guardian
Cumberland News
Daily Echo (Bournemouth)
Derby Evening Telegraph
Doncaster Star
Dorset Echo
Dudley Chronicle
Dudley News
Ealing and Acton Gazette
Eating and Acton Times
East Anglian Daily Times
East London Advertiser
Eastern Daily Press (East)
Eastern Daily Press (West)
Ellesmere Port Pioneer
Enfield Independent
Evening Argus (Brighton)
Evening Chronicle
Evening Herald (Plymouth)
Evening Post (Bristol)
Evening Press (York)
Evesham Journal
Exeter Express and Echo
Express and Echo (Exeter)
Express and Star (Dudley)
Formby Times
Garstang Courier
Gloucester Citizen
Gloucestershire Echo
Great Barr and Erdington Chronicle
Great Barr Observer
Grimsby Telegraph
Hackney Gazette
Halesowen News
Halifax Evening Courier
Hampstead and Highgate Express
Harrow Observer
Harrow Times
Hartlepool Mail
Hendon and Finchley Times
Hereford Journal
Hereford Times
Hexham Courant
Heywood Advertiser

Hillingdon Times
Hornsey Journal
Hounslow Guardian
Huddersfield Daily Examiner
Hull Daily Mail
Ilford Post
Ilford Recorder
Ipswich Evening Star
Islington Gazette
Islington Tribune
Kenilworth Weekly News
Kent Messenger
Kettering Evening Telegraph
Kidderminster Chronicle
Kilburn Times
Kingston Guardian
Knutsford Guardian
Lancashire Evening Post
Lancashire Evening Telegraph
Lancaster Citizen
Lancaster Guardian
Leamington Spa Courier
Leamington Spa Observer
Leek Post and Times
Leicester Mercury
Leigh Journal
Leigh Reporter
Leominster Journal
Lewisham and Greenwich Shopper
Lewisham Mercury
Lichfield Post
Lincolnshire Echo
Liverpool Daily Post
Liverpool Echo
Liverpool Echo
Lytham Express
Macclesfield Express
Malvern Gazette
Manchester Evening Gazette
Manchester Evening News
Marylebone Express
Mid-Cheshire Chronicles
Middlesbrough Evening Gazette
Middleton Guardian
Morecambe Visitor
Morpeth Herald
Muswell Hill Journal
Nantwich Guardian
Nelson Citizen
Nelson Leader
Newcastle Evening Chronicle
Newham Recorder
Newport Advertiser
Newton Guardian
North East Manchester Advertiser
Northampton Chronicle
Northants Chronicle and Echo
Northants Evening Telegraph
Northern Echo
Northumberland Gazette
Northwest Evening Mail (Barrow)
Norwich Evening News
Nottingham Evening Post
Nuneaton Tribune
Oldham Advertiser
Oldham Evening Chronicle
Oxford Mail
Peterborough Evening Telegraph
Plymouth Herald
Portsmouth News
Preston Citizen
Reading Evening Post
Redditch Advertiser
Redditch Standard
Richmond and Twickenham Times
Rochdale Observer
Romford Recorder
Rossendale Free Press
Rotherham Star
Rugby Advertiser
Rugby Observer
Runcorn and Widnes World
Salford Advertiser
Sandwell Chronicle
Scarborough Evening News
Scunthorpe Telegraph
Sheffield Star
Shrewsbury Chronicle
Shropshire Star
Solihull News
Solihull Times
South Cheshire Chronicle
South London Guardian
South London Press
South Manchester Reporter
South Shields Gazette
South Shropshire Journal
Southend Evening Echo
Southern Daily Echo
St. Helens Reporter
St. Helens Star
Stafford and Stone Chronicle
Stafford Post
Stockport Express
Stoke Sentinel
Stourbridge Chronicle
Stourbridge News
Stratford and Newham Express
Stratford Herald
Stratford Observer
Streatham Guardian
Stretford and Urmston messenger
Sunday Sentinel Skelmersdale Advertiser
Sunderland Echo
Sutton Coldfield News
Sutton Coldfield Observer
Sutton Guardian
Swindon Evening Advertiser

Tamworth Herald
Tamworth Leader
Tamworth Times
Telford Journal
Tenbury Wells Advertiser
The Chiswick
The Citizen (Gloucester)
The Journal (Newcastle)
The News (Portsmouth)
The Shuttle
The Wharf
Tottenham Journal
Tower Hamlets Recorder
Uttoxeter Advertiser
Walsall Advertiser
Walsall Observer
Waltham Forrest Guardian
Wandsworth Guardian
Wanstead and Woodford
Warrington Guardian
Warrington Worldwide
Warwick Courier
Wembley and Kingsbury Times
West End Extra
Western Daily Press
Western Morning News (Devon)
Whitchurch Herald
Whitehaven News
Willesden and Brent Times
Wilmslow Express
Wimbledon Guardian
Winsford and Middlewich Guardian
Wirral Globe Wigan Evening Post
Wolverhampton Chronicle
Worcester Evening News
Workington Times and Star
York Press
Yorkshire Evening Post
Yorkshire Post (North Yorkshire)
Yorkshire Post (South Yorkshire)

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in her Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141959]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No Ministers in the Department are allocated a ministerial residence.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) her Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was; [139436]

(2) how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139518]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Consultancy services for advertising campaigns should be understood as the provision of strategic advice on campaigns, not their delivery. Most Government advertising is bought through the Central Office of Information (COI) and under the terms of COI framework agreements advertising agencies are contracted to supply advertising services only, i.e., creative products based on a communications strategy. Advertising agencies (on COI's roster) do not supply broader consultancy services. On occasion wider ranging consultancy projects may inform campaign work but the costs would not be attributed to the campaign.

Where consultancy is provided by other organisations it usually results in a range of communication activities which may or may not include advertising; so it is not possible to distinguish the cost of providing consultancy for advertising from that for other forms of communication.

With reference to the second question (139518), the following table shows the advertising spend on information campaigns commissioned by the Department's Communications Directorate in the last five years.

Financial year	*Advertising expenditure (£ million)*
2002-03	23.13
2003-04	38.98
2004-05	37.80
2005-06	32.19
2006-07	26.46

We have no central record of advertising spend by Departmental agencies and could not obtain these without incurring disproportionate costs.

The budget for recruitment advertising below senior civil service level has been delegated to directorates over the period in question. The costs of advertising, as opposed to the other elements of recruiting, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

For appointments to the senior civil service (SCS), recruitment advertising costs cannot be provided within cost threshold for 2004-05. In 2005-06, the total amount spent on recruitment for SCS posts was £859,000 and in 2006-07 to date £571,000. However, this is not just monies spent on advertising but on assessment centres, head-hunting and advertising.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library copies of her departmental employee surveys for *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [141982]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The results of the Department's 2005 staff survey can be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/news/staff_survey/index.asp

The 2006 survey report will be posted to this website shortly, and the 2007 report will also be posted when it is published in the summer.

The Department sees staff surveys as a valuable means of helping to increase performance by identifying both what is working well and areas for

improvement. It has used them successfully alongside other indicators of performance and sources of feedback to increase employee engagement and identify priority areas for action.

Dietary Supplements: EC Law

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment the Food Standards Agency has made of the impact of the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive on *(a)* the specialist manufacturing sector and *(b)* the specialist health food retail sector; [141948]

(2) what conclusions the Food Standards Agency has reached in relation to the implications for consumer choice following their recent consultation on the Draft Regulatory Impact Assessment of the Food Supplements Directive; [141949]

(3) what her Department's objectives are with regard to the promotion of the interests of the specialist natural health product manufacturing and exporting sectors; what *(a)* meetings have been held and *(b)* other steps taken by officials and Ministers in her Department in relation to the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and foods under Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and if she will make a statement. [142115]

Caroline Flint: A regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was carried out in 2002 on the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive, and this included input from the specialist manufacturing sector and the specialist health food retail sector.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has recently carried out an informal consultation on an initial RIA that sets out the current position in the United Kingdom with respect to food supplements and seeks information from stakeholders to measure the potential impact in advance of future European Commission (EC) proposals for setting daily dosage levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements. The information will be used to inform the draft RIA, which will then be subject to a formal consultation process. Conclusions will not be available until the end of the formal consultation process.

The Government's objectives with regard to promotion of the interests of the specialist natural health product manufacturing and exporting sectors are to ensure that consumer choice and protection are maintained.

I met with the specialist manufacturing and health food retail sectors in March 2007, and have written to and met with the director of DG SANCO at the EC in relation to the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals under Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive. Officials have previously held meetings with their European counterparts, including a meeting with German officials in March.

Disabled: Funding

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to provide public funding for local access groups which provide advice services in relation to accessibility for people with limited mobility. [142485]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Section 64 General Scheme of Grants to Voluntary Organisations is the Department's main funding source to voluntary organisations. Although this year's round has now closed, if local access groups are considering making an application in the future they can obtain information about the scheme from

www.dh.gov.uk/section64.

The 2008-09 applications window has not yet opened. It is likely that we will now place the funding priorities on the Department's website in the week commencing 18 June, with a view to opening the scheme to applications on 2 July. This should provide organisations with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the 2008-09 funding priorities before we open for applications.

Local access groups may also wish to approach the National Council for Voluntary Organisations and the Institute of Fundraising, who may be able to offer advice on other possible sources of funding.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency's anti-counterfeiting strategy aimed at disrupting those enterprises engaged in the importation, wholesale, distribution and supply of counterfeit medicines. [141980]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is currently developing a comprehensive anti-counterfeiting strategy which will take into account developments in the trade in counterfeit medicines. A copy will be placed in the Library when the strategy is published.

East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust: Management Consultants

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust has spent on management consultants since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [142141]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not held by the Department.

Fit for Future Programme

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much had been spent up to 4 June 2007 on the Fit for Future programme; and how much has been paid to McKinsey and Company for work undertaken as part of the Fit for Future programme. [141768]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not held centrally. Any proposals for major service change are a matter for the national health service locally.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Rice

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the plans are for the Food Standards Agency's review of its handling of the GM rice

(LL601) contamination incident following the judicial review of the Food Standards Agency by Friends of the Earth; when the review will take place; whether the input of external stakeholders will be sought; and who will lead the review. [142092]

Caroline Flint: The Food Standards Agency will be carrying out a review of its handling of the genetically modified rice contamination incident. It will seek input from key external stakeholders. Details of the review are currently being finalised.

Headaches: Medical Treatments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is available on the NHS for occipital nerve stimulation for cluster headaches; and whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has been consulted on the provision of the treatment. [141423]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Recent trials involving the use of occipital nerve stimulation for the treatment of cluster headaches have shown some promise. It is the responsibility of health professionals to consider whether this treatment should be made available to those patients where existing drug treatments prove ineffective.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not been consulted on the provision of this treatment.

Health Services: East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1603W, on health services: East Riding, what her Department's definition is of emergency treatment; whether a visit to a general practitioner is classed as emergency treatment; and if she will make a statement. [137340]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not define emergency treatment precisely as this is a decision for clinicians. However, the Department would expect that emergency treatment is treatment which cannot be delayed without risking serious harm to a patient, arising out of a sudden or unexpected change in their condition.

Under their contracts, general practices are required to treat anyone, regardless of whether they are registered with the practice, if they require emergency or immediately necessary treatment.

Regulation 15 paragraph 6 of the NHS (General Medical Services Contracts) Regulations 2004 (2004/291) states that:

"A contractor must provide primary medical services required in core hours for the immediately necessary treatment of any person to whom the contractor has been requested to provide treatment owing to an accident and emergency at any place in its practice area."

Paragraph 7 also states that:

"In paragraph (6), 'emergency' includes any medical emergency whether or not related to services provided under the contract".

Health Services: Sex

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on training for sexual health and pregnancy advisory services on effective multi-agency working and disclosure to protect children and young people from abuse in 2006-07. [141003]

Caroline Flint: Effective joint working and information sharing between agencies and professionals are cornerstones of the Government's policy to ensure that children and young people are effectively safeguarded from abuse. Where there is evidence or a reasonable cause to believe that children and young people are suffering from or at risk of suffering from significant harm then action must be taken. Revised guidance, 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' produced in April 2006, provides detailed guidance about responding to child welfare concerns involving alleged crimes, including where there is under-age sexual activity. Information on how much money is spent locally on training staff is not collected centrally.

Health: Ports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions her Department has had with *(a)* the Health Protection Agency and *(b)* the Board of Airline Representatives on (i) agreeing a system for routine data systems to be established and (ii) where data on travellers can be made readily available in response to a public health incident or risk as recommended in the Port Health and Medical Inspection Review Report published by the Health Protection Agency in March 2006. [142059]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) is leading on this operational matter. The HPA has held discussions with airline representatives, through the Department for Transport's Facilitation Stakeholders Forum, on the sharing of information in relation to public health incidents. Airlines have responded, on an international basis, that they consider routine collection of further information to be not feasible but have accepted the principle of using World Health Organisation passenger locator cards in the event that information is required in response to a public health incident.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has *(a)* prepared and *(b)* implemented a national financial framework for expenditure in port health as recommended in the Port Health and Medical Inspection Review Report published by the Health Protection Agency in March 2006. [142060]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency, as the operational lead in this area, has been working actively in collaboration with primary care trusts and local authorities to establish the financial framework for these services as part of its port health quality and governance arrangements. This work will continue within the agency's overall business planning system.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which international travel terminals have *(a)* implemented and *(b)* evaluated and amended their port health risk assessments as recommended in the Port Health and Medical Inspection Review Report published by the Health Protection Agency in March 2006 over the last 12 months; [142061]

(2) what steps her Department has taken to ensure the Port Health risk assessment is published and made available to those within the Health Protection Agency responsible for port health as recommended in the Port Health and Medical Inspection Review Report published by the Health Protection Agency in March 2006. [142062]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has developed a draft risk assessment for ports and is currently consulting on this with the Association of Port Health Authorities and with ports and carriers via the Department for Transport. Following the consultation the HPA plans to publish these risk assessments once they have been completed, subject to agreement with stakeholders.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many entrants at ports of entry into the UK were referred to NHS facilities in the last five years for which figures are available. [142066]

Caroline Flint: The Department does not hold this information.

Heart Diseases: Young People

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funds have been allocated within the NHS to research *(a)* the cause of and *(b)* treatment for cardiac risk in the young. [140683]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. These organisations have reported spending from this funding in support of coronary heart disease as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	35
2003-04	53
2004-05	59
2005-06	59

The Department does not collect specific expenditure data. Details of individual projects supported in the NHS can be found on the national research register at:

www.dh.gov.uk/research.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy 'Best Research for Best Health' will result in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. In particular, the University College London Hospitals (UCLH) Biomedical Research Centre and the Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, formed this year, plan to undertake work on sudden cardiac death. The centrally funded budget for the cardiovascular disease research theme at UCLH is £5.1 million over five years and for the heart research theme at Oxford is £3.1 million over five years.

Homeopathy

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will list the primary care trusts which have stopped all funding for homeopathic treatment; and if she will make a statement; [142268]

(2) what cost-benefit analysis has been carried out on NHS homeopathic treatments; and if she will make a statement. [142269]

Caroline Flint: The Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, has to be a matter for local national health service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient. Clinical responsibility rests with the NHS professional who makes the decision to refer and who must therefore be able to justify any treatment they recommend. If they are unconvinced about the suitability of a particular treatment, they cannot be made to refer.

The Department recognises that the health needs of a community can differ from area to area and primary care trusts (PCTs) would reflect these needs in developing these policies. We would expect the PCTs to carry out their own cost-benefit analysis of any treatment or service they were considering commissioning.

Hospital Wards: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of NHS beds in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex were in mixed wards in each year since 1997. [141892]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Maternity Services: Royal Shrewsbury Hospital

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to prevent adverse changes to the level of services provided for neo-natal care at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. [135188]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Decisions about the size and locations of neonatal networks, including the number of hospitals and the levels of care provided, are for local decision and should reflect local need and geography.

NHS West Midlands reports that the proposed changes to neonatal services provided by hospitals in the Staffordshire, Shropshire and Black Country Neonatal Network will be subject to a public consultation. The Network will be publishing the process for consultation shortly.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 721W, on drug analysis, (1) what the time scale is for the planned programme for the resolution of the technical and data issues relating to the production of drug analysis prints; and when the problems are due to be resolved; [141059]

(2) what assessment she has made of the implications of the technical problems experienced by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) Yellow Card Scheme on the MHRA's commitment to pharmaco-vigilance and the provision of information to the general public on adverse drug reactions. [141060]

Caroline Flint: Drug Analysis Prints (DAPs) are reports that collect together information on suspected adverse drug reactions submitted to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) through the yellow card scheme. The programme for resolving the technical and data issues relating to the production of DAP on the MHRA website is ongoing. This is a high priority for the Agency and full resolution is planned by the end of the 2007-08 business year. The Agency does provide anonymised information on suspected adverse drug reactions upon request to the general public, health professionals, and pharmaceutical companies, interim measures are in place for providing these data ad-hoc in an equivalent, non-automated, format to the DAP.

The MHRA continue to have total commitment to its pharmacovigilance function and the provision of data on adverse drug reactions. The technical issues experienced at the MHRA have however had an impact upon the format in which these data are presented. The resolution of these issues and full utilisation of the future Sentinel system will enable the Agency to further enhance the pharmacovigilance capabilities and continue to be a world leader in the provision of authoritative, high quality drug safety information by maximising the best technologies available.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff funded by the public purse in the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency are classified as people without posts. [141641]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: None.

Midwives: Insurance

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what relevance *(a)* existing and *(b)* proposed European Union directives have to her Department's decision to require independent midwives to have professional indemnity insurance. [141081]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* European directive 2005/36 on the recognition of professional qualifications allows (but does not require) regulatory bodies to demand evidence of indemnity insurance from incoming European migrants, provided that they demand the same information from United Kingdom nationals. The directive is not therefore directly relevant to Government policy, which is to include provision for compulsory indemnity cover as a condition of registration in legislation for each profession, as the opportunity arises in wider legislative change.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1317-18W, on midwives: insurance, if she will clarify the information included in the White Paper. [141083]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* The White Paper "Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century" states in paragraph 6.3

"In response to a government initiative, indemnity insurance is also becoming a requirement".

Government policy is to include provision for compulsory indemnity cover as a condition of registration in legislation for each profession, as the opportunity arises in wider legislative change.

The introduction of compulsory professional indemnity cover for midwives will require secondary legislation. A three-month public consultation will form part of that legislative process. No specific date for this has yet been set.

Muscular Dystrophy: Research

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to fund elsewhere in the UK research initiatives similar to the Translational Research Centre of Excellence for Neuromuscular Diseases in London. [141447]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is the main body through which the UK Government support initiatives similar to the Translational Research Centre of Excellence. The MRC currently funds 21 such centres, including six new translational centres last year, and will continue to support centres of excellence in priority areas. MRC has set aside this year's funding for centres in lifelong health and ageing.

NHS Alliance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided to the NHS Alliance from *(a)* her Department's budget and *(b)* the NHS budget in each financial year since 1997-98. [116825]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not provide any core funding to the NHS Alliance. However, the Department does hold contracts with the NHS Alliance to provide services for the Department. The annual totals for payments made by the Department of Health to the NHS Alliance since 2002 are as follows:

	Payments made to NHS Alliance (£)
2002-03	67,006.25
2003-04	69,597.60

	Payments made to NHS Alliance (£)
2004-05	58,750.00
2005-06	85,197.50
2006-07	112,647.25

It is not possible to provide figures prior to 2002-03 without incurring disproportionate costs.

Information about the amount of funding that is provided to the NHS Alliance from national health service organisations budgets is not collected by the Department.

NHS Foundation Trusts

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of her Department's staff have been *(a)* recruited by and *(b)* seconded to designated foundation trust hospitals. [137667]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not record any information relating to an individual's future employer when they leave the Department. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are currently six staff from the Department on secondment to foundation trust hospitals across England. In addition, we have 10 staff seconded to strategic health authorities (SHA). However, we do not maintain records of previous secondments to either foundation trusts or SHAs.

NHS Numbers

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS numbers are in issuance. [139968]

Caroline Flint: National health service numbers are currently issued and controlled by the national health service central register (NHSCR). At close of business on 5 June 2007 the total number of records held by NHSCR on the central health record inquiry system (CHRIS) was 74,581,472. This included a number of deceased patients (9,166,168), and number of invalid records (355,735). The total of NHS numbers 'in issuance, at that point was therefore 65,059,569.

The in issuance figure includes a further 7,903,001 numbers where the patient entry contains an exit or cancelled flag. There can be a number of reasons for this, such as where patients are known to have left the country on a permanent basis, armed forces personnel, and unregistered, the majority of which will be of notified births that have not yet been registered with a general practitioner.

As part of the Department's NHS Connecting for Health Agency's demographics migration programme the personal demographics service (PDS) will replace the following existing NHS demographics services:

the NHS Central Register (CHRIS);

demographic functions of the national health applications and infrastructure services (NHAIS);

the NHS strategic tracing service (NSTS); and

NHS number for babies (NN4B).

Moving to the PDS becoming the single authoritative source of demographics will enable the existing national demographic systems to be shut down, resulting in reduced operational costs.

The PDS is an essential element of the NHS care records service, underpinning the creation of an electronic care record for every registered NHS patient in England. It will serve as a gateway to the clinical record, enabling authorised healthcare professionals to locate quickly the clinical record that is uniquely associated with each demographic record. Unlike the previous services, this single authoritative source of demographics is already accessible throughout the NHS and is integrated fully with the other applications and services delivered as part of the national programme for information technology. It provides more convenience for patients as they need only notify one authorised healthcare organisation of a change of address, and this change will be then available to all healthcare organisations as and when the patient's records are accessed.

The demographics migration programme is also endeavouring to eliminate use of NHS temporary, and old-format numbers. These peaked in November 2004 at some 273,578 temporary, and 8,474 old-format numbers. By May 2007 nationally these figures had reduced to some 78,997 temporary, and just 30 old-format numbers. The elimination of use of all temporary and old-format numbers within the NHS is on target to be achieved by spring 2008.

NHS: Complaints

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many complaints were made against the national health service in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [142142]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The following table gives numbers of written complaints made between April 1997 and the end of March 2006, and these are the latest available audited data.

The data reflect complaints made through the national health service complaints procedure and do not include complaints made to the General Medical Council or other professional bodies.

Hospital and community services and family health services, written complaints in England, 1997-2006

	Number of written complaints
1997-98	126,850
1998-99	124,870
1999-2000	126,261
2000-01	140,176
2001-02	133,274
2002-03	133,867
2003-04	133,469
2004-05	133,820
2005-06	138,396

NHS: Drugs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposals contained in her Department's consultation, Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within

Part IX of the Drug Tariff, would restrict the ability of firms to choose the prices of the services they provide to NHS patients; and if she will make a statement. [140412]

Caroline Flint: In reviewing Part IX of the Drug Tariff, the Department is trying to ensure that there is transparency for the national health service between the reimbursement price for items and remuneration for services provided; there is none today. The aim is also to ensure that the NHS, and the taxpayer, is getting value for money—and, most importantly, that patient care is maintained or, where appropriate, improved.

This is why there have been two recent consultations. One set out proposals for reimbursement levels for item price—"Arrangements for the reimbursement pricing of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff".

The other, "Arrangements for the remuneration of services relating to appliances within Part IX of the Drug Tariff", set our proposals relating to service provision; both what that service should be and the remuneration that the NHS would make for such services. Here the intent was to ensure fair remuneration of valued services provided by the pharmacy and appliance contractors. It was also designed to make sure that the services provided by all dispensing contractors are to the same standard no matter where in England a user of appliances may live.

The underlying costs of the services they provide is a commercial matter for providers.

As previously advised, the volume and complexity of the responses to the consultation are such that the Department has decided that it needs more time to analyse the information provided. Consequently, no changes will be implemented in July 2007 as proposed in the consultation documents.

NHS: Freedom of Information

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will make a statement on private firms seeking to use the Freedom of Information legislation to obtain details of management decisions or discussions by primary care trusts and other NHS bodies. [140772]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about Freedom of Information requests made to the national health service is not collected centrally. Primary care trusts and other NHS organisations are public authorities and are consequently obliged to comply fully with the law, including the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the value has been of her Department's forward payments to local service providers under the National Programme for Information Technology since the programme's inception. [137391]

Caroline Flint: Forward payments have been made to the National Programme for Information Technology (NPfIT) suppliers to reduce contract costs. All forward payments are repayable in the event of subsequent non-commencement of services and are protected by bonds or charges against assets, which enable the payments to be withdrawn on demand. Moreover, forward payments are typically made after the contractor has already incurred the costs to which the payments relate. This prudent approach has subsequently been adopted as an option in guidance issued by the Office of Government Commerce in respect of the procurement of IT-enabled services from the private sector.

The value of forward payments made to local service providers (LSPs) since inception of NPfIT, as at 31 March 2007 are shown in the following tables. Forward payments are depleted as the supplier successfully delivers the contracted solutions. Instead of being paid as the projects go live, suppliers are allowed to recognise the appropriate amount of the forward payment for that project. The principle of payment on delivery is thus maintained.

Core contracts

£ million

LSP area	*Total advance payments*	*Earned to date*	*Repaid*	*Total advance payments outstanding*
East/East Midlands	56.8	8.1	13.8	34.9
North Eastern	72.5	4.0	21.8	46.7
London	53.0	53.0	0.0	0.0
North West/West Midlands	216.6	155.0	0.0	61.6
South	246.8	33.9	37.0	176.0
South/ London 7[1]	11.0	0.0	0.0	11.0
Total	656.7	254.0	72.6	332.3

[1] Payments made to CSC in respect of seven trusts in the London and South LSP areas which have opted to take the iSoft solution from CSC rather than the London and South LSPs' Cerner solution.

Picture archiving and communications systems (PACS)

£ million

LSP area	*Total advance payments*	*Earned to date*	*Repaid*	*Total advance payments outstanding*
East/East Midlands	24.9	24.7	—	0.2
North Eastern	19.7	19.7	—	0.0
London	29.7	16.4	—	13.3
North West/West Midlands	50.3	27.3	—	23.0
South	65.8	55.2	6.9	3.7
Total	190.4	143.3	6.9	40.2

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 490W, on NHS IT systems, when the results of the review will be published. [139019]

Caroline Flint: We expect to publish the results of the review shortly.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff funded by the public purse in NHS Connecting for Health are classified as people without posts. [141642]

Caroline Flint: None.

NHS: Negligence

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS spent on lawyers' fees in respect of negligence claims in each of the last five years; and how much compensation was paid in respect of negligence claims by the NHS in each year. [141688]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not collect information on the total amounts spent by the national health service on either lawyer's fees or compensation in respect of negligence claims. The NHS Litigation Authority collects details of the amounts spent by the NHS on lawyer's fees and compensation for claims made under clinical and non-clinical NHS schemes. Data for these schemes for the last five years are in the following tables.

Legal fees[1]

Financial year	*Clinical*	*Non-clinical*	*£000 Total*
2005-06	151,030	15,097	166,127
2004-05	134,441	16,637	151,078
2003-04	121,186	7,063	128,249
2002-03	117,204	5,934	123,138
2001-02	[2]96,874	1,959	98,833

[1] Legal fees are compensated quarterly (during the progress of a claim) for defence costs, but only at settlement of a claim for claimant costs.
[2] Includes clinical negligence scheme for trusts call-in reimbursement to trusts.

Compensation

Financial year	*Clinical*	*Non-clinical*	*£000 Total*
2005-06	409,278	16,512	425,790
2004-05	368,453	25,574	394,027
2003-04	301,328	3,185	304,513
2002-03	328,980	16,330	345,310
2001-02	[1]452,070	4,890	456,960

[1] Includes clinical negligence scheme for trusts call-in reimbursement to trusts.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she has met the Chairman of the Labour Party to discuss NHS service provision since 3 July 2006. [131857]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Secretary of State meets her Cabinet colleagues regularly to discuss a range of issues, but has not met the chair of the Labour party to discuss national health service provision since 3 July 2006.

Osteoporosis: Drugs

Christine Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken to ensure that the recent National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on drugs to treat osteoporosis is being fully implemented; [143113]

(2) what steps are being taken to *(a)* encourage osteoporosis patients to comply with their medication and *(b)* inform patients of alternative products which allow for less frequent treatments; [143114]

(3) what education and treatment programmes are being introduced to stem the anticipated future rise in osteoporosis; [143115]

(4) what *(a)* (i) guidance and (ii) training she is providing to medical practitioners and *(b)* guidance she is providing to the public to mitigate the effects of the expected rise in the incidence of osteoporosis. [143116]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is a statutory duty for health bodies to provide funding for drug treatments recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) within three months of the guidance being issued.

Osteoporosis can often be prevented by maintaining a healthy lifestyle and, through a range of initiatives, the Department is raising awareness of the importance of regular exercise, a balanced diet, smoking prevention/cessation and a responsible attitude to alcohol consumption in the prevention of a range of conditions, including osteoporosis.

The Department has also asked NICE to produce a clinical guideline on the assessment of risk fracture and prevention of osteoporotic fractures in individuals at high risk.

The training of medical practitioners is the responsibility of the royal colleges. The National Library for Health clinical knowledge summaries website at www.cks.library.nhs.uk offers advice on the management of a range of conditions and symptoms, including osteoporosis, that are commonly seen in primary care. The guidance is advisory and has been developed to assist healthcare professionals, together with patients, make decisions about the management of the patient's health.

It is the responsibility of health professionals to provide patients with information on the most appropriate treatment regime based on a clinical assessment of their individual situation. This information should also include the importance of compliance with medication and any recommended lifestyle changes.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 621W, on patient choice schemes, for what reasons the total number of bookings made through both direct and indirect bookings in the period since July 2004 are different in table two and in table one. [139583]

Caroline Flint: The information in table one was accurate to 31 March 2007. Due to an administrative error the figures in table two included some information relating to April 2007. Arrangements have been made for amended tables to be placed in the Library.

Patients: Surveys

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Health to whom the breakdown by practice of the GP patients' survey is made available. [142721]

Andy Burnham: Results of the general practitioner patient survey will be available on the Department's website shortly.

Pharmacy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which dispensing appliance contractors hold a market share of more than 5 per cent.; and what percentage market share each holds. [140410]

Andy Burnham: There are two distinct sectors in the dispensing appliance contractor market: incontinence and stoma. Given this, the number of contractors in each sector that have more than a 5 per cent. share of the dispensing appliance contracting market is as follows:

	Number of companies with > 5 per cent. share of market
Incontinence[1]	4
Stoma[1]	3

[1] These figures are based on the net ingredient value for the period January 2005 to June 2006.

The names of these companies—and their specific market share—are not publicly available, as the information is commercially confidential.

Pharmacy: North East Region

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pharmacists were making independent prescriptions in *(a)* Gateshead East and Washington West, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* England in the latest period for which figures are available. [140644]

Caroline Flint: The Department obtains information from the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB), which shows the number of pharmacists who have qualified and registered as pharmacist independent prescribers in Great Britain. The figures for May 2007 show that 68 pharmacists had registered their qualification with the RPSGB.

The Department does not have information at a local level.

Smoking

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines have been issued to local authorities on ensuring enclosed public spaces have no smoking signs at all entrances. [142168]

Caroline Flint: In March 2006, guidance on the implementation of smokefree legislation was published by Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services. The purpose of the guidance, which includes specific sections on no-smoking signs, is to support local council regulatory officers in successfully implementing smokefree legislation which will be enforced in England from 6 am on Sunday, 1 July 2007.

The Department has also provided a two-phase training programme for local authorities on smokefree legislation and will shortly launch an e-learning facility so local authority officers can complete training at their workplace. Training also includes references to no-smoking sign requirements and has been provided to develop a standardised approach to the enforcement of the new smokefree law across England, and has been provided free of charge to local authorities.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many council officers have been trained to enforce the forthcoming smoking ban, broken down by local authorities; and what the cost has been to both central and local government of implementing this training. [142333]

Caroline Flint: The Department has provided a two-phase training programme for local authorities on smokefree legislation and will shortly launch an e-learning facility for local authority officers to complete training at their work place. Training has been provided to develop a standardised approach to the enforcement of the new smokefree law across England, and has been provided free of charge to local authorities.

The first phase of training was conducted between October to December 2006 for service planners within local authorities to assist the development of local smokefree implementation strategies. Some 450 officers attended this training. The second phase of training is currently being delivered for local authority regulatory officers to provide knowledge, practical skills and competencies so they can build compliance with the new law in their local areas. Some 1,150 places have been made available for local council officers for this training. The two-phase programme of training has been delivered to local councils free of charge by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) on a regional basis.

An e-learning facility has also been developed to provide training on the new smokefree law for local council officers. This facility has been developed by the Trading Standards Institute, will be freely available to any local council officer across England who requires training on the new law and will be launched shortly.

The total cost of developing and providing training on smokefree legislation for the Department is £445,600. An estimate of the costs to local authorities could only be made at disproportionate cost. The Department cannot precisely determine the number of local authority officers who have received training on the new smokefree law— some local authorities have made additional arrangements directly with the CIEH for the delivery of training programmes, many local councils have undertaken in-house training and the smokefree e-learning system is expected to be popular.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures have been taken by *(a)* central Government, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* NHS trusts to inform the public of the forthcoming smoking ban; and what the (i) planned and (ii) eventual cost was of these measures. [142334]

Caroline Flint: Through the Smokefree England campaign, the Department is delivering a major communications campaign to support businesses to be prepared for the implementation of smokefree legislation on 1 July 2007. Recent surveys by the Department show levels of awareness amongst businesses and the general public have improved significantly.

Information on the new law is available from the freephone Smokefree England information line on 0800 169 169 7 and on the Smokefree England website at:

www.smokefreeengland.co.uk.

Presently, the Smokefree England website receives approximately 100,000 visits a week, while the phone line receives 6,000 calls a week.

The Department has developed a range of guides on the new law. A Smokefree England information pack, including a guide, no-smoking signs and other support materials has been sent to all registered, actively trading businesses in England that employ staff during April. Guidance documents can be downloaded from the Smokefree England website, and are available in a range of different languages and accessible formats, including an MP3 audio version.

The Department also continues to work closely with a diverse range of organisations across the country to increase awareness of the new legislation among their constituents.

In May, the Department commenced a national advertising campaign using a range of media to inform members of the public about what the legislation will mean when it comes in to force. While 93 per cent. of the overall population are aware of smokefree legislation, 45 per cent. don't know that it comes into force on 1 July 2007. Therefore the campaign has been developed to assist the public to know when the law will be implemented, where the law will apply and what the penalties are for non-compliance.

Local authorities are also working to build compliance in their communities through a diverse range of activity. Local businesses are advised to contact their local council for advice and support in implementing smokefree legislation. National health service trusts and local NHS Stop Smoking Services are also working in different ways to promote the new smokefree law.

The total budget allocated to the Department of the smokefree communications campaign is £8.5 million. The costs to local authorities and NHS trusts of their efforts to promote the new smokefree legislation could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the new no smoking sign cost to design; and what estimate has been made of the production costs of all new no smoking signs. [142474]

Caroline Flint: The Health Act 2006 requires no-smoking signs to be displayed in smokefree premises and vehicles that comply with the requirements set out in the Smoke-free (Signs) Regulations 2007.

To support those with management responsibilities for smokefree premises, the Department has designed and made freely available no-smoking signs that comply with the requirements of smokefree legislation. The total design cost of no-smoking signs being made available as part of the Department's Smokefree England campaign was £1,270.

Based on the current costings and volumes, no-smoking signs for premises cost the Department 0.04p each to produce.

Smoking: Listed Buildings

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received from those responsible for listed buildings on the appearance and placement of the new no smoking signs; and what recent discussions she has had with church leaders on the issue. [142328]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 326W.

Sunbeds

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what petitions have been received by her Department from the unstaffed sunbed salon industry operators in opposition to further regulation; [141901]

(2) what representations she has received from the unstaffed sunbed salon industry on usage of sunbeds by people under the age of 16; [141931]

(3) whether she has met representatives of the unstaffed sunbed salon industry in the last two years. [142079]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received copies of a petition signed by customers of the Consol Supercenter chain of coin-operated sunbed salons. Officials have had discussions with representatives from Consol at which the issue of access by those under 16 years to Consol's sunbed parlours were discussed. I met representatives of Consol on 29 March 2007.

Surgical Dressings

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were treated with maggot debridement therapy within the NHS in each year since 1997, broken down by NHS trust; and if she will make a statement; [127742]

(2) what assessment has been made of the potential effect on costs of the use of maggot debridement therapy in the NHS; and if she will make a statement; [127746]

(3) what recent representations her Department has received on maggot debridement therapy; and if she will make a statement; [127749]

(4) what *(a)* clinical trials and *(b)* other studies have taken place on maggot debridement therapy; how much was spent on such activity in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement; [127752]

(5) what assessment has been made of potential adverse side effects of maggot debridement therapy; and if she will make a statement. [127753]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested regarding the numbers of patients treated with maggot debridement therapy (MDT) is not held centrally. However, there is one such medical grade maggot which is now available on prescription in the United Kingdom so that general practitioners can use MDT in the community. There were around 1,100 prescriptions written for dispensing in the community for LarvE (the commercial brand name for the sterile maggots) in 2005, which does not include hospital use.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has advised the national health service that the choice of debriding agent for difficult to heal surgical wounds should be based on comfort, odour control, other aspects relevant to patient acceptability, the type and location of the wound and total costs. The actual costs of treating difficult to heal wounds have not been measured. If specific services for the management of difficult to heal surgical wounds were to be developed throughout the NHS, there would be organisational and cost implications, which would need to be evaluated.

My noble Friend, the Minister of State for Health (Lord Hunt), has received an invitation from the hon. Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon) to visit Zoobiotic Ltd. My hon. Friend the Minister of State for Public Health (Caroline Flint) has received a letter from the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Central (Mr. Caborn) regarding the issue of MDT.

The Health Technology Assessment Programme funded a trial of MDT to be undertaken by the Department of Health Sciences of the University of York. The study started on 1 June 2004, involving 600 patients with venous leg ulcers who were randomised to one of three treatment groups to compare their effects on healing and debridement times. The Government, through the Health Technology Assessment Programme, agreed to fund this study, which had been several years in the planning and cost over £700,000. The report of the research is expected in early 2009.

MDT may cause pain or discomfort, particularly in patients already experiencing wound pain. This usually occurs about 24-36 hours into therapy and worsens as the larvae grow larger, Painkillers should help to relieve the pain; otherwise removing the maggot dressing provides immediate relief. The maggots should be contained within the wound. If they escape onto unprotected skin around the edges of the wound, the larvae secretions can cause a rash on the skin which resembles a superficial burn.

Tomography: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many computerised tomography scanners are operational in the NHS in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex. [141893]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect information on the operational use of the computed tomography (CT) scanners. However, I am informed by NHS South East Coast that there are two CT scanners installed in trusts in East Sussex, one at Eastbourne District general hospital and another at the Conquest hospital, Hastings.

Tuberculosis: Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether new entrants at ports of entry with symptoms of tuberculosis are referred to NHS facilities near the port of entry or their intended destination as recommended in Port Health and Medical Inspection Review Report published by the Health Protection Agency in March 2006. [142058]

Caroline Flint: If the new entrant at a port is identified to have symptoms suggestive of tuberculosis they will be assessed by a medical inspector and will be referred either to an appropriate national health service facility near the port or to an NHS facility at their intended destination, depending on the nature of their symptoms as assessed by the medical inspector.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has carried out a review of the benefits of X-ray screening for tuberculosis at ports as recommended by the Health Protection Agency in Port Health and Medical Inspection Review Report published in March 2006. [142063]

Caroline Flint: The Health Protection Agency has this matter under review and is now looking in more detail at how screening new migrants for tuberculosis could work in the future.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which ports of entry into the UK undertake tuberculosis screening by X-ray machine; and what arrangements are in place for multi-terminal ports that have only one such machine. [142065]

Caroline Flint: Only Heathrow and Gatwick airports have on-site X-ray machines. Where necessary, the immigration service makes arrangements for transporting people referred for medical examination between terminals.

University of Liverpool Cancer Research Centre

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to expand the University of Liverpool Cancer Research Centre; and if she will make a statement. [142251]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council currently provides support to the University of Liverpool Cancer Research Centre through response-mode grants. The MRC welcomes applications for support into any aspect of human health and they are judged in open competition with other demands. In addition, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council has provided one equipment grant to the centre.

X-rays

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the additional money earmarked for dual X-ray absorptiometry scans has been allocated to health authorities; and how much has been spent on additional scanning capacity. [140506]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2005-06, the Department allocated £3 million revenue funding on a non-recurrent basis to 14 strategic health authorities (SHAs) for the purchase of DXA scans from the independent sector, or other national health service providers where this represented better value for money. Expenditure against these allocations has not been monitored centrally.

Capital funding of £17 million has been made available in 2006-07 and 2007-08 to improve NHS capacity through investment in new DXA scanning equipment. This additional funding was included in the overall strategic capital allocation to SHAs and the Department does not monitor how SHAs' strategic capital is spent.

Since January 2006, the Department has been collecting waiting time and activity data for 15 diagnostic tests or procedures, including DXA scans. In April 2007, the latest date for which figures are available, 683 patients have been waiting more than 13 weeks, and 14 patients more than 26 weeks, for a DXA scan. This represents a reduction of 92.7 per cent. and 99.6 per cent. respectively from the baseline figure.

JUSTICE

Community Justice Centres: Public Appointments

Mr. Allen: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 374W, on community justice centres: public appointments, what meetings have taken place between the district judge and the community about the appointment of the district judge; and if she will make a statement. [143218]

Ms Harman: District Judge Cooper has had two meetings with local residents, a meeting with community based organisations and has also met local MPs.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what make and model of car *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141997]

Ms Harman: Ministers in my Department have selected ministerial cars as follows:

	Make/model
Lord Falconer	Jaguar XJ
Harriet Harman	Toyota Prius
David Hanson	Mondeo Zetec
Bridget Prentice	Toyota Prius
Baroness Ashton	Toyota Prius
Vera Baird	Toyota Prius
Gerry Sutcliffe	Toyota Prius

For the second part of the question I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given by the Minister of State for Transport on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1268-69W.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in her Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141964]

Ms Harman: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W. Information for the last financial year relating to the use of the Lord Chancellor's residence, including costs, will be published shortly.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139312]

Ms Harman: Information on how much the Department has raised from the sale of departmental property is shown in the following table.

	£ million
	Sale proceeds
06-07	34.66
05-06	25.25
04-05	25.96
03-04	91.18
02-03	10.19

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139373]

Ms Harman: The total property portfolio was valued at 31 March 2007 to be £9,728.547 million.

Departments: Public Relations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much money her Department plans to spend in the 2007-08 financial year on public relations. [141793]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007. Its planned expenditure on public relations through external public relations companies from 9 May 2007 is:

£25,000 to increase the public's understanding of the work of courts and their role in the justice system;

£50,000 to increase public awareness of the new Mental Capacity Act 2005;

£12,500 for a public awareness campaign about the legal status of cohabitation;

£12,500 to publicise the Family Mediation Helpline;

£55,000 for a public awareness campaign on human rights.

The Ministry's press office also undertakes proactive public relations activity as part of its wider media relations remit, but this activity cannot be costed out separately.

Driving Offences: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people in the London Borough of Bexley have received fixed penalty notices for using a mobile phone whilst driving in each of the last five years. [14277]

Mr. Hanson: Data on police action for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving are not collected centrally by local authority area.

Family Courts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on family courts. [143728]

Ms Harman: I have regular discussions and meetings about the family courts with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, who has responsibility for Children, Young People and Families. My hon. Friend is also a member of the Ministerial Group on Care Proceedings, which meets quarterly and which I chair.

We both attended a meeting of the London Family Justice Council on 11 June 2007 to observe the work of the council.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* Crown court, *(b)* County court, *(c)* High court and *(d)* Court of Appeal judges have been appointed in each of the last five years; how each was appraised; what criteria are adopted for each appointment; whether consideration is given to a candidate's political views; how many candidates were rejected; and if she will make a statement. [142822]

Ms Harman: The following tables set out the numbers of applicants for, and appointments to, full-time judicial posts (not including magistrates) in the courts system for the five-year period 2001-02 to 2005-06, plus appointments to the fee-paid position of recorder. It is not possible to identify separately appointments to the Crown court and county court as judges on the Circuit Bench and recorders are deployed to either. District judges sit in the county court only. Members of the full-time judiciary are not subject to formal appraisal after appointment.

In addition to the minimum criteria set out in law for appointment to each level of post, applicants must demonstrate that they have the qualities and abilities needed to successfully take on judicial office, including relevant knowledge and experience, independence, professionalism, judgment and people skills. Information about candidates' political views is neither sought nor taken into account in the selection process. Since April 2006, the independent Judicial Appointments Commission has had the responsibility for appointments and has set out the qualities and abilities it believes are necessary for judicial office. These are: intellectual capacity, personal qualities, the ability to understand and treat fairly, authority and communication skills and efficiency.

Court of Appeal

	Appointed
2005-06	4
2004-05	1
2003-04	6
2002-03	2
2001-02	1

High Court

	Applicants	Appointed
2005-06	129	8
2004-05	128	11
2003-04	174	10
2002-03	57	6
2001-02	—	9

Senior Circuit Judge

	Applicants	Appointed	Rejected
2005-06	41	5	36
2004-05	39	6	33
2003-04	41	7	34
2002-03	30	4	26

Circuit Bench

	Applicants	Appointed	Reserve	Rejected
2005-06	248	42	64	142
2004-05	112	6	28	78
2003-04	207	30	65	112
2002-03	[1]—	—	—	—
2001-02	231	20	94	117

[1] No general competition was held in 2002-2003. However, 39 vacancies arose in this period, 38 posts were filled by candidates who were on the circuit bench reserve list established after the 2001-02 competition.

District Bench

	Applicants	Appointed	Reserve	Rejected
2005-06	24	13	2	9
2004-05	248	26	27	195
2003-04	29	3	2	24
2002-03	241	15	22	204
2001-02	25	2	1	22

Recorder

	Applicants	Appointed	Reserve	Rejected
2005-06	782	162	192	428
2004-05	683	143	—	540
2003-04	267	20	26	221
2002-03	589	93	83	413
2001-02	540	98	—	—

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will list the *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* statutory instruments which regulate (i) the appointment and (ii) renewal of appointment of (A) Crown court, (B) county court, (C) High court and (D) Court of Appeal judges; what changes have been made to each since their enactment; what further amendments are planned; and if she will make a statement. [142823]

Ms Harman: The principal legislation which regulates the appointment and renewal (where relevant) of salaried and fee-paid judicial office holders to the Crown court, county court, high court and Court of Appeal is set out as follows:

The Courts Act 1971
The Supreme Court Act 1981
The County Courts Act 1984
The Courts and Legal Services Act 1990
The Constitutional Reform Act 2005

Sections 76-84 of the Constitutional Reform Act govern the selection process for Lords Justices of Appeal. Sections 85-93 of the Constitutional Reform Act govern the selection process for the appointment of high court judges, circuit judges, recorders and judges who preside in the county court.

Appointments to salaried judicial office in the Crown court, county court, high court and Court of Appeal are made until the statutory retirement age is reached. For fee-paid appointments ie recorders and deputy district judges, it is usual for these appointments to be made on a five-year renewable term until retirement under section 21 of the Courts Act as amended by the Courts and Legal Services Act and the Constitutional Reform Act.

Changes in the qualifications for appointment to these offices are contained in the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Bill currently before this House. There are currently no plans to further amend the legislation regulating the appointment and re-appointment of judges to the courts listed.

Legal Services Bill

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues in HM Treasury on the impact of the Legal Services Bill, if enacted, on the competitiveness of the British legal services industry. [143166]

Bridget Prentice: Officials have been in regular contact with their opposite numbers in other departments regarding the Government's proposals to reform the regulation and delivery of legal services. There has also been Ministerial contact where appropriate.

While the Treasury are clearly concerned to ensure that the appropriateness of the financial provisions in the Bill, they are also concerned to ensure that the Bill provides for greater competition and innovation in the legal sector. Specifically on competitiveness, in summer 2006 my officials participated in a series of high-level discussion groups organised by HM Treasury aimed at examining the international competitiveness of London as a financial centre. This included a focus on legal services and forthcoming changes such as the Legal Services Bill. It is of course paramount to all in Government that we ensure the continued competitiveness of UK legal services industry, both domestically and internationally.

Magistrates

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many magistrates are expected to leave the magistracy in financial year 2007-08. [142332]

Ms Harman: 710 magistrates are expected to retire during the financial year 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. The number of magistrates leaving for all reasons (including resignation, death etc.) varies widely but averages approximately 1,500 per annum.

Police Custody

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what the cost has been of Operation Safeguard in 2007; how many police force invoices have been *(a)* received and *(b)* paid; and how many more police force invoices she expects to receive; [142746]

(2) how much has been paid so far under Operation Safeguard to keep court cell accommodation available for prisoners; for what period these payments have been made; and how many prisoners were accommodated in court cells during that period; [142747]

(3) for how many nights court cell accommodation has been available under Operation Safeguard for prisoners; how many cells were available on those nights; and how many prisoner-nights have been spent in court cells in 2007; [142748]

(4) for how many nights court cell accommodation made available under Operation Safeguard her Department has not already paid; [142749]

(5) when she expects Operation Safeguard to end; and what estimate she has made of the likely final cost of *(a)* police and *(b)* court cell accommodation under Operation Safeguard. [142750]

Mr. Hanson: Use of court cells does not form part of Operation Safeguard, which is an agreement with the police to hold prisoners overnight in police cells.

81 invoices for the use of police cells under Operation Safeguard since October 2006 have been received. To date, 54 of these have been paid to the value of £6,681,300. As different police forces may submit monthly, bi-monthly or consolidate invoices, the number expected is not known.

Since the beginning of 2007 current data shows that court cells have been used on 373 occasions (as at 13 June 2007) over 16 nights. This does not correspond precisely to the number of prisoners: one occasion means one prisoner night in a court cell.

To date, one invoice to the value of £120,000 (excluding VAT) has been paid to cover the contingency of having places available in court cells between 17 January and 6 February. 12 prisoner nights were spent in court cells during this period.

Use of police cells to hold prisoners and of court cells to hold prisoners as a last resort will continue until operational capacity in prisons has increased to a level where all prisoners can be accommodated safely. NOMS is increasing prison capacity and has announced 8,000 new places by 2012.

We estimate that it costs around £385 per place per night to hold a prisoner in a police cell, and around £300 for every place in a court cell (this cost is incurred whether the cell is used or not).

Prison Service: Industrial Disputes

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she has taken to ensure the Joint Industrial Relations Procedure Agreement process is followed regarding the dispute with the Prison Officers Association on the issuing of batons; and whether she intends to forward the dispute to an ACAS appointed arbitrator. [143356]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A Consent Order was signed by both the Prison Service and the Prison Officers' Association (POA) on 3 May 2007 clarifying the disputes process under the Joint Industrial Relations Procedural Agreement. The POA wrote to the Prison Service on 8 June asking that it review its position on a number of disputes (including the issuing of extendable batons) in light of this order. This review is currently taking place and I will write to the hon. Member on its completion.

Residence Orders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many and what percentage of sole residency orders were given to the *(a)* mother and *(b)* father in each region in England and Wales in each year since 1997; [142655]

(2) how many and what percentage of joint residency orders were given in each region in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [142656]

Ms Harman: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information is available on the overall number of residence orders made under section 8 of the Children Act 1989, but the courts in England and Wales do not collect information about who the order is made in favour of from each case record.

The number of residence orders made in all types of court in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2005 is as follows.

	Residence orders
1997	26,883
1998	30,398
1999	21,286
2000	25,809
2001	29,546
2002	30,006
2003	31,996
2004	31,878
2005	26,523

The numbers of residence orders made broken down by region are only available for the years 2003 to 2005. They are as follows:

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Principal Registry of the Family Division	1,460	1,335	970
London	1,897	2,889	2,008
Midlands	5,882	5,262	4,380
North East	5,434	5,739	4,662
North West	4,405	4,595	3,717
South East	6,519	5,775	5,409
South West	3,962	3,943	3,427
Wales and Chester	2,436	2,339	1,951

Road Traffic Offences: Foreigners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many motoring offences were committed by overseas registered vehicles in each of the last 10 years; and what proportion of fines levied in relation to such offences remain outstanding. [142094]

Ms Harman: The information is not collected centrally.

Sentencing: Appeals

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many sentences handed down by each judge in England and Wales were successfully appealed against in each of the last five years. [142705]

Ms Harman: Information on the number of sentences handed down by each judge in England and Wales which have been successfully appealed against in each of the last five years is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of sentences successfully appealed against by *(a)* the Attorney-General and *(b)* the convicted person were (i) increased and (ii) reduced in each of the last five years. [142706]

Ms Harman: The information requested is in the following table.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Attorney-General unduly lenient sentence applications					
A-G sentence applications received	153	100	158	122	162
A-G sentence appeals heard	128	108	92	101	108
A-G sentence appeal allowed	91	84	70	64	78
A-G sentence appeal dismissed—trial judges sentence confirmed	37	24	22	37	30
Percentage of A-G sentence applications received that were successful	59.5	84.0	44.3	52.5	48.1
Sentence appeals					
Sentence applications received	5,804	5,664	5,809	5,178	5,082
Sentence appeals allowed	1,302	1,685	1,348	1,534	1,391
Sentence appeals dismissed	500	679	589	619	575
Sentence appeals heard	1,802	2,364	1,937	2,153	1,966
Percentage of sentence applications received that were successful	22.4	29.7	23.2	29.6	27.4

Trials

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many trials have been abandoned on technical grounds in each of the last five years, broken down by category of offence; and what the estimated cost to the public purse was of those abandoned trials and the investigations which preceded them. [142303]

Ms Harman: This information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Young Offender Institutions: Crimes of Violence

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she is taking to ensure that prison officers in juvenile offender institutions are protected from assaults with pool cues and other implements which could be used as weapons. [143353]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Prison Service takes prisoner and staff safety seriously and every prison is required to have in place a violence reduction strategy which requires establishments to do all they can to minimise violence. Additionally, Prison Officers in juvenile offender institutions are given the same defensive training in control and restraint techniques as officers in non-juvenile establishments who face similar risks.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(c)* training to officers in (i) juvenile offender institutions and (ii) prisons for adults and *(b)* equipment is provided to deal with assaults using weapons. [143354]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All prison officers employed in public sector prisons receive the same control and restraint training (and are required to complete annual refresher training) to prepare them for all types of incident, regardless of which type of establishment they are posted to. Personal protective equipment is available wherever the risk dictates, again regardless of the type of establishment. All prison officers are trained in its use.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what factors were taken into account in deciding that prison officers officed in the juvenile estate should not be given access to extendable batons and other protective equipment. [143355]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Extendable batons were issued in 2005 to all staff who carried the outdated wooden stave. Officers in juvenile establishments have never carried staves and at the time of the introduction of batons consideration was not given to widening their use. A review is planned later this year to consider what evidence there may be for extending the use of batons to other parts of the estate.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 19 June 2007

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission whether the House has in place arrangements for the ethical disposal of surplus IT equipment. [143550]

Nick Harvey: The House of Commons uses a specialist commercial company for the disposal of all Members centrally provided and House of Commons Administration IT equipment.

The company is used by a number of other Government agencies and all personnel with access to parliamentary equipment are security cleared.

Equipment is securely cleaned of all data and data destruction certificates issued once this has been completed. Equipment is then evaluated as to its resale potential; where possible it is sold on to second level users with the original manufacturer's operating system and no other software. Proceeds from the sale of equipment are returned to Parliament. Equipment with no resale value is disposed of in line with the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive. This involves breaking down the equipment into its base materials for reuse with only completely un-recyclable materials being sent to landfill.

Portcullis House

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what assessment has been made of environmental factors affecting thermal comfort as defined in British Standard BS EN ISO 7730 in Portcullis house; whether any survey has been made of thermal comfort of workers in Portcullis house; whether any workplace temperature risk assessment has been undertaken with regard to Portcullis house; what the maximum operating capacity of the air conditioning unit at Portcullis house is; and if he will make a statement. [142331]

Nick Harvey: I am well aware of this issue and know that there have been a number of complaints about temperature control in the building. The Serjeant at Arms has directed his staff to investigate and to take the appropriate remedial actions. He will write to the hon. Lady when the issues involved are clear.

Parliamentary Works Services Directorate staff monitor the environmental conditions and systems in Portcullis house using the computerised building management system. As a result they are aware that since Easter the temperature has not been controlled as well as it should have been. An investigation of the cooling system has revealed a number of small faults. The majority of these have now been rectified and work is in hand to address the remainder as quickly as possible.

I understand that no survey of the thermal comfort of workers in Portcullis house has been undertaken. Nor has a workplace temperature risk assessment been carried out.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Crime

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many responses his Department received to the consultation document Making Sure that Crime Doesn't Pay; which organisations responded; and if he will place copies of those representations in the Library. [131283]

Maria Eagle: The Northern Ireland Office received responses from:

the Superintendents Association of Northern Ireland;

the Periodical Publishers Association of Ireland; and

the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission.

I have made arrangements for these to be placed in the Library.

Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 565W, on the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, when the copy of the presentation will be placed in the Library. [142399]

Mr. Hain: This has now been placed in the Library.

WALES

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143922]

Mr. Hain: The percentages for the staff of the Wales Office is as follows:

(a) 49 per cent. of the staff are male

(b) 51 per cent. of the staff are female

(c) 12 per cent. of staff are aged 55 or over

The Wales Office has a small number of staff with disabilities. For privacy reasons the numbers are confidential, in line with guidance issued by the Cabinet Office, which states that Departments are not required to provide figures on the number of disabled staff where it is less than five in the department.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143096]

Mr. Hain: In the last financial year three members of staff have received bonuses, representing 5 per cent. of the workforce. All of the bonuses together came to £862.30 before tax, and the largest single payment was £362.30.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Publications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many publications produced by his Department and funded by the public purse have been *(a)* provided at no cost and *(b)* sold to the Labour Party or Parliamentary Labour Party Office in the last 12 months. [141264]

Mr. Thomas: Following are the publications produced by DFID that have been provided directly to the Parliamentary Labour Party Office in the last 12 months. All of these publications are available free of charge (and indeed copies have been requested by representatives of other parties).

Publication	*Quantity*
G8 Gleneagles: One year on turning talk into action	500
Eliminating World Poverty White Paper III popular version	840
The World Classroom—Developing Global Partnerships	250

These figures are total figures for orders sent directly to the Parliamentary Labour Party Office through DFID's mailing house contractor in the last 12 months. These may not reflect the total number of publications sent out, as it is not possible to establish the number of publications posted by DFID staff in response to individual requests. DFID has not sent any publications to the Labour Party via its mailing house contractor in the last 12 months, and it is not possible to establish the number of publications posted by DFID staff in response to individual requests.

Any publications produced in the last 12 months that have been priced are classified as Command, or House of Commons, papers. These publications are available to be purchased from The Stationery Office (TSO) under a Government-wide agreement. DFID would have no record of who had purchased these items via this route. DFID does not itself sell these publications.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143110]

Mr. Thomas: For the years 2001-05 (the latest for which figures are available) the average working days per employee lost to sick leave for DFID are:

	Days
2001	6.0
2002	8.0
2003	7.0
2004	4.8
2005	5.7

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142496]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not currently have any video material on its website. An exercise is under way to assess the technical facilities and procedures needed to create and deliver video effectively, and the use of BSL videos will be considered as part of this work. DFID aims to make its website as accessible as possible, and an independent review of the site recently gave it a high rating for accessibility. The internal Intranet does include video material, and DFID has a policy that this material should have a written transcript, subtitles or a BSL interpreter.

Developing Countries: Energy

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department provided to developing countries for *(a)* the development of industry to extract fossil fuels and *(b)* the development of local renewable energy sources in each of the last five years. [142893]

Mr. Thomas: Improved access to reliable affordable energy supplies and services is essential for the achievement of international development goals. In the energy sector, DFID engages primarily through our international partners and international financial institutions.

DFID has been actively engaged with the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI) since it was launched in 2002. We contribute to the Energy Sector Management Assistance Programme, which is managed by the World Bank on behalf of the donors. DFID is also working closely with the World Bank and regional development banks on the new Clean Energy Investment Framework. DFID is also currently developing a new £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund that will finance environmental projects, including clean energy. In 2007 DFID launched a five-year Energy Research Programme that will include the application of renewable energy, building on earlier DFID funded work on renewable energy technologies.

DFID has not provided any bilateral funding to developing countries during the last five years for the development of industry to extract fossil fuels or for the development of local renewable energy sources.

Developing Countries: Fossil Fuels

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what analysis his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated of the impact on the welfare of people in developing countries of fossil fuel extraction in those countries. [142894]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's primary involvement with fossil fuel extraction projects in developing countries is an indirect one, as a "shareholder" in multilateral financial institutions, such as the World Bank group and the Regional Development Banks, which invest in projects in this sector.

However, DFID reviews how the effects of fossil fuels extraction are managed as part of a commitment to sustainable development and attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

DFID has supported non-governmental organisations in the analysis of the impacts of extractive industries, including fossil fuels. For example, work on the Democratic Republic of Congo looked at natural resource governance. DFID also takes note of the many studies about opportunities and effects of extractive industries, including work by Transparency International, the "Publish What You Pay" campaign and the Resource Endowment Study of the International Council on Mining and Metals.

DFID was actively engaged in the Extractive Industries Review and the International Finance Corporation's review of its environmental and social safeguards policies and procedures. These safeguards are a key tool to ensure the prudent management of the exploitation of natural resources in developing countries. This includes the impact on welfare of people in those developing countries.

DFID has provided support to countries wishing to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). This initiative supports improved governance in resource-rich countries through full publication of company payments and government revenues from oil, gas, and mining. EITI enables non-governmental organisations to participate in the process and work with government and companies to ensure that revenues from extractive industries are fully disclosed.

Developing Countries: Renewable Energy

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for future aid allocations aimed at developing the use of local renewable energy in developing countries. [142892]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is committed to increasing access to reliable and affordable energy to reduce poverty and increase economic growth in developing countries. Renewable energy has an increasingly important role to play in helping developing countries make progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

In terms of future aid allocations, we expect deployment of clean energy investment to happen not through DFID's bilateral aid allocations, but through a big change in the way the multilateral agencies engage in the energy sector. We are encouraging the World Bank and regional development banks to give renewable energy greater attention.

For example, the World Bank has scaled up its financial support for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. In August 2006, it announced a rise to $680 million in commitments in the year to June 2006, an increase of 48 per cent. compared to the previous year. This figure excludes large hydropower projects and covers solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and small (less than 10 MW) hydropower technologies.

We very much welcome this increased investment by the World Bank on clean energy. We now think that the bank needs to set out a high level of ambition for funds flowing through the Clean Energy Investment Framework over the coming years. At the recent spring meetings of the World Bank the UK called on the bank to set a range of new investment and outcome targets, including a higher target for renewable energy.

As announced in the 2007 Budget Statement, a new £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund will finance environmental projects, including clean energy.

DFID has supported the creation of a new €220 million EU African, Caribbean and Pacific Energy Facility, which will start funding projects this year from the European Development Fund. This facility aims to improve access to energy, especially in rural areas of Africa, and has encouraged viable renewable energy proposals.

Finally, DFID is increasing research funding for the energy sector to reflect the growing interest in clean energy for development. This year DFID launched a new five year, £3.75 million energy research programme on renewable energy and is currently scoping areas for further work.

Overseas Aid: Climate Change

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what analysis he has undertaken of the impact of his Department's aid policies and programmes on climate change. [142891]

Mr. Thomas: The 2006 DFID White Paper recognises that climate change poses the most serious long-term threat to development and poverty reduction. We are working to implement our White Paper commitments on three main fronts: work for a global agreement, including helping developing countries prepare for international negotiations; assisting developing countries to adopt clean energy technologies; and helping developing countries adapt to the impacts of climate change.

We assess how well these policies are being implemented through our standard organisational systems. For example, the Department's internal Development Committee regularly assesses how well the Department's policies are being rolled out.

We are considering the changes that will be necessary to how we deliver programmes as a result of climate change. For example we are planning to have procedures in place by 2008 to identify and manage risks associated with climate variability. We have also committed to mainstreaming climate into DFID development activities in climate sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, water, health infrastructure and energy, by 2008, to help developing countries adopt low carbon energy and adapt.

As part of our support to the Clean Energy Investment Framework, we have called for the World Bank and the other multilateral development banks to set out a set of specific targets to cover investments in areas such as renewables and energy efficiency. For example, last year the World Bank committed $860 million in these areas, but it needs to do more. The banks also need to look at their entire investment portfolios including lending for fossil fuels and help Governments make the right choices about their energy mix to underpin sustainable growth and poverty reduction. We expect this analysis to contribute to a better understanding of how to minimise the impact of development investments on carbon emissions.

Our Evaluation Department is currently considering establishing a baseline of data on climate change related indicators to help us better measure the Department's contribution to helping developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Overseas Aid: Fossil Fuels

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to fossil fuel extraction projects through the World Bank and other international financial institutions in the last five years. [142890]

Hilary Benn: During the last five years the World Bank (International Development Association (IDA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) provided around $1.2 billion (£609 million) in financing for activities in fossil fuels. Around one-third of this is for policy work and mine closure programmes. Of the remaining two-thirds, around 80 per cent. is for investment in gas projects, including infrastructure investment such as storage and distribution. Loans for fossil fuel extraction from the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development amounted to $350 million (£178 million) and €768 million (£518 million) respectively. The International Monetary Fund, the African Development Bank, the Inter-American Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank did not fund any fossil fuel extraction projects during this period.

In financial years 2001-02 to 2005-06 the UK provided £2.42 billion for the World Bank's IDA, the African Development Fund (ADF) of the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Fund (AsDF), the Caribbean Development Bank Special Fund, the IMF, Regional Development Bank Capital Subscriptions including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and other IFI programmes. Details can be found in DFID's Annual Report 2007, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Contributions from the UK and other shareholders are one source of finance drawn upon by the international financial institutions to provide loans and grants to developing countries. The banks also draw on other sources such as repayments and investment earnings. Lending on more commercial terms—to more developed countries—is usually financed from the banks' own resources. Assistance to poorer countries, on much more concessional terms, is financed by a combination of the banks' and donor resources. Therefore it is not possible to say what proportion of the UK's contributions was spent on fossil fuel extraction projects.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Project Al Yamamah

Nick Harvey: To ask the Solicitor-General what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* other Departments gave the Director of the Serious Fraud Office with regard to his investigation into the Al Yamamah deal with Saudi Arabia; and when the advice was given. [119161]

The Solicitor-General: I refer to my previous explanations of the views which were conveyed to the Director of the Serious Fraud Office about the national security implications of the investigation, 14 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1120; 7 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 875-76.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many officials work in his Department. [143173]

David Cairns: The number of staff in the Scotland Office is published in the Office's Annual Report for 2007, a copy of which is in the House Library.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141991]

David Cairns: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Transport on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1269W.

Departments: Pay

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was paid in bonuses to his Department's staff in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [142724]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1765W and to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1048W.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much energy in kilowatt hours was purchased by his Department from renewable sources in the most recent year for which figures are available. [142204]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office subscribes to the sustainable development policies adopted by the Ministry of Justice.

The Scotland Office is included in the Ministry of Justice's annual returns on total energy usage across the Ministry's estate.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his strategy is for renewable energy and meeting energy targets in departmental buildings; and if he will make a statement. [142207]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office subscribes to the sustainable development policies adopted by the Ministry of Justice.

Elections

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any manual counts took place during the Scottish *(a)* parliamentary and *(b)* local election areas which used electronic counting to verify the accuracy of the counting machines. [141634]

David Cairns: It is for individual Returning Officers to decide on the conduct of the count. All 32 Returning Officers chose to conduct the count electronically and are confident of the accuracy of the result.

Oil: Natural Gas

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the fiscal regime for the UK oil and gas sector. [140992]

David Cairns: The fiscal regime for the UK oil and gas sector is a reserved matter. The Government are committed to realising the full potential of our oil and gas reserves. This is why this year's budget confirmed that we would provide stability in the North sea fiscal regime—as requested by the industry—including retaining generous capital allowances and a continuing engagement with the industry to consider a future fiscal regime for the North sea.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment the Government has made of the likely impact on *(a)* Scotland's infrastructure and *(b)* the Scottish economy of the relocation of (i) plumbers, joiners, electricians and related professionals and (ii) architects and associated building professionals to London and the South-East of England to service the Olympic building programme and associated developments. [143254]

David Cairns: The construction of the Olympic park and venues present huge opportunities for Scottish businesses. The flexibility within the UK labour market, that is a benefit of Union, has contributed substantially to the record levels of employment Scotland currently enjoys.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Prime Minister what assessment he has made of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on the Downing Street website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142544]

The Prime Minister: Although British Sign Language is not used on the Number 10 website, my Office is committed to providing a website that is accessible to the widest possible audience, including those who have hearing impairments. For example, the website provides transcripts and captions for audio and audio-visual material.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Carbon Sequestration: Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what funding is available for research on carbon capture and storage technology. [143148]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI supports research and development for carbon capture and storage (CCS) through the Technology Programme. During 2005-06 some £3.5 million was set aside for Carbon Abatement Technologies of which £2.3 million has been allocated to CCS. This funding will continue through 2007 at which stage the new arrangements for the Technology Strategy Board and Energy Technologies Institute will be introduced.

Additionally £35 million has also been allocated for the demonstration of components for CCS technologies. To date some £1.4 million of those funds has been set aside for one project.

Funding is also made available by the Research Councils. The following table outlines their expenditure on CCS research to date:

	£
2000-01	23,000
2001-02	42,000
2002-03	78,000
2003-04	30,000
2004-05	966,000
2005-06	1,072,000

Cotonou Agreement

Mr. Andy Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment has been made by his Department on compliance with the Cotonou Agreement by the EU in its negotiations of economic partnership agreements; and if he will make a statement. [142183]

Mr. McCartney: The DTI and the Department for International Development work closely together on issues relating to the Cotonou Agreement, in particular on economic partnership agreements.

Article 37.4 of the Cotonou Agreement states that the parties should carry out a formal comprehensive review in 2006. The UK was active in ensuring that the ACP had full participation in the review. All six EPA regions completed their reviews by April this year and these were endorsed by the EU-ACP Council of Ministers on 25 May 2007.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143788]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Central records indicate that the Department has procured no services or products from Remploy in the last 12 months.

Domestic Wastes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice the Chief Scientific Adviser has provided in relation to the collection of household rubbish. [143657]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's Chief Scientific Advisor, Sir David King, has not provided specific advice in relation to the collection of household rubbish. Lead responsibility for assuring the quality of scientific evidence within individual Departments lies with the Chief Scientific Advisors appointed by those Departments.

Estate Agents: Complaints

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 946W, on estate agents: complaints, how many of the 210 complaints about the conduct of estate agents received by the Office of Fair Trading in 2006 were referrals from the Ombudsman for Estate Agents. [143187]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* None of the complaints received by the Office of Fair Trading in 2006 were referrals from the Ombudsman for Estate Agents.

Estate Agents: Fees and Charges

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what research has been carried out *(a)* by and *(b)* on behalf of his Department into average fees charged by estate agents since the 2004 Office of Fair Trading report into the estate agency market. [143184]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* The Department has not carried out, or commissioned on its behalf, any research into average fees charged by estate agents since 2004.

The Office of Fair Trading has a general duty to keep under review the estate agency market including commercial developments relating to the carrying on of estate agency work, and the working and enforcement of the Estate Agents Act 1979.

The Office of Fair Trading is also responsible under UK competition legislation for monitoring markets and investigating allegations of anti-competitive behaviour.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many claims by former miners or their families have yet to be settled in respect of compensation for *(a)* chronic bronchitis, emphysema or other respiratory diseases, *(b)* vibration white finger, *(c)* carpal tunnel syndrome and *(d)* pneumoconiosis in (i) Stoke-on-Trent Central, (ii) Stoke-on-Trent North, (iii) Stoke-on-Trent South, (iv) Stone and (v) Stafford constituencies; and how many claimants in each category have received interim payments. [141242]

Malcolm Wicks: *[pursuant to the reply, 12 June, Official Report, c. 906W]:* The entry on the table under VWF claims: Families who received interim payment in the Stoke-on-Trent Central constituency should read 13 and not 11. The total outstanding (miners) for Stoke-on-Trent North constituency should read 45 and not 47. Families who have received an interim payment in the Stone constituency should read 6 and not 4.

The entry on the table under Carpal Tunnel Syndrome claims: Families who have received an interim payment in the Stroke-on-Trent Central constituency should be 2 and not 4. Families who have received interim payment in the Stone constituency should read 1 and not 3.

Intellectual Property Review

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what plans he has to implement Recommendation 39 of the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property; [143021]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that internet service providers and copyright holders are observing protocols to remove and disbar internet users engaged in online copyright theft; and if he will make a statement; [143027]

(3) what progress is being made in ensuring that internet service providers accept their responsibility to tackle online copyright theft; and if he will make a statement. [143028]

Malcolm Wicks: Industry associations representing the interests of internet service providers and copyright holders are actively discussing developments of a voluntary protocol to address misuse of content and copyright theft. Discussions are proceeding well and we would anticipate agreement in autumn to forestall the need for Government intervention.

Minimum Wage: Young People

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether the Low Pay Commission has undertaken research into the effect of a minimum wage for those under the age of 16 years. [143611]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Low Pay Commission has not been asked to undertake research in this area.

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will consider introducing a minimum wage for those under the age of 16 years. [143612]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Government have no plans to introduce a minimum wage for those under the age of 16.

Overseas Trade: Russia

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of the UK's trade with Russia was conducted with the province of Kaliningrad in each year since 1997. [143362]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The statistics are not available. HM Customs and Excise do not record trade with individual Russian provinces (or regional data for any other country).

Packaging

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many prosecutions were made by local authority trading standards departments for over-packaging in each year since 2000. [143655]

Malcolm Wicks: There were two successful prosecutions made by trading standards departments in 2000, followed by a further one in 2004 and another in 2006.

Tidal Power

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the proportion of UK energy supply which tidal power *(a)* could theoretically provide and *(b)* is expected by his Department to provide in the next decade. [143330]

Malcolm Wicks: The tidal energy resource can be split into two categories: tidal current—the extraction of kinetic energy from fast moving tidal currents, and tidal range—the extraction of potential energy release from water at high level relative to low level.

The UK tidal energy programme that ran between 1978 and 1994 estimated the total resource available in the UK, for tidal range energy generation from reasonably exploitable estuaries with a mean tidal range of 3 metres or more, at around 50 tera watt hours per year (around 15 per cent. of current UK demand). Nearly all of this potential resource is in England and Wales, with 90 per cent. located in eight large estuaries—the Severn, the Dee, the Mersey, Morecambe Bay, Solway Firth, the Humber, the Wash and the Thames. The remaining 10 per cent. is in 30-40 smaller estuaries.

A study undertaken in 2005[1] estimated the tidal-current resource at approximately 16 tera watt hours per year (around 5 per cent. of current UK demand).

[1] Black and Veatch (2005). Tidal Stream—Phase II UK Tidal Stream Energy Resource Assessment. A report to the Carbon Trust's Marine Energy

The Department has also carried out a study called ATLAS[2] that looks at the marine resource around the UK, including tidal power. A copy of the study can be found online at

http://www.dti.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/renewables-explained/wind-energy/page27403.html

[2] ABPmer, The Met Office, Garrard Hassan and Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (2004). Atlas of UK Marine Renewable Energy Resources: Technical report. A report to the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Department has not assessed the proportion of UK energy supply that tidal power could be expected to provide in the next decade.

Trade Unions

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what mechanisms the Certification Office has in place to monitor whether trade unions affiliate more members to the Labour Party than contribute to their union's political fund. [143170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Some unions with political funds do not affiliate to any political party. In the case of those unions that affiliate to a political party, the affiliation arrangements are matters for the unions and political parties to decide in accordance with their rules and constitutions. The Certification Officer therefore has no specific powers to monitor the number of members that trade unions affiliate to political parties.

Unfair Commercial Practices Directive

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what progress has been made in implementing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive; [141284]

(2) when he plans to introduce regulations to implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. [141288]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* On 29 May I published a consultation paper seeking views on draft Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations to implement the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. On the same day the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) published a consultation on joint OFT/DTI draft guidance to accompany the regulations. The deadline for responses to both consultations is 21 August. The regulations will be made in the autumn to come into force on 6 April 2008. The guidance will be finalised at the end of this year or in early 2008.

Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether his Department has any plans to update the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977. [141287]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The Government asked the Law Commission and the Scottish Law Commission to consider the case for a unified regime for unfair terms in consumer contracts, bringing together the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977 and the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations

1999. The Commissions reported in February 2005 in favour of a unified regime, and provided a draft Bill. The Government have accepted in principle the recommendations of the Commissions, subject to further consideration of the detail of the issues, and to further work to identify potential cost impacts.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Arms to Sierra Leone Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of the 1998 inquiry into the arms to Sierra Leone affair. [143721]

Mr. McCartney: According to the published report, the inquiry undertaken by Sir Thomas Legg and Sir Robin Ibbs took 68 days and its direct costs amounted to approximately £112,500.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139519]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) advertises in different media for a number of varied reasons. The main expenditure is on recruitment advertising for generalist and specialist staff in the FCO and FCO Services (an executive agency of the FCO since 1 April 2006). In the last five financial years the following totals have been spent on recruitment advertising:

	£
2002-03	456,504
2003-04	381,683
2004-05	493,324
2005-06	547,514
2006-07	460,359

Other FCO departments may also place advertisements on an ad hoc basis, as will the FCO's agency (Wilton Park), and its posts overseas. Details of this expenditure are not held centrally and could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of staff in her Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143913]

Mr. Hoon: The figures requested for Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff are:

Staff	*Percentage*
Male	57.5
Female:	42.5
Disabled[1]	4.3
Aged 55 or over	11.2

[1] Staff are not obliged to declare whether they have a disability nor what it may be. This number represents those who have told us that they are disabled.

We are committed to ensuring that our UK workforce reflects fully the diversity of modern Britain.

We were also one of the few Departments to decide in 2006 to dispense with mandatory retirement ages for staff below the Senior Management Structure.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many recruits to her Department were graduates of Oxford or Cambridge university in each year since 1995. [142460]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold educational details on all staff centrally, and the full information could be collated only at disproportionate cost. Some details are available from 1997 for the FCO fast stream, administered by the Cabinet Office, and for the FCO operational stream from 1997-2000 and 2006. 2007 data are not yet available, as the final list of FCO fast stream and operational appointments has not yet been made.

Oxbridge appointments to the fast stream since 1997

	Percentage of intake from Oxbridge	*Number of appointments from Oxbridge*
1997	48	—
1998	65	—
1999	44	—
2000	57	20
2001	61	13
2002	47	17
2003	51	18
2004	40	10
2005	44	8
2006	50	13

Oxbridge appointments to the operational stream since 1997

	Percentage of intake from Oxbridge	*Number of appointments from Oxbridge*
1997	6	—
1998	7	—
1999	4	—
2000	4	—
2001	—	—
2002	—	—
2003	—	—
2004	—	—
2005	—	—
2006	8	6

Our recruitment processes are run on the principle of fair and open competition, as laid down in the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code (www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk). The minimum education requirement to apply at fast stream is a lower-second class degree in any subject. To apply at operational stream the minimum education requirement is a degree or 2 A-levels with GCSE Mathematics and English Language (grade A* - C) or five GCSEs including Mathematics and English Language (grade A* - C).

Our work experience schemes for undergraduates in 2006 offered placements to students from 18 different universities. The FCO is also active in outreach activities, such as careers fairs and community business events throughout the UK. Through this, the FCO aims to recruit a talented and diverse work force that reflects the society we serve.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what average number of days per year was taken by staff in her Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143063]

Mr. Hoon: The average number of days recorded as sick leave absences by staff of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for each of the past five calendar years is as follows:

	Number
2002	4.93
2003	5.66
2004	6.17
2005	5.62
2006	5.14

These figures, particularly for the early years, may contain a level of under-reporting. They rely on staff and their managers entering absences accurately on our electronic management information system. We have recently revised our sickness absence procedures to improve the accuracy of our records and to reduce the number of days lost to sickness absence. Subject to agreement with our trade unions, we plan to implement the new procedures in September.

Developing Countries: Drugs

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received following the meeting between the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and senior officials from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan; and what steps the UK is taking to increase participation between these partners to stop drug trafficking along their common borders. [143226]

Dr. Howells: We await the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report following the meeting between the UNODC and senior officials from Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan which took place on 12 June.

The UK is keen to encourage increased participation between these partners to stop drug trafficking along their common borders. We encourage regional co-operation between Afghanistan and her neighbours as part of our commitment to supporting the Government of Afghanistan to deliver their National Drugs Control Strategy. This is undertaken through either bilateral or multilateral mechanisms through UNODC. Bilaterally, our missions in Islamabad, Tehran and Kabul help to facilitate better working level contacts and information sharing between these countries to take forward regional practical assistance, including improved border control. We also provide support to the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics Good Neighbourly Relations Declaration meetings to encourage Afghanistan's neighbours to engage in the drugs process. We support UN capacity building projects which foster greater links between regional law enforcement agencies to exchange information on drug trafficking and strengthen Afghanistan's borders.

Iran: Bahai Sect

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations she has made to the Iranian government on the treatment of the Bahá'í community in that country. [143302]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have concerns about the situation of religious minorities in Iran and treatment of the Bahá'í community in particular. We often receive reports of discrimination against Bahá'ís in Iran.

We most recently addressed the situation of the Bahá'ís in our dialogue with the Iranian authorities on 25 May, through an EU Statement. We will continue to raise this issue bilaterally and through the EU.

We have pressed the Iranian authorities on many occasions to take seriously their international human rights obligations, uphold the right to freedom of religion and belief as described in article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and address the intimidation and discrimination suffered by Iranian Bahá'ís. We also take action at the UN, and in December 2006, we along with all EU countries co-sponsored a resolution on human rights in Iran, which expressed serious concern at:

"the escalation and increased frequency of discrimination and other human rights violations against members of the Bahá'í Faith".

Nepal: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is making available to assist the second phase of monitoring Maoist army personnel in Nepal to ensure that no child soldiers are serving. [143225]

Dr. Howells: Under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in Nepal in November 2006, both sides to the conflict have agreed not to include or use children under 18 years of age in the armed forces. The Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) have agreed that any children in the cantonment camps who are identified under phase II of the UN monitoring process will be removed to the care of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and partner agencies to arrange their return home and reintegration into civilian life.

Through the Global Conflict Prevention Pool, the UK has recently provided £150,000 to support UNICEF's programme for the reintegration and rehabilitation of child soldiers. In addition, we have provided funding and technical expertise to help with the arms verification process.

Pakistan: Human Rights

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the freedom from government intrusion of *(a)* the press, *(b)* internet access and *(c)* telecommunications in Pakistan. [143222]

Dr. Howells: On 4 June, the Government of Pakistan introduced an ordinance giving the state regulatory media body, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, enhanced powers to confiscate equipment and revoke licences of media organisations without recourse to a complaints council. However, on 7 June, the Government of Pakistan withdrew these media restrictions pending a review. We welcome the decision to suspend the ordinance as the UK views media freedom as essential to economic and social development and stability, and we actively support the evolution of free and fair media in Pakistan. We have received no reports of government intrusion into internet access or telecommunications in Pakistan.

Palestinians

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the United Kingdom's 1945 Emergency Regulations for Palestine were annulled. [142696]

Dr. Howells: We have found no record of annulment or revocation by the United Kingdom of the Defence (Emergency) Regulations 1945 made by the then Government of Palestine.

Rendition

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what undertakings have been *(a)* sought and *(b)* received from the US Administration since January 2001 that the US Administration has not rendered any detainee through UK territory or airspace since May 1997; and if she will make a statement. [143040]

Dr. Howells: We are clear that the US would not render a detainee through UK territory or airspace without our permission. In an interview covering these issues alongside my right hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) in March 2006 the US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice, said

"the United States respects the sovereignty of our allies and of other countries in the international system".

We have also carried out extensive searches of official records and have found no evidence of detainees being rendered through the UK or overseas territories since 1997 where there were substantial grounds to believe there was a real risk of torture.

There were four cases in 1998 where the US requested permission to render one or more detainees through the UK or overseas territories. Records show the Government refused the US request in two cases and granted the request in the two others. In both these cases, the detainees were subsequently tried and later prosecuted on criminal charges in the US.

Saudi Arabia: Terrorism

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the risks to UK citizens from Al-Qaeda terrorists in Saudi Arabia; and if she will make a statement. [143043]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides the British public with an assessment of the safety of travellers and expatriates overseas through its travel advice.

All of our travel advice is regularly reviewed and draws on a variety of sources, including the local knowledge and expertise of the FCO's overseas posts and intelligence sources.

We believe there is a continuing high threat of terrorism in Saudi Arabia and that terrorists are planning further attacks, including against westerners.

The travel advice for Saudi Arabia can be found on the FCO website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket%2FXcelerate%2FShowPage&c==Page&cid=1007029390590&a=KCountryAdvice&aid=1013618387135.

Saudia Arabia: Arms Trade

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the Government have received from *(a)* the government of Saudi Arabia and *(b)* its representatives on the Serious Fraud Office inquiry into defence sales to Saudi Arabia; and if she will make a statement. [143094]

Dr. Howells: The Government are in frequent and regular contact with the government of Saudi Arabia as part of the normal conduct of our close bilateral relationship across a wide range of issues of mutual concern.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the assurances of the Transitional Federal Government that a planned Reconciliation Congress in Somalia will be fully inclusive, regardless of clan loyalty. [143219]

Mr. McCartney: Lasting security in Somalia will only be possible with a credible political reconciliation process. We believe that the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is the only body that can bring stability across Somalia, as envisaged by the Transitional Federal Charter. But we strongly believe it must be more inclusive and develop a broad base of clan acceptance if it is to succeed. Therefore, we have repeatedly stressed to the TFG that it should reach out to all Somalis who reject violence, regardless of clan and that the National Reconciliation Congress, now scheduled to start in mid July, represents an excellent opportunity to do this. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, made this point in person to President Yusuf when he visited the UK in February and to the Somali Foreign Minister on 7 June. The meeting of the International Contact Group in London on 6 June sent the same strong message to the TFG through the Somali Foreign Minister. We will continue to work for this.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps she is taking to further a cessation of violence by fundamentalist Islamic militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts in Somalia; and what discussions the

UK has held with the International Contact Group on the establishment of peace and stable government in Somalia. [143221]

Mr. McCartney: We do not believe the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) still exists as a coherent political entity. A meeting of the International Contact Group (ICG), hosted by the Government in London on 5 and 6 June, strongly condemned actions of extremists and terrorists and those looking to undermine the political and reconciliation process. The ICG called on the international community to do everything it could to prevent further acts of violence. We fully support these views.

At the same time, the ICG has publicly stressed the need for the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to do all it can to make the National Reconciliation Congress as inclusive as possible so that there will be a broad clan-based acceptance of the TFG. We believe that this offers the best long-term way to increase political participation and stable government, as well as to reduce the scope for violence.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of the movement of Tamils from the city of Colombo by the Sri Lankan Government; and if she will make a statement. [142947]

Dr. Howells: On 7 June, the Sri Lankan Government removed between three and four hundred people from boarding houses and lodges in a mainly Tamil area of Colombo and transferred them to majority Tamil areas of the north and east of the country.

We supported an EU statement which condemned their forced eviction and called on the Sri Lankan Government to halt this activity and to take action to safeguard the rights of those already removed.

We welcomed the apology offered by the Sri Lankan Prime Minister for the evictions.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she has received on the forced relocation of people in Sri Lanka. [142948]

Dr. Howells: Although we receive frequent representations on the conflict in Sri Lanka and on the peace process there, we have not so far received any specific representations on this issue.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage China, India and Malaysia to ensure that their activities and influences in the region are conducive to alleviating the conflict in Darfur. [142556]

Mr. McCartney: We regularly discuss Darfur with the Chinese Government including at the UN. We want China to use its influence with the Sudanese Government to ensure Khartoum supports the deployment of joint UN peacekeeping forces in Darfur, as well as committing to a ceasefire and renewed political process. We gave this message to the Chinese Government before President Hu's visit to Africa earlier this year. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Sudan with the Chinese Government during her trip there last month, as did my right hon. Friend the Deputy Prime Minister during his visit to China in April. We have also raised our concerns about Sudan directly with the Malaysians and Indians and pressed them to use their influence with Khartoum to get them to co-operate.

WMD Intelligence Review Committee

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was of the Butler Inquiry. [143722]

Hilary Armstrong: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given in the other place to the noble Lord Palmer on 27 October 2004, House of Lords, *Official Report*, column WA125, by my right hon. Friend the Lord President of the Council (Baroness Amos).

TRANSPORT

Eddington Transport Study

9. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to take forward the recommendations of the "Eddington Transport Study"; and if he will make a statement. [143388]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Government set out in the December 2006 pre-Budget report how we intend to take forward the recommendations of the Eddington Study. My Department is now reviewing its strategy and delivery processes in the light of the key conclusions of both the Eddington and Stern reports—including through the recently announced refresh of our appraisal framework. The Department will provide its detailed response to Eddington and Stern alongside the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Canals

10. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on the use of canals as a part of an integrated transportation system; and if he will make a statement. [143390]

Dr. Ladyman: It is Government policy to encourage the greater use of the inland waterways for carrying freight, where this is practical and economic. Passenger transport on canals is dominated by the leisure industry.

Road Safety Targets

11. **Meg Hillier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards meeting 2010 road safety targets. [143391]

Dr. Ladyman: Provisional statistics for 2006, compared with the 1994 to 1998 averages, indicate that the number of people killed or seriously injured was 34 per cent. below the baseline, the number of children

killed or seriously injured was 53 per cent. below the baseline and the slight casualty rate was 26 per cent. below the baseline.

Bus Services

12. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to give local authorities a greater role in planning bus services. [143392]

Gillian Merron: The draft Local Transport Bill proposes changes to enable local authorities to secure better local bus services. It sets out measures to promote more effective partnership working between local authorities and bus operators and makes the implementation of quality contracts schemes a realistic option in areas where it is in the public interest for local authorities to take greater control of bus services.

15. **Andrew Gwynne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to improve the quality of bus services. [143395]

Gillian Merron: Last month the Government published a draft Local Transport Bill for consultation. This includes proposals to provide the necessary powers for local authorities to improve bus services as set out in "Putting Passengers First".

Trams: Nottingham

13. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made on approving the next tram line in Nottingham. [143393]

Mr. Tom Harris: In October 2006 the Secretary of State announced that he was granting programme entry, for funding purposes, to Phase 2 of the system. In April 2007, Nottinghamshire county council and Nottingham city council applied for the Transport and Works Act powers required to construct and operate the system. I cannot comment on the merits of that application, in order not to prejudice the Secretary of State's fair and impartial consideration of it.

Foreign Registered Aircraft

14. **Mr. Scott:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the timetable is for the Civil Aviation Authority's consultation on the application of UK regulatory requirements to foreign registered aircraft based in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [143394]

Gillian Merron: The Civil Aviation Authority is not conducting a consultation on the treatment of foreign registered aircraft based permanently in the UK. However, the Department completed a consultation in 2005 and the Government response is available on the Department's website.

Trains: Overcrowding

16. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on levels of rail overcrowding. [143396]

Mr. Tom Harris: We will continue to increase capacity through the franchising process and in other ways. In particular, the Secretary of State announced on 14 March that the High Level Output Specification, to be published in July, will include a commitment to a thousand extra carriages. They will be targeted at the most congested routes on the network.

Rail Services

17. **Mr. Rogerson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures his Department is putting in place to increase the number of passenger journeys on branch lines of the rail network. [143397]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Government are implementing the Community Rail Development Strategy which is intended to increase the number of passengers using branch lines and other rural and suburban routes.

Car Usage

18. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in reducing travel by motor car since 1997. [143398]

Dr. Ladyman: Between 1996-98 (combined years) and 2005, the average number of trips and the average distance travelled per person per year as a car driver has remained stable at around 435 trips and 3,700 miles respectively. However, because the population of Great Britain has increased by 3 per cent. over this period, overall there has been an increase in car travel.

Vehicle Emissions

19. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make a statement on progress in lowering the average level of emissions per vehicle. [143399]

Dr. Ladyman: Voluntary agreements are currently in place requiring the car industry to reduce carbon dioxide emissions of new cars by around 25 per cent. from 1995 levels (to an average of 140 grammes per kilometre by 2008-09). However, these agreements are unlikely to be met - the 2004 average for the EU was 163g/km. The Commission is now proposing mandatory new car CO_2 targets and the UK supports this approach.

Nottingham Express Transit Tramway

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the total cost has been so far of the Nottingham Express transit tramway; what the estimated cost is of the proposed extension to Chilwell and Clifton; how many properties, including dwelling houses, are expected to have to be demolished to make way for the extension; and what the expected cost is thereof. [143263]

Mr. Tom Harris: The total cost of building Nottingham Express Transit (NET) Line 1 was £200 million.

Up to the end of the 2006-07 financial year approximately £10 million has been spent on developing NET Phase Two. The approved scheme cost for Phase Two is £482 million (2005 present value prices).

It is possible that approximately 80 properties may be demolished by the NET Phase Two proposals, although this remains subject to detailed design. Overall land costs, which would include these properties, is estimated at approximately £37 million. The promoters of the system have stated that detailed property values are commercially sensitive at present.

A120: Essex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he is in a position to provide updated information on the preferred route of the A120 Braintree to Marks Tey improvement; and what exhibitions and presentations are planned to be provided to explain how the decision was made. [143872]

Dr. Ladyman: A public consultation on options for dualling the A120 between Braintree and Marks Tey ended on 17 June 2005, and resulted in a number of additional routes being suggested by respondents. The Highways Agency has been carrying out further work on these proposals, which should be complete this summer. Once I have received that advice I will be in a position to consider the way forward and how those affected should be informed.

A21: Baldslow

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will take steps to ensure that the implementation of the Baudslow link improvement on the A21 will be accelerated; [143771]

(2) if he will make a statement on the delivery of the Baldslow link improvement on the A21; and whether it will be brought forward to be delivered in parallel with the Bexhill to Hastings link road; [143933]

(3) when he expects the Baldslow link improvement to be delivered; and whether funding has been allocated for its construction. [143934]

Dr. Ladyman: The A21 Baldslow Link trunk road improvement is being promoted by the Highways Agency and is a complementary scheme to the Bexhill - Hastings Link Road which is being promoted by East Sussex county council. The Baldslow Link has been prioritised by the south east region for funding from the Regional Funding Allocation with a start of works in 2010-11. It is currently intended that the Baldslow Link would start construction at about the time the Bexhill Hastings Link Road opens to traffic. While planning of the scheme is currently on time, the Highways Agency will seek to improve on this.

Aviation: Exhaust Emissions

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will commission research and development into minimising *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions and *(b)* general environmental impacts caused by commercial aircraft engines. [140604]

Gillian Merron: Government are committed to ensuring that effective policy development and environmental action relies upon sound research, evidence and knowledge transfer. This is why we are investing in initiatives such as the new knowledge transfer network called OMEGA (Opportunities for Meeting the Environmental Challenge of Growth in Aviation). OMEGA defines specific areas where work is needed, facilitates inter-disciplinary research and supports strategic longer-term thinking. A number of other collaborative research programmes funded through the DTI collaborative research mechanism are set to deliver improvements. These include the £95 million Environmentally Friendly Engine programme. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Industry and the Regions on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1492W.

Government are also supporting work from the aviation industry. We welcomed the Sustainable Aviation initiative, launched in June 2005, which aimed to place sustainability at the forefront of the sector's strategic planning. The Government also welcomed the Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe (ACARE), which adopted stretching European targets for environmental performance of new aircraft and engines by 2020. These include reducing the fuel consumption and hence carbon emissions by 50 per cent., relative to new aircraft in the year 2000, with 20-25 per cent. savings from airframe developments, 15-20 per cent. from the engines and 5-10 per cent. from improved air traffic management.

On an international level the UK is playing an important role and is contributing to a number of work streams in the Committee for Aviation Environmental Protection under the auspices of the UN's International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

The Government intend that the initiatives such as those mentioned above will improve our evidence base on aviation science, technology, operations and economic issues in ways that will help deliver improved environmental performance and longer term sustainability.

Aviation: Northern Ireland

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many near misses were recorded over Northern Ireland airspace in the last 12 months; and how many related to flights into or out of (a) Belfast International, *(b)* Belfast City and *(c)* Londonderry airports. [143818]

Gillian Merron: During the period from 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007, three Airprox incidents in airspace over Northern Ireland were reported to the independent UK Airprox Board (UKAB) for investigation and assessment.

One of these Airprox is reported to have involved one aircraft operating into Belfast International airport, the other aircraft being outbound from Belfast City airport. This Airprox remains subject to assessment by the UKAB following which the findings will be published both on the UKAB's website at www.airproxboard.org.uk and subsequently in hardcopy.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what Government policy is on the adoption of harmonised aviation security regulations across Europe as defined in EC Regulation 2320/2002. [143348]

Gillian Merron: The UK was a strong advocate of the establishment of baseline security requirements across the European Union, and supports the principle of harmonisation for the benefits it can bring for travellers and industry. It is important however that member states are able to require additional aviation security measures in their own territory, where they judge this necessary for the proper protection of aviation interests and passengers.

Mr. Donohoe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he next plans to assess the basis for the restrictions on the number of pieces of carry-on luggage allowed for passengers departing from UK airports; [143157]

(2) when he last assessed the basis for the restrictions on the number of pieces of carry-on luggage allowed for passengers departing UK airports; [143185]

(3) when he expects the restrictions on the number of pieces of hand luggage for airline passengers to be amended or removed. [143239]

Gillian Merron: The current security regulations remain under constant review. It is not possible to state when further adjustments might be made to the measures that apply to cabin baggage. However we have made clear throughout our readiness to remove the one bag limit once industry—collectively—is confident of its ability to deliver security effectively without it.

Blue Badge Scheme: Misuse

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of abuse of the blue badge scheme, with particular reference to *(a)* the incidence of theft of blue badges, *(b)* misuse by people not entitled to have blue badges and *(c)* misuse by family members when the badge holder is not present. [142486]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport is working with the Home Office and local agencies to improve data collection and promote good practice in this area.

The Department is committed to tackling all Blue Badge misuse as signalled by a three month, strategic review of the scheme, which will report in September 2007. This will culminate in the production of a comprehensive Blue Badge Reform Strategy by April 2008.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) who will administer the national off peak free bus travel scheme for pensioners and disabled people; [143994]

(2) what the expected start date is for the introduction of the national off peak free bus travel scheme for pensioners and disabled people; [143995]

(3) from which budget the national off peak free bus travel scheme for pensioners and disabled people will be funded; [143996]

(4) what eligibility conditions for travel will be in place for the national off peak free bus travel scheme for pensioners and disabled people. [143997]

Gillian Merron: As announced in the 2006 Budget the national bus concession will be introduced in April next year (the exact date will be decided in due course). Eligibility on age or disability grounds will be the same as for the current statutory concession—people aged 60 and over, or who come under one of the seven categories of disability listed in the Transport Act 2000, will qualify.

Guidance to local authorities on eligibility for disabled people was published in 2001 and updated in 2005 (copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House). The Department is looking to re-issue this guidance later in the year following consultation with its Concessionary Fares Working Group.

An eligible person, on the presentation of a pass, will be entitled to travel for free on any local bus service in England from 9.30am to 11pm on weekdays and at any time at weekends and Bank Holidays.

The responsibilities for administering the concession—assessing eligibility, issuing passes, reimbursing the bus operators and enforcement—will rest with the existing travel concession authorities (TCAs). These are shire districts, unitary authorities, the Passenger Transport Executives in the metropolitan areas, and the London boroughs (we expect the London councils to administer the concession on behalf of the boroughs). The Concessionary Travel Bill currently before Parliament includes an order making power to change the tier of local government at which the concessionary fares is administered in the future, for example from shire districts to county councils.

TCAs can voluntarily enter into joint arrangements with other authorities e.g. a county council could administer the scheme on behalf of its districts. The Department is keen to see such arrangements, due to the administrative efficiencies.

The Concessionary Travel Bill will require the TCA to issue passes to those people that qualify, on age or disability grounds, who appear to have their 'sole and principal' residence in the TCA.

The extra funding (up to £250 million per year) will either be distributed via the formula grant system (as is the case for current funding of mandatory concession) or specific grant. A decision on the funding route will be made in due course.

Buses: Safety

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact of bus design on the risk of injuring pedestrians. [143408]

Gillian Merron: No specific assessment has been made but the Department is reviewing two related areas. The first review will identify the key safety issues with large passenger, goods and agricultural vehicles, and suggest cost-effective proposals to address them. The second review will improve our understanding of the nature, and underlying causes of trends in pedestrian accidents involving large passenger and goods vehicles.

The reports are expected to become available in the autumn, for consideration of appropriate further action.

Cycling

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to encourage the use of cycles *(a)* to and from workplaces and *(b)* within local communities; and if he will make a statement. [144057]

Mr. Tom Harris: Cycling England, the Government's advisory body on cycling, is tasked with getting more people cycling, more safely, more often. It is working with local authorities and others to promote cycling, focusing on the journey to work and to school. We doubled Cycling England's budget to £10 million last year and launched "Bikeability" cycle training earlier this year. The six cycling demonstration towns with whom Cycling England is working have increased cycle trips by around 30 per cent. in just one year.

Furthermore, the Finance Act 1999 and the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003 provided a tax exemption for employers to purchase cycles for their employees to commute to work. In June 2005 the Department issued guidance and assisted in the establishment of a group consumer credit licence for all UK businesses to allow them to implement the scheme up to a value of £1,000 per cycle. We understand from the scheme providers that approximately 70,000 people have benefited from the scheme to date.

Since 1999, we have also sought to mainstream the use of workplace travel, planning to reduce car use and increase sustainable travel such as cycling through guidance and pump priming funding for local authority employed travel plan officers. In February 2007 we set up the National Business Travel Network to enable businesses to share their experiences of travel planning with a view to promoting wider take-up of sustainable workplace travel.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department is on track to deliver the projected carbon savings of 5.1 MtC by 2010 as set out in the 2000 climate change programme; and if he will make a statement. [141867]

Gillian Merron: Savings of 5.1 MtC in 2010 were projected in the 2006 climate change programme from existing transport measures. We remain on track to achieve these.

Departments: Consultants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on consultants in each of the last 10 years. [141010]

Gillian Merron: The Department was formed in May 2002. Details of expenditure by the Department on consultants from 2002-03 to 2006-07 are shown as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	227.5
2003-04	239.5
2004-05	193.3
2005-06	72.1
2006-07	81.2

The business units within the Department currently use separate accounting systems which record expenditure differently. The totals include a mixture of committed spend (i.e. orders raised) and actual spend incurred. The Professional Services Forum definition of consultancy has been applied since 2005-06 resulting in more accurate coding of expenditure.

Departments: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people work in the Rail Directorate of his Department; and what the wages and salaries costs of the directorate were in each of the last five years. [141859]

Mr. Tom Harris: The current established headcount of the Rail and National Networks Directorate is 325.

The Rail Directorate wages and salaries costs for the last five years were:

	£ million
2002-03	3.5
2003-04	4.5
2004-05	4.9
2005-06	19.1
2006-07	16.5

The 2005-06 and 2006-07 costs include staff transferred into the Department from the Strategic Rail Authority.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on hospitality by his Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133252]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport spent £552,796.35 on hospitality for the financial year 2006-07. This spend includes costs for refreshments provided at meetings and working lunches.

The following agencies were not able to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost:

Highways Agency (only provided by the Information Directorate);

Vehicle and Operator Services Agency; and

Driving Standards Agency.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141972]

Gillian Merron: No Ministers in the Department for Transport are allocated a ministerial residence.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was raised from the sale of his Department's property in each of the last five years. [139307]

Gillian Merron: The requested information is as follows:

	£
2002-03	11,657,000
2003-04	4,324,000
2004-05	8,887,263
2005-06	11,852,000
2006-07	9,191,000

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139326]

Gillian Merron: The requested information is as follows:

	£
2002-03	3,269,733
2003-04	4,087,889
2004-05	4,094,935
2005-06	4,225,375
2006-07	3,651,636

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139453]

Gillian Merron: The Department's prime use of external public relations is in support of our marketing activities on the THINK! road safety and Act on CO_2 campaigns. Expenditure in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Total (£)
2002-03	798,254
2003-04	860,934
2004-05	811,538
2005-06	923,072
2006-07	959,681

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142500]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport website has been designed to follow the Guidelines for Government websites and to meet the Web Accessibility Initiative Guidelines conformance level double A. The Code of Practice for Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act states that websites should be made accessible to ensure provision for people with disabilities, hence conformance to the double A standard.

We do not routinely produce BSL versions of material on our website, but have produced a BSL film on use of Seatbelts and Child restraints in support of our THINK! road safety campaign. BSL versions of the Highway Code will be available from the Driving Standards Agency from September if required.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139916]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport came into existence in May 2002 under machinery of government changes. From that date until June 2005, travel agent's fees were paid at 1.5 per cent. of contract turnover, an average figure of £12,500 per quarter. Since 1 July 2005, fees have been paid at a fixed annual rate of £50,000. This figure includes one of the Department's agencies and a small element for the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Five of the Department's agencies either do not pay travel agent's fees, or do not record the fees separately from other travel costs. Further information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The remaining agency, VOSA, spent £199,000 in 2003-04, £180,000 in 2004-05, £134,000 in 2005-06, and £124,000 in 2006-07.

Driving Offences

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 971W, on driving offences, how many vehicles are represented by the 2.5 per cent. of cases in which it is not possible to trace a vehicle from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency database. [143992]

Dr. Ladyman: Currently there are approximately 33 million vehicles on the DVLA database and 2.5 per cent. of this figure is 825,000.

Driving Tests: Fees and Charges

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the costs of the driving theory test were in each year since its introduction; and what the reason was for each change. [144032]

Dr. Ladyman: The following table shows the theory test cost since its introduction in 1996.

Date	*Test type*	*Cost (£)*	*Reason*
1996	All categories of vehicle	15.00	Cost of initial theory test
1999	All categories of vehicle	15.50	Inflationary increase
2002	All categories of vehicle	18.00	Hazard Perception Test introduction
2003	All categories of vehicle	20.50	Balance of Hazard Perception Test costs
2005	All categories of vehicle	21.00	Inflationary increase
2006	All categories of vehicle	21.50	Inflationary increase
2007	Vocational (LGV/PCV)	32.00	Enhanced test with new topics, such as first aid
2007	Car/motorbike	28.50	Enhanced test with new topics, such as first aid

Heathrow Airport: Security

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average waiting time was for travellers going through airport security at Heathrow terminal 4 on 10 June. [142991]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 15 June 2007]*: I would refer the hon. Gentleman to the BAA website—www.heathrowairport.com—which has summary statistics on its monthly performance against a range of service quality measures, including passenger security queuing.

M3: Hampshire

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when junctions 5 to 7 of the M3 motorway will be resurfaced with noise retarding materials; and how many lanes will be resurfaced as part of this work. [143993]

Dr. Ladyman: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 754W.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of unlicensed vehicles on the road in the UK. [144030]

Dr. Ladyman: Evasion among all vehicles in use was estimated to be around 6 per cent. in 2006. This was 2.2 million vehicles.

Parking: Disabled

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department has made any assessment of the effectiveness of road markings distinguishing parking bays for the disabled; [142950]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness amongst drivers of the problems caused by incorrect parking in disabled parking bays. [142951]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport has not made any assessment of the effectiveness of road markings distinguishing parking bays for disabled people.

On-street parking provision and enforcement is the responsibility of individual local authorities. In this context local authorities are best placed to raise the awareness of both disabled and non-disabled drivers about the provision for parking and how disabled parking bays should be used.

The provision and enforcement of parking bays in off-street car parks, whether local authority or privately owned, is a matter for individual car park operators. The Department issues advice on signage and markings in off-street car parks in its Traffic Advisory Leaflet 5/95, "Parking for Disabled People".

The Department is conducting a three month review of the Blue Badge Scheme which will aid us in the publication of a comprehensive Blue Badge Reform Strategy by April 2008. Tackling abuse of the Blue Badge Scheme and the issue of enforcement of disabled person's parking bays on-street will be included in the review.

Pedestrians: Accidents

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrian fatalities were caused by buses in each of the last seven years. [143407]

Gillian Merron: The numbers of pedestrians who were killed as a result of being hit by a bus or coach in a road accident in each of the last seven years is shown in the table:

	Number
1999	69
2000	60
2001	79
2002	55
2003	57
2004	52
2005	47

2005 is the latest year for which figures are available.

Public Transport: Costs

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the change in cost to the passenger of public transport in real terms in each year since 1997, broken down by mode of transport. [142838]

Gillian Merron: Table 1 shows in index form bus and coach fares and rail fares in real terms in each year since 1997.

Table 1: real changes in the cost of transport: UK 1997 to 2006—(Index 1997 = 100)

	Bus and coach fares	Rail fares
1997	100.0	100.0
1998	99.9	100.7
1999	101.9	102.8
2000	103.0	101.5
2001	105.4	103.6
2002	106.9	104.2
2003	108.2	103.0
2004	110.5	103.9
2005	114.6	105.1
2006	112.6	105.9

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Between 1997 and 2006 the real cost of bus and coach fares has increased by 12.6 per cent. and rail fares have increased by 5.9 per cent.

Railways: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to improve the transport infrastructure of *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex for the purpose of (i) facilitating economic growth, (ii) reducing environmental damage and (iii) widening access to services and opportunities to the population. [141896]

Gillian Merron: Local transport plans (LTP) are the mechanism by which local authorities undertake transport improvements at the local level. The objectives of the East Sussex LTP include the reduction of congestion to improve the efficiency of the transport network, the protection of the environment and the improvement of access to services. East Sussex county council received over £10 million from Government to implement its LTP in 2007-08. In Eastbourne the plan's objectives will be delivered via the Eastbourne local area transport strategy which is aimed at addressing local needs.

In addition a number of improvements to the trunk road network in east Sussex have been prioritised by the south east region for funding from the regional funding allocation for major transport schemes. The A27 Southerham-Beddingham improvement (£32 million) is currently under construction and, subject to successful completion of statutory procedures, the Bexhill-Hastings Link Road (£47 million) and the A21 Baldslow junction improvement (£18 million), have both been prioritised for funding by the region over the next five years to 2010-11. East Sussex county council have reported that the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road estimated cost has increased to around £89 million and the region are currently considering whether it is still a priority at the higher cost. In addition, £15 million worth of congestion relief improvements on the A27 at Wilmington have also been prioritised by the region for 2015-16.

On 22 May we published a consultation document 'Strengthening Local Delivery' accompanied by a draft Local Transport Bill. The draft Bill would ensure that local authorities have the right mix of powers to improve their local bus services, following on from the proposals in 'Putting Passengers First'.

The Concessionary Bus Travel Bill, currently before Parliament, provides for a national bus travel concession for older and disabled people in England. The Bill extends the existing statutory concession of free off-peak local bus travel within an eligible person's local authority area, introduced in 2006, to free off-peak local bus travel anywhere in England, widening access to services and opportunities for a significant number of Eastbourne and east Sussex residents.

With regard to Rail investment, figures are not available specifically for east Sussex but the county will benefit from a number of recent improvements. All older 'slam-door' rolling stock south of the Thames has been removed from the network. The electric multiple units now used by southern TOCs are less than three years old, and are more reliable, and faster than their predecessors. With the accompanying power supply upgrade of recent years, passengers on Southern, Southeastern and South West Trains have also benefited from £2.7 billion worth of investment since 2003.

Road Traffic

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in reducing congestion in each Government office region. [141047]

Gillian Merron: A research commission to assess parts 2, 3 and 4 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 commenced on the 4 June 2007, and where appropriate results will be presented by Government office region.

An assessment of how local traffic authorities performed their network management duties (part 2 of the Act) was conducted in 2006, the results of which are still to be finalised.

In April 2007 an assessment took place following the deployment of the Traffic Officer Service (part 1 of the Act). Results of the assessment are yet to be published.

Roads: Accidents

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the survival chance of a pedestrian hit by a vehicle travelling at *(a)* 20 mph, *(b)* 30 mph, *(c)* 35 mph, *(d)* 39 mph, *(e)* 40 mph, *(f)* 50 mph and *(g)* 60 mph; and if he will make a statement. [144155]

Dr. Ladyman: Research by Ashton and Mackay estimated the chances of a pedestrian surviving if hit by a vehicle travelling at a variety of speeds. This showed that:

At 20 mph there is about a 1 in 40 chance of being killed.

At 30 mph there is about a 1 in 5 chance of being killed.

At 35 mph there is about a 50/50 chance of being killed.

At 40 mph there is about a 9 in 10 chance of being killed.

The research also showed the chances of a child pedestrian surviving are:

At 30 mph there is about a 1 in 5 chance of being killed.

At 40 mph there is about an 8 in 10 chance of being killed.

Pedestrians being hit by vehicles travelling at 39 mph, 50 mph and 60 mph were not assessed as part of this research.

Thames River Safety Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the cost was of the Thames River Safety Inquiry; [143716]

(2) what the cost was of the 2000 Clark Inquiry into issues arising out of the identification of victims following major transport accidents; [143717]

(3) what the cost was of the Marchioness Inquiry. [143718]

Dr. Ladyman: The total cost to the Department of the Thames Safety Inquiry, the public inquiry into the identification of victims following major transport accidents and the Marchioness Formal Investigation was approximately £6.3 million. Since the individual inquiries ran either concurrently or within a very short time of each other, a breakdown for each separate inquiry is not obtainable except at disproportionate cost.

Trains: Bicycles

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that *(a)* there is adequate space for a reasonable number of bicycles on each train and *(b)* secure cycle parking is available at stations. [144056]

Mr. Tom Harris: Bidders for the franchises that are out to tender currently (East Midlands, West Midlands, New Cross Country and InterCity East Coast) are required to consider bike-rail integration and facilities at stations in their bid submissions. The Government's aspiration is to see 95 per cent. of journeys originating from stations with adequate cycle parking facilities.

Last year the Government asked Cycling England, our advisory group on cycling, to look into how we might better encourage bike and rail journeys. Cycling England has accepted this remit and is now looking to see where progress can best be made further to improve bike and rail integration.

Also, we will continue to encourage Train Operating Companies (TOCs) to carry bikes on trains where possible. This is in line with the Cycling Policy document first published by the former Strategic Rail Authority (SRA) in 2004 and recently adopted by the Department. The Cycling Policy document advises TOCs to facilitate the carriages of cycles on off-peak services and encourages the carriage of folding cycles at all times. However, I accept that during the peak hours, where capacity is under pressure, there will be occasions where it is in the interests of the majority of passengers not to permit non-folding cycles on board.

It is [redacted] TOCs are given a steer by Government as to how [redacted] should ensure they are fully maximising the potential [redacted] bike and rail to help reduce car use. However, TOCs are best placed to know where and when pressure on services exists and they must be free to impose restrictions accordingly, although I hope that such restrictions are carefully considered and kept to a minimum.

Trams: Greater London

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with the London Mayor on the funding of the West London Tram scheme. [143122]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State has had no recent discussions regarding the West London Tram. However, officials from Transport for London and the Department for Transport continue to discuss London's investment options and priorities as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Transport: Schools

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate he has made of the potential extra cost to local authorities of providing transport for pupils to attend special schools as a result of the repeal of section 75 of the Local Government and Provisions Act 1975; and if he will make a statement; [143999]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of obtaining a licence by people who wish to contract with local authorities to provide transport for children to and from special schools; and if he will make a statement. [144000]

Gillian Merron: The decision to repeal section 75(1)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1975, known as the "contract exemption", was motivated by the paramount need to ensure the safety of those being carried under contracts for the hire of a Private Hire Vehicle (PHV).

PHV licence fees are set by local licensing authorities and vary widely from area to area. Making reasonable assumptions about the numbers of drivers, vehicles and operators likely to be involved in total across all sectors, and about average licence fees, we estimate that the total cost will be about £1 million.

No specific estimate of the costs for those involved in transport to and from special schools has been made.

It should be borne in mind that many contracts will already be carried out by drives, vehicles and operators that are already licensed or to whom the contact exemption did not apply. Furthermore, the proportion of licensing cost which will be passed on to those awarding contracts will depend on contracts terms in each case.

HEALTH

Bournemouth Hospital: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans there are to close Bournemouth hospital's accident and emergency department. [139039]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 24 May 2007]:* This is a matter for the chair of The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have written to Sheila Collins informing her of the hon. Member's inquiry. She will reply shortly and a copy of the letter will be placed in the Library.

Cancer

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department made of the needs of people with lymphoma in the preparation of the "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" White Paper. [143741]

Andy Burnham: There was no specific assessment of the needs of people with lymphoma as part of the "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" White Paper. The White Paper's broad focus meant it did not deal with specific illnesses, but focussed instead on principles that would improve care for all patients such as greater integration between health and social care, more treatment in the community and better preventative and early intervention services.

Children: Abuse

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of children under the age of five years who died following abuse or neglect in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [137880]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not estimated the number of children under the age of five years who have died following abuse or neglect in the last five years. The Government do not collect that specific information.

Chiropractice

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requirement exists for chiropractors to register with the Healthcare Commission; and if she will make a statement. [139188]

Andy Burnham: Chiropractors are required to register with the General Chiropractic Council. Chiropractors would be required to register with the Healthcare Commission if they also intended to operate an independent clinic where services are provided by medical practitioners as defined under section 2(4) of the Care Standards Act 2000.

Christopher Clunis Care and Treatment Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the 2000 Ritchie Inquiry. [143711]

Andy Burnham: The cost of the 2000 Ritchie Inquiry was £645,000.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Research

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department plans to take to increase the amount of bio-medical research conducted into chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis; and if she will make a statement. [139022]

Caroline Flint: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Portsmouth, South (Mr. Hancock) on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 561W.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of staff working in her Department was in each financial year since 1997-98. [131908]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not hold data of average salaries. The Department publishes information on pay bill costs and numbers of core Department staff in its annual reports, which are available in the Library.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the (a) budget was and (b) staffing numbers were for each of her Department's arm's length bodies in each year since 1997. [141979]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Such information as is available is shown in the following tables. Budget and staffing numbers for the Department's Arms Length Bodies are not held centrally prior to 2003-04 and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Arm's Length Bodies—Summary of departmental budgets and whole-time equivalent (WTE) posts for 2003-04 to 2007-08

	2003-04	
Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts*
Regulators		
HC	69,713	771
MHAC	3,604	36
Monitor	2,794	28
CSCI	109,860	2,622
HFEA	4,267	106
ROC/HTA	1,210	18
CHRE	1,470	8
GSCC	9,994	173
PMETB	2,089	27
DVTA	265	4
MHRA- Devices	2,600	806
Standards		
NICE	16,602	92
HdA	11,623	138
Public Welfare		
NPSA	16,850	149
NCAA	5,944	89
HPA	107,276	2,726
NRPB	6,385	349
PHLS	4,300	69
NBSB	15,799	308
NTA	8,936	88
CPPIH	24,639	197
Central Services		
NBA (inc BPL)	0	5,599
UKT	9,493	121
NHS LA	5,165	217
FHSAA	870	15
NHS AC	3,447	49
NHSU	27,000	262
NHS MOD	228,797	842
NHS IA/HSCIC	253,022	1,127

Arm's Length Bodies—Summary of departmental budgets and whole-time equivalent (WTE) posts for 2003-04 to 2007-08

2003-04

Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts*
DPB	23,790	321
PPA	66,187	2,438
NHS CFSMS	13,352	250
NHS PA	20,858	339
NHS PASA	20,268	333
NHS LOGS	0	1,403
NHS DIRECT	120,440	1,987
NHS PROF	27,000	671
NHS EST	18,987	412
Total	1,264,896	25,190

2004/05

Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts (estimate)*
Regulators		
HC	71,500	771
MHAC	4,815	36
Monitor	16,000	28
CSCI	112,677	2,622
HFEA	5,850	106
ROC/HTA	0	18
CHRE	2,000	8
GSCC	14,213	173
PMETB	3,874	27
DVTA	240	4
MHRA- Devices	13,000	806
Standards		
NICE	18,815	92
HdA	12,878	138
Public Welfare		
NPSA	15,505	149
NCAA	10,550	89
HPA	121,900	2,726
NRPB	6,695	349
PHLS	0	69
NBSB	16,220	308
NTA	9,800	88
CPPIH	34,725	197
Central Services		
NBA (inc BPL)	19,988	5,599
UKT	12,048	121
NHS LA	5,152	217
FHSAA	1,411	15
NHS AC	3,877	49
NHSU	43,676	262
NHS MOD	218,000	842
NHS IA/HSCIC	277,017	1,127
DPB	25,500	321
PPA	80,048	2,438
NHS CFSMS	16,370	250
NHS PA	22,275	339
NHS PASA	20,841	333
NHS LOGS	0	1,403
NHS DIRECT	18,064	1,987
NHS PROF	27,000	671
NHS EST	16,638	412
Total	1,299,162	25,190

2005-06

Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts*
Regulators		
HC	72,232	771
MHAC	4,884	43
Monitor	15,000	28
CSCI	102,230	2,492
HFEA	4,623	103
HTA	1,000	20
CHRE	2,000	11
GSCC	12,473	264
PMETB	3,229	67
DVTA	252	in BSA
MHRA-Devices	15,523	827
Standards		
NICE	29,268	217
Public Welfare		
NPSA	27,371	311
HPA	151,865	3,287
NBSB	16,576	313
NTA	10,205	126
CPPIH	31,459	118
Central Services		
NHS BT	50,407	6,155
NHS LA	3,041	176
NHS AC	5,256	57
HSCIC	52,539	366
NHS BSA	142,638	3,084
NHS PASA	22,188	353
NHS DIRECT	13,466	3,461
NHS PROF	23,000	742
NHS EST	17,901	0
CfH	172,740	605
NIII	100,000	170
NHS LOGS	0	1,462
Total	1,103,366	25,629

2006-07

Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts*
Regulators		
HC	72,267	889
MHAC	5,016	42
Monitor	12,324	28
CSCI	95,586	2,335
HFEA	2,091	82
HTA	922	42
CHRE	2,000	12
GSCC	12,098	301
PMETB	2,889	51
MHRA-Devices	10,982	831
Standards		
NICE	29,458	230
Public Welfare		
NPSA	31,333	299
HPA	159,884	3,248
NBSB	17,273	313
NTA	10,443	166
CPPIH	29,609	114
Central Services		
NHS BT	43,926	6,110

2006-07

Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts*
NHS LA	3,041	176
NHS AC	4,700	42
HSCIC	39,424	354
NHS BSA	129,530	2,722
NHS PASA	28,110	332
NHS DIRECT	0	2,227
NHS PROF	13,300	740
CfH	152,380	605
NIII	68,950	175
Total	977,536	22,466

2007-08

Name of Arm's Length Body	*Departmental recurrent budgets (£000)*	*WTE posts*
Regulators		
HC	67,264	771
MHAC	5,413	42
Monitor	12,657	50
CSCI	66,350	2,098
HFEA	2,147	82
HTA	1,094	42
CHRE	2,028	12
GSCC	11,515	228
PMETB	2,695	50
MHRA-Devices	11,057	862
Standards		
NICE	30,649	233
Public Welfare		
NPSA	30,077	294
HPA	160,411	3,228
NBSB	18,624	312
NTA	10,837	132
CPPIH	27,300	114
Central Services		
NHS BT	33,732	5,927
NHS LA	3,037	176
NHS AC	3,435	42
HSCIC	33,785	316
NHS BSA	125,432	2,409
NHS PASA	28,246	332
NHS DIRECT	0	0
NHS PROF	9,932	740
CfH	152,380	605
NIII	65,325	175
ENB	1,200	
Total	916,622	19,272

Notes:
1. Figures before 2003-04 are not available without further inquiries.
2. Whole-time equivalent (WTE) figures for 2004-05 are not available without further inquiries, the 2003-04 figures have been used as an estimate.
3. WTE figures relate to the end of the financial year.
4. The WTE figures are for the number of posts and not the number of staff.
5. Budget figures are for recurrent funding including capital charges.
6. The Connecting for Health (CfH) figures reflect the element of NHS Information Authority (NHS IA) funding that was transferred to CfH.
7. Some Arm's Length Bodies (ALBs) in the table are not directly funded by the Department but WTE figures are show as they count towards a Departmental ALB Review target.
8. Headcount figures are not available for ENB.

Source:
Information held centrally by the Department

Key to Arm's Length Body abbreviations

Abbreviation	*ALB name*
CfH	Connecting for Health
CHRE	Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence
CPPIH	Commission for Patient & Public Involvement in Health
CSCI	Commission for Social Care Inspection
DPB	Dental Practice Board
DVTA	Dental Vocational Training Authority
ENB	English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting
FHSAA	Family Health Services Appeal Authority
GSCC	General Social Care Council
HC	Healthcare Commission
had	Health Development Agency
HFEA	Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority
HPA	Health Protection Agency
MHAC	Mental Health Act Commission
MHRA- Devices	Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency – Devices
Monitor	Monitor – Independent Regulator of NHS Foundation Trusts
NBA (inc BPL)	National Blood Authority
NBSB	National Biological Standards Board
NCAA	National Clinical Assessment Authority
NHS AC	Appointments Commission
NHS BSA	NHS Business Services Authority
NHS BT	NHS Blood & Transplant
NHS CFSMS	NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service
NHS DIRECT	NHS DIRECT
NHS EST	NHS Estates
NHS IA/HSCIC	NHS Information Authority / Health & Social Care Information Centre
NHS LA	NHS Litigation Authority
NHS LOGS	NHS Logistics Authority
NHS MOD	NHS Modernisation Agency
NHS PA	NHS Pensions Agency
NHS PASA	NHS Purchasing & Supply Agency
NHS PROF	NHS Professionals
NHSU	NHS University
NICE	National Institute for Health & Clinical Excellence
NIII	NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement
NPSA	National Patient Safety Agency
NRPB	National Radiological Protection Board
NTA	National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse
PHLS	Public Health Laboratory Service Board
PMETB	Postgraduate Medical Education & Training Board
PPA	Prescription Pricing Authority
ROC/HTA	Retained Organs Committee / Human Tissue Authority
UKT	UK Transplant

General Practitioners: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of general practitioner practices in West Lancashire constituency have closed their lists to new patients. [143524]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected centrally. Central Lancashire primary care trust advise that there are no general practitioner practices in West Lancashire that have closed lists.

Harold Shipman Tribunal of Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the Shipman Inquiry. [143710]

Andy Burnham: The cost of the Shipman Inquiry was £21 million.

Health Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she published the conclusions of the review announced in paragraph 3.34 of the Health White Paper Our Health, Our Care, Our Say; and if she will place a copy in the Library. [142044]

Andy Burnham: No date has yet been set for publication. Once published, a copy will be placed in the Library.

Health Services: Children

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department's guidance on the application of the statutory definition of children in need includes children affected by alcohol misuse. [138560]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

Children are defined as 'in need' under section 17 of the Children Act 1989 if they are unlikely to achieve or maintain a reasonable level of health or development, or their health or development would be significantly impaired, without the provision of services by the local authority with children's services responsibility.

The Government's guidance, "A Framework for the Assessment of Children in Need and their Families" (2000) provides guidance on undertaking assessments to support professional judgments about how to help children and families in the best interests of the child. Circumstances such as the misuse of alcohol by a child or by others within the child's family would be among the factors taken into account when carrying out such an assessment.

Health Services: Social Services

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what statutory obligations govern the co-ordination of service delivery between local primary care trusts and local authority delivered social services; [142895]

(2) what guidance is given to primary care trusts and local authority controlled social services serving the same geographical and administrative area on the co-ordination of their service delivery. [142896]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The main pieces of legislation governing co-operation between the national health service and local authorities providing social services are:

Section 82 of the NHS Act 2006 (which is derived from section 22 of the NHS Act 1977) provides that defined NHS bodies and local authorities must co-operate in order to secure and advance the health and welfare of the peoples of England and Wales;

Sections 26 to 32 of the Health Act 1999 which created a new duty of co-operation within the NHS and extend the duty between NHS bodies and local authorities;

Section 45 of the Health and Social Care Act 2001 (now section 77 of the NHS Act 2006) provides for the designation of primary care trusts (PCTs) and NHS trusts as care trusts in cases where they have local authority health-related functions delegated to them by agreement;

Section 10 of the Children Act 2004 which created a statutory framework for local co-operation between local authorities, key partner agencies (relevant partners) and other relevant bodies (other bodies or persons), including the voluntary and community sector, in order to improve the well-being of children in the area; and

Section 4 of the Childcare Act 2006 which creates a reciprocal duty between the local authority and relevant partners in the NHS and Jobcentre Plus to work together in delivering integrated early childhood services to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities in achievement.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill includes provisions to enhance local partnership working and strengthen the role of local area agreements (LAAs). LAAs will form the central delivery contract between local government and its partners. The provisions in the Bill include: a new duty on upper tier local authorities and authorities with upper tier responsibilities to produce a LAA in consultation with other local partners; a new duty on named partners and the local authority to co-operate with each other to agree the targets within the LAA, and to have regard to those targets; and a new duty on local authorities and PCTs to develop a joint strategic needs assessment of the health and social care needs of their local population, the findings of the which will feed into the sustainable community strategy and subsequently the targets in the LAA.

Guidance on the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, including the provisions on partnership working between local authorities and the NHS, will be issued by Communities and Local Government when the Bill receives Royal Assent.

Hospital Beds: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of bed blocking to Cumbria primary care trust and its predecessor primary care trusts in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [142905]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Admissions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of the incidence of patients who having been discharged were subsequently re-admitted for the same complaint within *(a)* one week, *(b)* two weeks, *(c)* one month, *(d)* two months, *(e)* three months, *(f)* four months, *(g)* five months and *(h)* six months; and if she will make a statement. [138742]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not collected in the format requested. However, the Department does collect information on emergency re-admissions and this information can be accessed on the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development website at:

www.nchod.nhs.uk

Medical Treatments: Greater London

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to use *(a)* epidemiological data and *(b)* other research evidence in the further development of the Pan London 3 Year Treatment Information Initiative Commissioning Intentions 2007-2010; and if she will make a statement. [140534]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for London primary care trusts as they are responsible for commissioning pan-London prevention and treatment information programmes.

New Deal for Carers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the £1 million allocated as part of the consultation on the New Deal for Carers will be spent; [144009]

(2) which organisations she expects to receive funds from the £1 million allocated as part of the consultation on carers. [144010]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The £1 million support to carers' organisations that was announced as part of the package on the consultation on the New Deal for Carers is to be made available to national organisations who provide direct support to carers generally and who have a high profile and regard in the field. They will be organisations who have provided close support to the Government in the development of the New Deal for Carers which was formally launched by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 23 February this year.

The funding will be made available to help such organisations to build their capacity to provide direct support for carers.

NHS Treatment Centres: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the performance of NHS walk-in centres at *(a)* Royal Surrey County Hospital, *(b)* Surrey Primary Care Trust and *(c)* in England; and if she will make a statement. [143279]

Andy Burnham: National health service walk-in centres are local services which are commissioned or provided by primary care trusts (PCTs). The White Paper "Our Health, Our Care, Our Say" strongly endorsed such centres as they contribute significantly to improving access to services for many people. Performance management of an individual centre is, however, a matter for the responsible PCT.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when her Department's response to the consultation on branded generic medicines will be published; [144047]

(2) what conclusions she has reached following the consultation on branded generic medicines on their potential to produce savings for the NHS; and if she will make a statement. [144049]

Caroline Flint: The Department has received the report of the Office of Fair Trading's market study of the pharmaceutical price regulation scheme and will consider its findings on this matter before we finally decide upon what action to take concerning branded generic medicines.

NHS: Inquiries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of the three inquiries into the effectiveness of local health services' procedures to deal with complaints about individuals. [143712]

Andy Burnham: The total cost of the three inquiries was £7,336,000. The cost of the Ayling Inquiry was £1,982,000; the Neale Inquiry was £2,145,000 and the Kerr/Haslam Inquiry, which included some common costs for all three inquiries, was £3,209,000.

NHS: Non-Geographic Numbers

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which non-geographic numbers may be used by each type of NHS organisation. [138605]

Andy Burnham: Since April 2005, national health service organisations have been banned from setting up new premium rate telephone numbers (starting with the digits 09) or national rate telephone numbers starting with the digits 087 for patients contacting local services.

NHS organisations are able to set up free phone numbers or those that offer patients a guaranteed low rate call, such as 0845 or 0844 numbers. In addition, Ofcom has recently introduced a new 03 number range to be used by public sector and not for profit bodies, which is charged at local rate.

It is for individual NHS dentists, NHS opticians, general practitioner practices and out-of-hours providers to decide what is in their patients' best interests, taking account of the Central Office of Information guidance on cost to the citizen.

NHS: Standards

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how *(a)* many staff were employed and *(b)* much was spent by her Department analysing NHS targets in each year from 1997 to 2006; and if she will make a statement. [143280]

Andy Burnham: This information is not collected centrally.

Queen's Hospital Romford

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of hospital acquired infections were reported at the Queen's Hospital in Romford in each of the last five years. [135026]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is collected by the Department at trust level only. Queen's hospital is part of Barking, Havering and Redbridge NHS trust and has been open only since December 2006. It would therefore not be relevant to provide trust level data.

TREASURY

Cash Dispensing: Fees and Charges

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what progress has been made on the provision of non-charging ATMs in low income areas since the summit hosted by his Department in May 2006. [142670]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* I have today made a written ministerial statement on this issue.

Child Tax Credit: Take-Up

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies spent on promoting take-up of child tax credit in the latest year for which figures are available. [142852]

Mr. Timms: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 566W.

Campaigns promote take up of both working tax credit and child tax credit (CTC); separate figures for CTC are not therefore available.

Children's Centres: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to fund children's centres in the comprehensive spending review. [142718]

Mr. Timms: The DfES settlement for the comprehensive spending review period (2008-09 to 2010-11) was announced at Budget 2007. This included an announcement of increased expenditure for Sure Start, child care and early years of at least £340 million by 2010-11 compared to 2007-08—leading to a total of over £1.6 billion.

These additional resources include sufficient funding to meet the target for a national network of 3,500 Sure Start children's centres by 2010, one for every community in the country.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the contributing factors in the rise of council tax receipts between 1997-98 and 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [142353]

Ruth Kelly: I have been asked to reply.

Council tax levels are set by local authorities. In addition to changes over time in the Band D level of council tax, the total receipts have been affected by growth in the council tax base. Receipts actually taken by authorities depend also on their collection rates.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research the Valuation Office Agency has *(a)* conducted and *(b)* commissioned on the merits of annual (i) council tax and (ii) business rates revaluations. [142362]

Mr. Timms: None.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* timescale is of the Valuation Office Agency's (i) Enterprise Resource Planning and (ii) World Class programmes. [143652]

Dawn Primarolo: The objective of the world-class programme is as an enabler to deliver the VOA's World-Class Vision, which is set out in the VOA's Forward Plan 2006-10.

The Enterprise Resource Planning system is designed to modernise and integrate back-office functions within the VOA in HR, Finance, Payroll and Procurement. The VOA is planning to introduce ERP in the week beginning 9 July.

Counterfeit Manufacturing: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much revenue he estimates was foregone by the Exchequer due to the trade in counterfeit medicines in 2006. [142946]

John Healey: HMRC do not estimate the amount of revenue lost as a result of the trade in specific goods, including counterfeit medicines.

Debts

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average personal *(a)* unsecured debt and *(b)* total debt was as a percentage of income in each year since 1997. [143313]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question on average personal unsecured debt and total debt was as a percentage of income in each year since 1997. (143313)

The information requested is shown in the following table. The data for unsecured debt (households' total financial liabilities other than secured debt) and income (households' gross disposable income) used in the calculations are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. The accounts for the household and NPISH sectors are currently combined; separate estimates are not available.

For the denominator in the calculations the series used is Population aged 16+.

	Annual income per person (£)	Unsecured debt per person (£)	Unsecured debt as a percentage of income	Total debt per person (£)	Total debt as a percentage of income
1997	12,307	3,450	28.0	12,894 I	104.8
1998	12,763	3,706	29.0	13,691	107.3
1999	13,279	3,985	30.0	14,731	110.9
2000	13,955	4,332	31.0	15,937	.114.2
2001	14,787	4,749	32.1	17,466	118.1
2002	15,182	5,433	35.8	19,766	130.2
2003	15,755	5,830	37.0	22,277	141.4
2004	16,180	6,259	38.7	24,766	153.1
2005	16,865	6,519	38.7	26,183	155.3
2006	17,344	6,739	38.9	28,509	164.4

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average total personal debt servicing level as a percentage of income was for *(a)* interest and *(b)* capital repayments in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [143314]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question on the average total personal debt servicing level as a percentage of income for each year 1997. (143314)

The information available is shown in the following table. The only information available on repayments is payment of interest on loans. Capital repayments are not available. The data for interest on loans and income (households' gross disposable income) used in the calculations are national accounts series for the combined household and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH) sectors. The accounts for the household and NPISH sectors are currently combined; separate estimates are not available.

	Interest on loans (£ million) QWMG	Household disposable income (£ million) QWND	Interest on loans as a percentage of income (QWMG/ QWND)*100
1997	41862	559941	7.5
1998	51219	582790	8.8
1999	47434	608988	7.8
2000	52875	643415	8.2
2001	52141	686312	7.6
2002	51513	709048	7.3
2003	53576	740389	7.2
2004	62677	765683	8.2
2005	71091	804778	8.8
2006	75053	834240	9.0

Departments: Resignations

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of his Department's civil servants tendered their resignation in the last month. [142686]

John Healey: Six Treasury officials resigned in May 2007.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143064]

John Healey: The latest available data on sickness absence are published at the Cabinet Office statistics website under analysis of sickness absence in the civil service at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/conditions%5Fof%5Fservice/publications/

Disabled Children

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the transition support programme announced in Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families will be piloted; and in what parts of the country these pilots will take place. [143557]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

We intend that the Transition Support Programme will be piloted from 2008-09. Work is in progress on developing the pilots and more details will be available later this year. No decision has yet been taken on what parts of the country the pilots will take place.

The Council for Disabled Children has produced draft guidance on transition which will be published by the Department later this summer.

Employment: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people in West Lancashire constituency were recorded as being in full-time employment in the financial year ended March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007; [143530]

(2) how many people in West Lancashire constituency were registered as unemployed in the financial year ending March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [143532]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment and unemployment in West Lancashire. (143530, 143532).

The Office for National Statistics compiles employment and unemployment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Estimates of the number of people in full-time employment, resident in the West Lancashire constituency, as well as all the other parliamentary constituencies in Great Britain, was provided in an Answer on 3rd May 2007 (Hansard: column 1806W-1807W, reference 135561).

There were 3,000 unemployed people aged 16 and over, resident in the West Lancashire constituency, in the 12 month period ending in February 1997 based on data from the annual

local area LFS. The estimate for the 12 months ending in September 2006, from the latest available data from the APS, is 3,000. The corresponding unemployment rates are 7.2 per cent for 1997 and 5.8 per cent for 2006.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). The annual average number of people, resident in the West Lancashire constituency, claiming ISA from March 1996 to February 1997 was 3,230, and for October 2005 to September 2006 was 1,673. Data on numbers of ISA claimants are available for more recent periods than the APS data, and the annual average number of claimants in West Lancashire for April 2006 to March 2007 was 1,711.

Energy: Conservation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* energy action plans and *(b)* buildings have been adapted for energy efficiency under the Eighth Inclusive Communities Budget; at what cost; and whether a Ninth Inclusive Communities Budget is planned. [142592]

John Healey: Priority areas for round 8 of the Invest to Save Budget—Inclusive Communities included improved energy efficiency in the public sector and third sector bodies and efficiency and increased access to the arts and culture sector. I refer to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1162W, for further detail about these projects. These projects are in their initial stages and we do not have the detail on energy action plans or numbers of buildings adapted at this stage.

Round 9 of the Invest to Save Budget concluded on 27 October 2006 and winners were announced with the Budget on 21 March 2007. Details of the successful projects can be found in the House Library.

Families

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families with a child under the age of 18 years where there is *(a)* one parent or guardian and *(b)* two parents or guardians. [143594]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 19 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your request for the number of families with a child under the age of 18 years where there is (a) one parent or guardian and (b) two parents or guardians. I am replying in her absence. (143594)

The available figures are estimates from the Labour Force Survey of the numbers of families with dependent children in the United Kingdom in each year. A child is considered to be dependent if they are aged under 16 or 1648 but in full-time education. For this reason, the figures include some children aged 18 (those in full-time education). In 2006, it is estimated that there were 1,879 thousand lone parent families with dependent children and 5,474 couple families with dependent children.

Immigration: Greater London

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of international migrants in *(a)* London and *(b)* Wimbledon constituency under (i) the International Passenger Survey and (ii) the proposed Labour Force Survey calculation method. [143012]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reply to your question regarding the estimates made of the number of international migrants in (a) London and (b) Wimbledon constituency under (i) the International Passenger Survey and (ii) the proposed Labour Force Survey calculation method. (143012)

ONS has recently published material detailing a number of proposed improvements to the methods used to estimate the effect of international migration on population. Both the existing method and the planned improvements make use of the International Passenger Survey (IPS). One of the planned improvements is to use the Labour Force Survey to distribute IPS estimates of international migration into the UK between the constituent countries of the UK, and between government office regions within England. Information on this is available at the following page of the National Statistics website: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14834.

Under the existing methods, the net effect of international migration on the population of London was to add 396,000 people to the population between mid-2002 and mid-2005. Under the proposed methods, the indicative net effect of migration would be to add 336,000 to London's population over this period.

ONS does not produce migration estimates for parliamentary constituencies.

Lymphoma

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people were diagnosed with lymphoma in each of the last 21 years; [142935]

(2) how many people died from lymphoma in each of the last 21 years. [142936]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 19 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent questions asking how many people were diagnosed with, and how many people died from, lymphoma in each of the last 21 years. I am replying in her absence. (142935, 142936)

The most recent year for which figures are available is 2004 for incidence and 2005 for mortality. The table below shows the number of newly diagnosed cases and deaths from Hodgkin's disease and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in England from 1984 to the most recent year. These cancers have been presented separately as they have very different epidemiological characteristics and treatments.

Number of newly diagnosed cases and deaths from Hodgkin's disease[1] and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma[2] England, 1984 to 2005[3]

	Hodgkin's disease		Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma	
	Newly diagnosed cases	Deaths	Newly diagnosed cases	Deaths
1984	1,148	448	4,225	2,584
1985	1,250	433	4,671	2,680
1986	1,185	426	4,757	2,818
1987	1,137	433	5,114	3,023
1988	1,114	401	5,570	3,243
1989	1,100	362	5,601	3,278
1990	1,130	348	5,733	3,355
1991	1,019	341	6,080	3,470
1992	1,154	364	6,253	3,583
1993	1,108	326	6,303	3,544
1994	1,104	252	6,669	3,591
1995	1,063	281	6,559	3,727
1996	1,054	275	6,607	3,690
1997	1,068	245	6,821	3,677
1998	1,187	246	7,187	3,720
1999	1,150	226	7,646	3,762
2000	1,254	223	7,811	3,785
2001	1,176	211	7,963	3,834
2002	1,228	238	7,916	3,984
2003	1,124	270	8,256	3,886
2004	1,257	265	8,433	3,720
2005	Not available	232	Not available	3,756

[1] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) code 201 for the years 1984 to 1994 for newly diagnosed cases, and from 1984 to 2000 for deaths, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code C81 from 1995 onwards for newly diagnosed cases and from 2001 onwards for deaths.

[2] Selected using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 200, 202 for the years 1984 to 1994 for newly diagnosed cases, and from 1984 to 2000 for deaths, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C82-C85, C91.4 and C96 from 1995 onwards for newly diagnosed cases and ICD-10 codes C82-C85 from 2001 onwards for deaths. The introduction of ICD-10 for coding cause of death in 2001 means that figures are not completely comparable with data for years prior to this date. Comparisons between the data before and after 2001 should therefore be interpreted with caution. An article specifically examining the effect of the change in classification for cancer trends in England and Wales was published in Health Statistics Quarterly 23. * More information about these changes for England and Wales can be found on the National Statistics website at www.statistics.gov.uk/icd10mortality.

[3] Figures are for registrations of newly diagnosed cases in each calendar year between 1984 and 2004, and for registrations of death in each calendar year between 1984 and 1992 and for occurrences of death in each calendar year from 1993 onwards.

* Brock A, Griffiths C, Rooney C (2004) The effect of the introduction of ICD-10 on cancer mortality trends in England and Wales. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 23, 7-17.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the five year survival rates were for lymphoma in each of the last 21 years. [142937]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 June 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the five year survival rates were for lymphoma in each of the last 21 years. (142937)

The latest available five-year survival rates for selected major cancers in England are for adult patients (aged 15-99 years) diagnosed during 1998-2001 and followed up to the end of 2003. Survival was calculated for Hodgkin's disease and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma separately. Survival rates for patients diagnosed between 1986 and 2001 are given in the table below.

Five-year age-standardised[1] relative survival (percentage) for adult patients[2] diagnosed during 1986-2001 by selected cancers[3], by sex

	Diagnosis years			
	1986-1990 (England and Wales)	1991-1995 (England and Wales)	1996-1999 (England and Wales)	1998-2001 (England)
Hodgkin's disease				
Men	75	75	80	80
Women	75	76	80	82
Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma				
Men	45	43	47	51
Women	45	49	52	55

[1] As cancer survival varies with age at diagnosis, the relative rates for all ages (15-99) have been age-standardised to control for changes in the age profile of cancer patients over time, thus making them comparable with previously published figures.

[2] Aged 15-99 years.

[3] Cancers registered in from 1995 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD10). Therefore, Hodgkin's disease is defined by code C81 and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma by codes C82-C85. Cancers registered before 1995 are defined by codes in the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD9). Therefore, Hodgkin's disease is defined by code 201 and Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma by codes 200 and 202.

Lyons Inquiry

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans his Department has to respond formally to the Lyons inquiry into local government. [143643]

John Healey: The Government responded to a number of Sir Michael's findings in Budget 2007. His work also played a major contribution in the development of the Local Government White Paper, which is being implemented through the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. His report and recommendations will continue to inform the development of Government policy.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the per capita public expenditure was in *(a)* the East Midlands and *(b)* the UK in the last period for which figures are available. [142785]

Mr. Timms: Information on total identifiable expenditure per capita for each region of England and for the UK is set out in the HM Treasury publication, "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2007", May 2007. This provides outturn data from 2001-02 to 2005-06 and is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/economic_data_and_tools/finance_spending_statistics/pes_publications/pespub_pesa07.cfm

Revenue and Customs: Consultants

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much HM Revenue and Customs spent on consultants in each of the last two years, broken down by *(a)* division, *(b)* area and *(c)* type of work commissioned. [137900]

Dawn Primarolo: During the year 2005-06 HMRC spent a total of £106,000,000 on consultancy requirements across the categories of Business, HR, Legal and IT consultancy. At this time the two former departments (HM Customs and Excise and Inland Revenue) were mid-transformation and merging systems and procedures. HMRC accounting function for this period does not enable us to identify the division (directorate) who commissioned the work.

Audited figures for 2006-07 are not available.

Revenue and Customs: Mansfield

Mr. Meale: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1312-3W, on Revenue and Customs: Mansfield, what the costs were for April 2006 to April 2007. [142836]

Dawn Primarolo: The fixed accommodation running costs for Chaucer House, Mansfield for 2006-07 are:

April to March	*Cost (net of VAT) (£)*
2006-07	111,786.83

This cost is made up of the PFI unitary charge for the provision (by Mapeley) of the serviced accommodation at this address, the business rates and the utilities for the year. The additional cost over the figure previously reported on 27 February 2007 is the March utilities; this was not available at that time.

Strokes: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths from stroke there were in London in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust area. [143018]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Jil Matheson, dated 19 June 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths from stroke there were in London in each of the last five years, broken down by primary care trust area. I am replying in her absence. (143018)

The table attached provides the number of deaths where stroke was the underlying cause of death in each primary care organisation[1] in London, for 2001 to 2005 (the latest year available).

[1] Primary care organisations consist of Primary Care Trusts and Care Trusts.

Table 1: Number of deaths where stroke was the underlying cause of death,[1] primary care organisations in London,[2] 2001 to 2005[3]

Deaths (persons)

Primary care organisation	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Barking and Dagenham	162	144	150	130	127
Barnet	302	267	255	216	228
Bexley	225	234	254	218	180
Brent Teaching	183	145	160	157	153
Bromley	324	269	300	252	264
Camden	143	105	104	121	109
City and Hackney Teaching	113	110	103	110	90
Croydon	301	279	282	244	241
Ealing	190	196	186	184	153
Enfield	244	255	257	214	184
Greenwich Teaching	222	221	243	179	172
Hammersmith and Fulham	109	87	91	78	70
Haringey Teaching	157	157	136	123	104
Harrow	177	151	172	143	145
Havering	243	239	241	204	212
Hillingdon	210	181	208	184	158
Hounslow	157	171	144	153	140
Islington	107	90	112	79	102
Kensington and Chelsea	76	72	86	86	71
Kingston	163	132	155	135	117
Lambeth	174	139	158	179	183
Lewisham	201	203	191	193	177
Newham	143	157	141	120	142
Redbridge	207	193	199	218	201
Richmond and Twickenham	145	138	153	134	112
Southwark	149	159	146	130	126
Sutton and Merton	349	317	386	291	298
Tower Hamlets	100	110	110	102	95
Waltham Forest	177	169	158	153	138
Wandsworth	188	196	174	157	164
Westminster	128	136	145	111	101
London	5,769	5,422	5,600	4,998	4,757

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), codes I60-I69.
[2] Based on primary care organisation boundaries as of October 2006.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Taxation: Empty Property

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in tax revenue from *(a)* small and medium-sized and *(b)* large enterprises arising from the end of the 50 per cent. rate of relief on empty commercial properties; what the evidential basis was for setting the period for 100 per cent. relief at three months; what consideration was given to extending the three month 100 per cent. relief period in taking the decision to remove the subsequent 50 per cent. rate; and what the evidential basis was for setting the period for 100 per cent. tax relief for warehouses and factories at six months. [142736]

John Healey: Yield forecasts for this reform were published in Budget 2007. Further information on the evidence base for the reform and the options that were considered can be found in the regulatory impact assessment, published on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1510357.

Valuation Office Agency: Valuebill

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with which local authorities the Valuation Office Agency communicates using Valuebill. [143748]

Dawn Primarolo: Valuebill facilitates improved communication with all billing authorities in England and Wales.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the delay in resolving the tax credit case of Mrs. Kim Young. [143998]

Dawn Primarolo: I understand that the hon. Member's constituency office has spoken recently with the Tax Credit Office (TCO) MP Hotline about his constituent's case. TCO apologised and explained they are working to resolve the problems affecting Mrs. Young's case which is among those I referred to in the answer I gave the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara) on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1502W.

Pensions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consultations there were between *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department and (i) officials and (ii) Ministers of the Department for Work and Pensions in (A) 2005 and (B) 2006 before the decision not to implement fully the recommendations of the Government Actuarial Department on contracted-out rebates for salary-related pension schemes; and if he will make a statement. [141180]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

Decisions on the level of contracted-out national insurance rebates are a matter for the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The current contracted-out rebate rates were set out in the Secretary of State's report laid before each House of Parliament on 1 March 2006 and reflected in the rebate Order made on 30 March 2006. This report gave due consideration to the report of the Government Actuary and to other considerations such as the fiscal conditions which prevailed at the time. As with all decisions which have a major impact on public expenditure, including previous rebate reviews, the recommended rates were agreed with HM Treasury.

The Secretary of State has departed from the rebate rates recommended by the Government Actuary on two occasions in the period covered by the question, in addition to the one where the Government Actuary's recommendation for rebate rates from 2007 was not fully implemented. The two occasions were the application of a 9.0 per cent. cap on age-related percentages for contracted-out DC schemes for the period 1999-2000 to 2001-02 tax year, and the application of a 10.5 per cent. cap from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ensure that at least 96 per cent. of the 2006 Single Farm Payment will be paid by the end of June payment window; and if he will make a statement. [143694]

Barry Gardiner: As of 13 June, the Rural Payments Agency had paid more than 94 per cent. of the amount due to claimants under the 2006 Single Payment Scheme. The Agency is working hard to meet the EU target of paying 96.14 per cent. of claim value by the end of June.

Algae

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the effects of algal blooms on human health in the coastal areas covered by the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee. [142807]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department and I understand the Welsh Assembly Government (who are responsible for water quality in and around Wales) do not directly carry out such assessments.

I am advised by the Environment Agency that while some species of potentially toxic algae are found in the north-west area, they are seldom at significant concentrations and therefore do not pose any risk to human health.

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the extent to which agricultural nitrates are contributing to algal blooms in the area covered by the North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee. [142808]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department and I understand the Welsh Assembly Government (who are responsible for water quality in and around Wales) do not directly carry out such assessments.

The eutrophication status (of which algal blooms are a consideration) of the waters around the UK coastline is reviewed on a regular basis by the Environment Agency (England and Wales) for the purposes of the nitrate and urban waste water treatment directives. It is also reviewed by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), for the Convention on the Prevention of Pollution of the Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR) Convention. The latest review under the directives was 2005-06 and under OSPAR was 2002, with a further OSPAR review being completed in the spring of 2007.

Algal blooms in coastal waters are a natural phenomenon. They can be exacerbated by nutrient pollution from human activities e.g. agricultural practices and from sewage. The links between nutrient enrichment and the occurrence of marine algal blooms are complex and an area of continuing research.

The Environment Agency inform me that none of the north-west coastal and marine waters in this Sea Fisheries Committee area are identified as at risk from nutrients in water framework directive risk assessments carried out between 2003-05. These will be reviewed as part of ongoing work on the water framework directive.

Beekeeping: Training

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward plans *(a)* to promote training in apiculture and *(b)* to extend the role of his Department's Bee Unit. [143192]

Barry Gardiner: The National Bee Unit organises a large number of training courses for beekeepers and assists with beekeeper associations' training and examination programme. 600 to 700 training events are held each year. The NBU is currently developing the reach of its training to increase awareness and control of pests and diseases among all beekeepers.

Biodiversity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he plans to take to ensure that those biodiversity objectives that can only be delivered through targeted initiatives are the subject of the transfer of existing agri-environmental agreements into the Higher Level Scheme. [142883]

Barry Gardiner: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 28W.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of the Phillips Inquiry into bovine spongiform encephalopathy. [143708]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy Inquiry, chaired by Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers, cost approximately £30 million. This includes the cost of the inquiry itself, together with the costs of liaison units and legal support for witnesses from all the main Departments involved.

Central Heating: Pensioners

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many central heating systems have been installed for *(a)* pensioners on pension credit and *(b)* all other pensioners under the Warm Front and Home Heat programmes since January 2006. [142595]

Ian Pearson: The Government's main programme for tackling fuel poverty in England is Warm Front.

Since January 2006, 31,973 households received central heating systems under the Warm Front scheme having declared pension credit as the qualifying benefit.

Over the same period, 65,399 pensioner households declaring' other qualifying benefits received a central heating system from Warm Front.

Cetaceans

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of cetaceans killed or injured in the sea which are washed ashore. [143284]

Mr. Bradshaw: The exact number of cetaceans killed or injured at sea every year is unknown, as it is not feasible to monitor all cetacean deaths. As such, I am unable to estimate the proportion of cetaceans killed or injured at sea that are washed ashore. In any event, this will be influenced by several factors, including distance from shore and the prevailing weather and sea conditions over a period of time.

For nearly 15 years the Government have funded studies by the Natural History Museum and the Institute of Zoology (IoZ) on causes of death and trends in numbers of stranded cetaceans around the UK coastline. Post-mortems are carried out on a selected number of the stranded carcases each year.

The two species that are more commonly reported as stranded along the UK coastline are the harbour porpoise and the common dolphin. The annual proportion of UK-stranded harbour porpoises diagnosed as by-catches varied between 11 per cent. and 25 per cent. in the 2002-06 period. The proportion of UK-stranded common dolphins diagnosed as by-catch varied between 57-77 per cent. for the same period. The majority of these by-catches (for both species) occurred in SW England during the winter months. Although the annual numbers of harbour porpoises and common dolphin strandings reported in SW England has increased since the 1990s, a number of factors (particularly increased observer effort and possible changes in abundance and distribution of these species) are suspected to have played a role in this increase.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of bottle nose and common dolphins and harbour porpoises which will be killed or injured by foreign pair trawlers fishing within the UK 12 mile limit in the next 12 months. [143288]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department funds research which is carried out by the Sea Mammal Research Unit to monitor by-catch in all relevant UK fishery sectors, including the bass pair trawl fishery.

Results for the 2004-05 pair trawl fishery for bass show a marked decrease from the preceding year for the total numbers of dolphins observed as by-catch and the number of dolphins stranding in the south west coast has similarly decreased this year. It is, however, too early, on the basis of one year's data alone, to link these reductions to the 12 mile ban. Further analysis of the effectiveness of the 12 mile ban on sea bass pair trawling will be undertaken as more data become available. The funding for cetacean by-catch and strandings monitoring has been extended to 2010. 2005-06 survey data are being analysed and the results will be published in the near future.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has the power to close UK fisheries to foreign-registered pair trawlers to protect dolphins and porpoises. [143289]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Common Fisheries Policy regulation, Council Regulation 2371/2002, provides a number of possible responses to threats faced in relation to fishing activities:

(i) Article 7: Commission emergency powers

These can be used at the request of a Member State where there is a serious threat to the conservation of stocks or the marine environment from the impact of fishing requiring immediate action. The Commission has emergency powers to put in place measures for 6 months applicable to all Member States. Measures are also renewable for a further 6 months. Member states have a right to submit written comments on the request to the Commission. The Commission must decide upon the Member State's request for action within 15 days of receipt. If the Commission decides to take emergency action any Member State can refer the decision to the Council. The Council, acting under qualified majority voting procedures, may take a different decision within one month of the referral.

This article was used successfully by the UK in 2003 to secure protection for the Darwin Mounds when we discovered it was at risk from damaging fishing activities.

(ii) Article 8: Member State emergency measures

These measures can be used by a Member State to take action, subject to confirmation, cancellation or amendment by the Commission, where there is a serious and unforeseen threat to stocks or to the marine environment. Measures would apply to other Member States' vessels but, again, as under Article 7, other Member States have the right to comment and refer the Commission decision on the Member State request to the Council of Ministers. Measures last for 3 months and are non-renewable.

(iii) Article 9: Member State measures within 12 miles

This article provides for Member States to take measures for the conservation of stocks and to minimise the impact of fishing on the marine environment within 12 nautical miles of baselines. Where such measures are liable to affect vessels of other Member States (that is, in practice, those that have historic rights of access under the CFP to the 6-12 nautical mile zone), as with Articles 7 and 8, they are subject to approval by the Commission, open to comment from other Member States and any Commission decision can be referred to the Council of Ministers.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which months dolphins and porpoises are most likely to be found washed up on British beaches having been killed or injured by foreign-registered pair trawlers. [143290]

Mr. Bradshaw: The pair trawling sea bass fishery season usually starts in November and continues until April and takes place in the south-west approaches.

From 1 November 2004 to 4 March 2005, a total of 90 cetaceans were reported as stranded along the south coast. Not all of these strandings can be solely attributed to the pair trawling sea bass fishery, and the figures include stranded dead cetaceans, live strandings and carcases seen floating at sea. Only 12 of the 90 cetaceans that were stranded were definitely confirmed as by-catch. These data were obtained under the DEFRA-funded Cetacean and Turtle Strandings Scheme, carried out by the Natural History Museum in partnership with the Institute of Zoology, Marine Environmental Monitoring and Scottish Agricultural College.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on his Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [140665]

Barry Gardiner: Neither public information leaflets issued by the Department nor public websites operated by the Department carry advertisements from which revenue is derived.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in the Central Science Laboratory are classified as people without posts. [141647]

Barry Gardiner: The response from the Central Science Laboratory to this question is a nil return.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141994]

Barry Gardiner: Defra's official ministerial cars are all hybrid, with four Toyota Prius cars and one Honda Civic Hybrid.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) is responsible for providing ministerial cars in line with the Ministerial Code and the Prime Minister's guidance "Travel by Ministers".

GCDA advises the Prime Minister on the suitability of cars for inclusion in his guidance, taking into account a number of criteria when assessing suitable cars including their environmental impact, running and maintenance costs and overall suitability as a ministerial car.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141969]

Barry Gardiner: There are no official ministerial residencies allocated to Ministers in this Department.

Departments: Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent by his Department on public relations in each of the last five years. [139428]

Barry Gardiner: With regard to public relations expenditure incurred by Defra's Communications Directorate over the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for North Thanet (Mr. Gale) on 6 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1074-75W.

Further to this, in the financial year 2006/07 public relations expenditure for activity conducted via the Department's central Communications Directorate's procurement arrangements was as follows:

Agency	*Project*	*Cost (£)*
Media Moguls	Personal Food Imports	45,000
Trimedia Harrison Cowley	Climate Change Radio Media	60,300
Amazon	Sustainable Development	120,000
Weber Shandwick	Climate Change	12,600

Inclusion of non-centralised Defra spend, inclusive of agencies and NDPBs, would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Transport

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the occasions during 2007 when he has used *(a)* rail services, *(b)* the London underground, *(c)* tram or light railway services and *(d)* buses in connection with his ministerial duties. [142017]

Barry Gardiner: The details requested are set out below:

Rail services

3 January
29 January
1 February
8 February
20 February
26 February
5 March
9 March
15 March
19 March
30 March
25 April
11 May
15 May
18 May
24 May
1 June
4 June

London underground

6 February
3 May
12 May
17 May.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139433]

Barry Gardiner: From its inception in 2001 to 2003-04, the Department did not record separate advertising costs as part of its overall communications expenditure. The figures for key advertising campaigns from 2004-05 are as follows.

		£
Personal food imports	2004-05	92,343
Personal food imports	2005-06	94,278
Personal food imports	2006-07	81,732
Avian flu	2005-06	185,976

The Department procures its advertising services from the Central Office of Information (COI). Advertising agencies are selected from the COI rosters and supply their services to the COI, not to Defra directly. Personal Food Imports advertising was conducted by Media Moguls and Avian Flu advertising was conducted by Barkers.

No other organisations have supplied advertising services to the Department.

For costs for Defra's delivery bodies, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Martin Horwood) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1819-22W.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish the most recent figures from WasteDataFlow showing the net cost of household waste collection for each local waste collection authority in England in the most recent period for which figures are available. [143483]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data held on WasteDataFlow for 2005-06 on the cost of local authority waste collections in England are incomplete, due to low response rates for this particular question.

While 100 per cent. of authorities reported tonnage data required under the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme, not all authorities completed the voluntary financial questions. However, local authorities are required to provide annual spending and financing data to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), and their Revenue Outturn data include the cost of waste collection and disposal (RO5). The DCLG should therefore be able to provide complete data on the net costs incurred by local authorities for their waste collection services.

Further information is available on the Local Government Finance Statistics website at the following address:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research and statistical data gathering has been conducted by his Department and its agencies into the proportion of household rubbish collected for recycling that is not recycled. [143484]

Mr. Bradshaw: Local authorities are required to report quarterly data on municipal waste (encompassing household waste) to WasteDataFlow. When reporting data, authorities should specify the amount of waste collected for recycling that is subsequently rejected, at the point of collection, at a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), or at the gate of the reprocessor. The data reported to WasteDataFlow are used by the Environment Agency (EA) and Defra to monitor the Landfill Allowance Trading Scheme.

The EA has also carried out a survey on Household Waste Materials Reclamation Facilities in England and Wales. The EA identified and visited about 80 candidate sites to ascertain recovery and reject levels at each site, verifying this information via a visual inspection of bale quality and the overall state of each facility. The overall typical spread of reject rates for MRFs was from 5 per cent. to 25 per cent., with 10 to 15 per cent. being an average. Around one million tonnes of municipal waste were reported to WasteDataFlow as being processed by an MRF.

Analysis by the Waste and Resources Action Programme, based on a range of data sources, suggests that a conservative estimate of the amount of household waste collected for recycling which is not recycled, is around 5 to 10 per cent. In 2005-06, a total of 6.87 million tonnes of waste from household sources was collected for recycling.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the appropriateness of alternate weekly collections of household rubbish for *(a)* urban, *(b)* rural and *(c)* suburban communities. [143485]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such assessment has been made by my Department.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on all waste collection authorities to arrange for the collection of household waste, but it does not stipulate how often collections should occur.

Decisions on the best way to collect waste are rightly a matter for local authorities, not central Government. Local authorities are therefore free to choose how they fulfil their waste collection duties, including the frequency, priority, degree of effort and resources required. In practice, local authorities considering alternate weekly collection of household waste are expected to take into account factors such as the type of housing stock in the local area, as well as processing facilities available.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme has paid to the Eunomia consultancy; and for what purpose; [143487]

(2) what the procurement process was by which the Eunomia consultancy was selected to undertake research into charging for the collection of household rubbish; [143488]

(3) how much the Eunomia consultancy was paid for its research into new waste charges for the collection of household rubbish. [143489]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since its inception in 2001, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has awarded work to a total value of £349,000 (including VAT) to Eunomia Research & Consulting Ltd. This has covered a number of projects as follows:

i) 'Managing Biowastes from Households in the UK: Cost Benefit Analysis' (June 2007), and the related study, 'Dealing with Food Waste in the UK' (March 2007).

ii) Technical support to two local authority partners under WRAP's Food Waste Collections Trials project.

iii) Technical support to local authorities under the WRAP ROTATE programme—seven projects in total.

iv) Technical report: 'Resources from waste in the UK: A Forward Look' (2005).

v) Technical report: 'Development of Recycling and Material Markets in the UK' (2002).

vi) Technical report: 'The Size of the UK Recycling and Re-use Industry' (2002).

Eunomia Consultancy was selected following a competitive tendering exercise under the call-off contract established as part of Defra's Waste Implementation Programme. The purpose of the call-off contract is to provide consultancy support for projects requiring specialist input over a short working programme timescale. Three contractors available under the call-off contract submitted tenders for the work. These were analysed using Defra's standard tender appraisal procedure.

The total cost of work undertaken by Eunomia Consulting on the project 'Modelling the Impact of Household Charging', was £41,615.00, excluding VAT.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds of the number of local authorities which have introduced alternate weekly collection of household rubbish and then switched back to weekly collections. [143490]

Mr. Bradshaw: No records are held, either by this Department or by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), specifically on local authorities (LAs) which have introduced alternate weekly collection of household waste and subsequently reverted to weekly collections.

WRAP is aware of a number of LAs providing alternate weekly collection (AWC) of household waste and provides support and guidance to these LAs on best practice in operating such a service.

WRAP's records represent our best understanding of LAs operating or implementing AWC schemes. However, due to the often rapid changes in this area, they are unlikely to be completely up to date.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have given to local authorities in relation to their powers to inspect the contents of household rubbish bins. [143499]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific guidance has been issued either by my Department or its agencies on inspecting the contents of household rubbish bins. Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act (ERA) empowers local authorities to specify the conditions of their waste

collection service and places a duty on them to inform householders of those conditions. This usually takes the form of a section 46 notice. Under these powers, local authorities can specify the number, size, construction and maintenance of receptacles, what can be placed in each, and where and when they are to be placed for collection. Authorities can also require household waste to be treated prior to placing it in a receptacle.

Any person found in breach of the conditions set in a section 46 notice can be prosecuted and, if convicted, is liable to a fine of up to £1,000. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 also gives local authorities the power to issue fixed penalty notices to those breaching a section 46 notice, as an alternative to prosecution under section 46(6) of the EPA.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what scientific research has been conducted by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies into alternate weekly collections of household rubbish. [143500]

Mr. Bradshaw: An independent, DEFRA-funded research study was carried out by Enviros Consulting and Cranfield university in 2006 to assess the health impacts of alternate weekly collection (AWC).

The final report, "Health Impact assessment of alternate week waste collections of biodegradable waste", identified no evidence of adverse health impacts resulting from AWC of household waste.

No scientific research has been conducted by DEFRA's agencies on AWC. However, the Waste and Resources Action Programme is currently updating its guidance to local authorities on the design and implementation of AWC services and will be drawing on the experiences of authorities that have already implemented such schemes.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of fly-tipping incidents recorded on the Flycapture database in the last year for which figures are available were for *(a)* householders putting out their rubbish on the wrong day and *(b)* householders breaching a no side collection policy. [143538]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data requested are not available. Flycapture does not record incidents of householders putting their waste out on the wrong day (in breach of notices issued under section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990) separately from other incidents of fly-tipping.

Flycapture does not record details of householders breaching a no side waste collection policy.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount of waste produced per person in local authorities operating *(a)* alternate weekly collections, *(b)* no side waste policies and *(c)* traditional weekly collections. [142617]

Mr. Bradshaw: No such estimates have been made by my Department.

Data on waste produced per person are collected as part of local authorities' statutory performance monitoring. However, the Government do not keep data on the waste collection policies chosen by individual authorities. It is, rightly, the responsibility of individual local authorities to decide on the most appropriate waste collection policies for their communities.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received on the incidence of flies and vermin in areas that have introduced an alternate weekly collection of household waste. [142776]

Mr. Bradshaw: Some representations, in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence, have been received by my Department from people concerned about possible links between the alternate weekly collection of waste and increases in flies and vermin.

There is no evidence in published studies to indicate a causal link between an increase in flies or rodents as a result of alternate week collection. The characteristics of a location will influence the rodent population and simple hygiene practices can directly prevent or reduce rat and fly populations. An independent, DEFRA-funded research study on the use of alternate weekly collection services, carried out by Enviros Consulting and Cranfield university in 2006, drew the same conclusions.

Proper design of an alternate weekly collection service should avoid any increase in nuisance to householders. The waste and resources action programme is currently updating its guidance for local authorities on the design and implementation of alternate weekly collection services, in order to minimise nuisance and health risks.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on green workplace initiatives. [143149]

Ian Pearson: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, and Defra Ministers, have held discussions recently with colleagues from other Departments, such as the Department of Trade and Industry and the Department for Work and Pensions, on the subject of greening the workplace, as part of the wider discussions on climate change. In addition, Defra co-chairs the Trade Union Sustainable Development Advisory Committee (TUSDAC) with the General Secretary of Prospect. Green workplace, energy and climate change issues are raised through this forum.

Energy: Manufacturing Industries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on development of a green manufacturing strategy. [143150]

Ian Pearson: Defra Ministers and officials hold regular discussions with the Department of Trade and Industry on various aspects of the greener business agenda and promoting a low carbon, low waste

economy. This is reflected in the Energy White Paper and Waste Strategy which build on the Government's broader Sustainable Development Strategy.

The Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and for Trade and Industry jointly chair the Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance. The commission was established to advise the UK on the opportunity that environmental protection can present for wealth creation and employment growth.

Environmental Protection: Consultants

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies spent on commissioning research or consultancy from Be-Environmental in the last three years; and for what purposes. [142379]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA and its agencies have spent £242,949 on commissioning research or consultancy from Be-Environmental since the beginning of the 2004-05 financial year. This was for work in the waste sector including: support to local authorities to improve their waste management services; research; performance reviews of DEFRA programmes and projects; the planning and facilitation of events and focus groups to improve DEFRA programmes; website development; and support to DEFRA's Waste and Resources Research and Development Strategy.

Fisheries: EC Action

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he plans to take to assist the recovery of the stock of the European eel; when he expects them to be *(a)* approved by the European Council and *(b)* implemented; and if he will make a statement. [142285]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 11 June at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council European Ministers accepted unanimously a recovery plan for the European eel. This plan has been in development since 2003 and its agreement at Council was vital if we are to see a recovery of a stock that has seen recruitment drop to 1-5 per cent. of historic level (pre-1980s).

Under the recovery plan member states must, in the long term, achieve 40 per cent. escapement of silver eel from each river basin district (or as an average across the member state) compared to the level before man's intervention. They must also cut fishing effort/catches in Community maritime waters by 50 per cent. and reserve, over time, 60 per cent. of glass (juvenile) eel for restocking in European waters.

Fishing for eel can continue if a member state can reliably demonstrate that the rivers within its river basin district allow—or a recovery plan is in place to allow—the management target to be met.

Member states must submit an eel management plan for each eel river basin to the European Commission by 31 December 2008, then have them approved by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries, and implemented by 1 July 2009.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what stocks fished by the UK *(a)* over-10 metre fleet and *(b)* under-10 metre fleet are (i) within safe biological limits and (ii) outside safe biological limits, and if he will make a statement. [143560]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table records the status of the 47 finfish stocks of most interest to the UK for 2006. The complete picture for 2007 will not be available until after the second instalment of the annual ICES advice is produced in October. Since both segments of the fleet (under-10 and over-10 metre vessels) tend to target similar species, no distinction is made between the stocks fished by each.

ICES area	*Stock*	*2006 status*
IV	Cod (inc. III a and VII d)	A
	Haddock (inc. III a)	B
	Herring (inc. III a and VII d)	B
	Norway Pout (inc. III a)	A
	Plaice	A
	Saithe (inc. III a and VI)	B
	Sandeel North and South	A
	Sandeel Shetland	C
	Sole	A
	Sprat	C
	Whiting (inc. VII d)	D
VI a	Anglerfish (inc. VI b and IV)	C
	Cod	A
	Haddock	B
	Herring Clyde	D
	Herring North	D
	Herring VI a (South) and VII b, c	D
	Megrim (inc. VI b)	C
	Sandeel	D
	Whiting	D
VI b	Cod	D
	Haddock	B
	Whiting	D
VII a	Cod	A
	Haddock	C
	Herring	D
	Plaice	B
	Sole	A
	Whiting	D
VII d	Plaice	D
	Sole	B
VII de	Sprat	D
VII b-k	Haddock	D

ICES area	*Stock*	*2006 status*
VII e	Plaice	A
	Sole	A
VII e-k	Cod	A
	Whiting	D
VII fg	Plaice	A
	Sole	B
VII fgj	Herring	A
Western	Angler (Budegassa) VII b-k and VIII a, b	B
	Angler (Piscatorius) VII b-k and VII a, b	B
	Hake (Northern)	B
	Horse Mackerel	C
	Mackerel (NE Atlantic)	D
	Megrim VII and VIII a, b, d	D
Combined	Blue Whiting	B

Key to status:
Number of stocks outside safe biological limits—13 (coded A)
Number of stocks within safe biological limits—12 (coded B)
Number of stocks where safe biological limits are not defined—6 (coded C)
Number of stocks where no scientific assessment made—16 (coded D)
Total number of stocks—47
Percentage within safe biological limits (excluding categories C and D)—48 per cent.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish proposals to change the way that fishing quota is allocated in the UK for *(a)* the under-10 metre fleet and *(b)* the over-10 metre fleet. [143562]

Mr. Bradshaw: Fisheries administrations are currently considering the future quota management arrangements for both the over and the under 10 metre fleets and expect to consult interested parties on options later this year.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the European Commission to publish its 2008 fishing opportunities proposals for stocks fished by UK vessels. [143563]

Mr. Bradshaw: The latest information from the Commission is that they intend to prepare two proposals for regulations concerning fishing opportunities: one relating to stocks in the Baltic sea to be presented in September 2007; and the other covering stocks in the Northeast Atlantic in November 2007, following receipt of the second instalment of the annual scientific advice from ICES in October. New proposals about deep-sea stocks are unlikely, as Council Regulation (EC) No. 2015/2006, concerning fishing opportunities for deep-sea species, already covers both 2007 and 2008.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether it is his policy to support proposals to reduce total allowable catch and fishing opportunities for fish stocks outside safe biological limits at a rate in excess of 15 per cent. per year; and if he will make a statement. [143564]

Mr. Bradshaw: In most cases, the UK seeks to follow the scientific advice from ICES on the appropriate catch level for a particular stock. However, there are some cases where, while accepting the ICES stock assessment, the UK does not agree with the management advice suggested by ICES. For example, additional information may be available from other sources, which suggests a different approach.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposals in the Commission Communication, Fishing Opportunities for 2008: Policy Statement from the European Commission (COM(2007) 295 final). [143598]

Mr. Bradshaw: The European Commission have asked for responses from member states by 31 July. Fisheries Departments are currently considering the text whilst consulting relevant stakeholders and the UK intends to provide a full response within the deadline.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whom he will consult before submitting his response to the European Commission on its Communication, Fishing Opportunities for 2008: Policy Statement from the European Commission (COM(2007) 295 final). [143599]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department is currently consulting a range of fishing industry representatives (including those in the catching, processing and marketing sectors), scientists and environmental and consumer interests. Equivalent consultations are also being carried out in other parts of the UK by the Fisheries Departments in the Devolved Administrations.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the appropriate level for total allowable catch in 2008 in the North Sea for *(a)* herring, *(b)* cod, *(c)* haddock, *(d)* whiting, *(e)* plaice and *(f)* sole; and if he will make a statement. [143600]

Mr. Bradshaw: ICES advice on the North Sea stocks mentioned was published on 8 June. The Government are considering that advice carefully and has not yet made an assessment of it.

Food: Prices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the farmgate price of *(a)* apples, *(b)* beef, *(c)* cabbages, *(d)* carrots, *(e)* chicken, *(f)* eggs, *(g)* lamb, *(h)* onions, *(i)* pork, *(j)* potatoes, *(k)* tomatoes, *(l)* wheat and *(m)* milk was in each year since 1995. [142514]

Barry Gardiner: The farmgate prices from 1995 up to 2006 for the listed commodities are shown in the following table. The prices for 2006 are provisional.

Commodity	*Unit*	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*[1]
Pork	p per kg	119	138	111	81	79	95	98	93	103	103	102	104
Beef	p per kg	123	106	97	86	92	90	88	91	95	101	102	111
Lamb	p per kg	236	283	239	192	180	196	n/a	233	271	263	250	262
Chicken	p per kg	84	91	86	77	72	71	71	69	72	74	73	77
Milk[2]	p per litre	24.9	25.0	22.1	19.4	18.3	16.9	19.3	17.1	18.0	18.5	18.5	18.0
Eggs	p per dozen	38	46	39	36	34	39	41	42	46	49	45	48
Apples —dessert	£ per tonne	419	528	526	480	437	358	352	385	460	349	402	608
Apples —culinary	£ per tonne	243	279	322	341	249	215	176	286	472	259	351	356
Carrots	£ per tonne	190	158	107	142	139	104	131	115	120	111	132	140
Tomatoes	£ per tonne	585	742	547	595	576	752	725	794	1042	751	871	993
Onions —dry	£ per tonne	256	136	145	194	109	88	119	113	115	129	88	137
Onions	£ per tonne	1,318	1,153	1,261	1,204	1,130	1,126	1,360	1,293	1,270	1,252	1,242	1,314
Potatoes	£ per tonne	188	100	66	122	119	83	111	81	103	117	99	124
Cabbages —spring	£ per tonne	310	329	302	316	311	290	454	290	337	315	324	289
Cabbages —summer	£ per tonne	239	173	189	231	225	289	257	225	253	254	258	274
Cabbages —winter	£ per tonne	179	220	158	182	179	151	169	199	225	217	184	179
Milling wheat	£ per tonne	120	122	101	84	81	74	82	71	83	86	73	83
Feed wheat	£ per tonne	110	111	89	75	73	66	75	63	75	76	66	78

n/a = not available
[1] Provisional
[2] Including bonus
Source:
Agriculture in the United Kingdom, DEFRA publication; MLC for pork, beef and lamb.

Lessons Learned from Foot and Mouth Disease Outbreak Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost was of the 2001 inquiry into Foot and Mouth disease. [143709]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were two independent inquiries into the 2001 Foot and Mouth Crisis: a Lessons Learned Inquiry, chaired by Dr. Iain Anderson, and a scientific review by the Royal Society, chaired by Sir Brian Follett. The costs of the inquiries were as follows:

	£
Royal Society Inquiry	425,000
Anderson Inquiry	526,000
DEFRA/MAFF Inquiry Liaison Unit	290,000
Treasury Solicitor	13,787
Total	1,254,787

Livestock: Transport

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance or regulations his Department has issued for the maximum and minimum acceptable temperatures for the rearing and transportation of livestock. [143567]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000 do not specify a maximum and minimum temperature for the rearing of livestock, but do require temperatures to be kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations, implemented in England by The Welfare of

Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006, requires all transporters of livestock to avoid animals suffering from extremes of temperature. For journeys of more than eight hours, vehicles must be designed to maintain temperatures of between 5°C and 30°C (+/- 5°C). However, for journeys solely within the UK, we have a derogation from the lower end of the scale until the time the vehicle is first moved and during any loading/unloading at intermediate points. This is because livestock often housed outdoors are accustomed to cold weather and the animals' body heat quickly raises the temperature above 0°C.

Animal Health will write to transporters of farm livestock and horses with additional hot weather advice and to remind them of their responsibilities.

Lorries

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to take steps to prevent supermarket chains from stipulating that deliveries to their stores are made by HGVs of at least 7.5 tonnes gross weight; and if he will make a statement. [142642]

Ian Pearson: I have no plans to do so.

National Bee Unit: Finance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget of the National Bee Unit at the Central Science Laboratory was in each of the last five years for which records are available; and if he will make a statement. [142277]

Barry Gardiner: The budget for the Central Science Laboratory National Bee Unit for the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*Budget*
2003-04	1,496,172
2004-05	1,493,567
2005-06	1,691,470
2006-07	1,832,180
2007-08	1,822,142

Notes:
1. Budget (= income) comprises DEFRA and Welsh Assembly government expenditure under memorandums of understanding with the CSL, DEFRA commissioned research plus an element of commercial income.
2. Income for 2007-08 is estimated.

National Bee Unit: Manpower

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed in the National Bee Unit at the Central Science Laboratory in each of the last five years for which records are available. [142280]

Barry Gardiner: The number of people employed in the Central Science Laboratory National Bee Unit in the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*Numbers of staff*	*FTE*
2002-03	51	30.53
2003-04	51	32.12
2004-05	50	27.36
2005-06	48	24.34
2006-07	54	27.12
2007-08	48	27.64

Notes:
1. FTE is full time equivalents. Numbers of staff are expressed as FTEs as a number of the NBU staff including inspectors work seasonally or part-time during the course of the year.
2. Data for 2007-08 are forecast figures.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the Government intend to publish the legal advice they have received on the decision to merge Nirex and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [141783]

Ian Pearson: The fact and substance of legal advice to the Government is confidential. It is covered by legal professional privilege. To enable the Government to obtain full and frank legal advice it is not disclosed. Therefore, the Government do not intend to publish the legal advice they have received on the decision to merge Nirex and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.

Pigs: EC Action

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with EU Ministers about the use of farrowing crates for nursing pigs; and if he will make a statement. [144002]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have regular discussions with European Union (EU) ministers on a range of issues, including animal welfare. DEFRA would prefer to avoid the close confinement of all sows, but there are currently no free-farrowing systems suitable for widespread commercial adoption. Farrowing crates protect piglets from being crushed by the sow—one of the largest causes of pig mortality. It is equally important to maintain the welfare of the piglet as that of the sow.

There is a time limit on how long sows may be kept in farrowing crates: from seven days before the predicted day of farrowing until the piglets are weaned. After this period sows in the UK must be moved back to loose housing accommodation in which they are free to turn around easily.

We have funded research to test and develop commercially viable farrowing systems that provide adequate protection to piglets but do not closely confine the sow. As yet, the risk of piglet mortality in alternative systems remains unacceptably high. Our research will contribute to the European Food Safety Authority's examination of a range of issues, including farrowing systems, leading up to the next review of the EU Directive on pig welfare.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it his policy to amend the Energy Act 2004 as it relates to the responsibilities of the Nuclear Decommissioning

Authority in response to the Fourth Report of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee: Radioactive Waste Management: an Update. [141780]

Ian Pearson: We are considering the report and will respond within the normal timetable.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the Government will review the proposed relationship between the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the successor body to the Committee of Radioactive Waste Management in response to the Fourth Report of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee: Radioactive Waste Management: an Update, HL 109. [141782]

Ian Pearson: We are considering the report and will respond within the normal timetable.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how members of *(a)* the Criteria Proposals Group and *(b)* the Criteria Review Panel responsible for deciding the scientific criteria for initial screening of areas unsuitable for a geological repository for long-lived radioactive waste were chosen; what criteria were used in selecting the membership; and what budget has been allocated to service each group and panel. [143770]

Ian Pearson: The Criteria Proposals Group (CPG) and Criteria Review Panel (CRP) were established on the basis of recommendations from the Royal Society, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Geological Society, and the DEFRA Chief Scientific Advisor, Professor Sir Howard Dalton. Both were ad-hoc groups charged with developing criteria for inclusion in the forthcoming Managing Radioactive Waste Safely consultation document. CPG, led by Professor Peter Styles of Keele university, developed draft criteria. Its proposals were independently reviewed by CRP, led by Professor Howard Wheater of Imperial college, London. Selection of members of the groups was made on the basis of the need to involve high calibre expertise across the range of earth science and related disciplines. Members of the two groups were paid a daily rate for their work. The cost of the work is currently estimated to be of the order of £40,000.

Waste Management: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what savings have been achieved on each of the business resource efficiency and waste efficiency targets in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement; [143214]

(2) what the cost per tonne was for reductions made by the business resource efficiency and waste programme in *(a)* waste to landfill, *(b)* hazardous waste and *(c)* water; and how much carbon dioxide has been saved under the programme since its inception. [143215]

Mr. Bradshaw: Delivery bodies conducting programmes under the wider business resource efficiency and waste programme (BREW) report on a number of environmental and business-based 'metrics' covering: .

Environmental:

i) reduction of greenhouse gas or equivalents

ii) virgin raw materials saved

iii) reduced hazardous waste arisings

iv) decreased water usage

v) waste diverted from landfill

Business:

vi) cost savings

vii) new business sales

The metrics system was developed during the first year of the programme and is still being worked on to ensure a greater level of consistency in the methodologies used by different delivery bodies. As the methodology has not yet been perfected, the year one (2005-06) results are being viewed with caution and should only be used to give an indication of the savings being made. There are areas of the programme where the work cannot be measured against the metrics. For example, the Environment Agency work to reduce flytipping, if successful, could increase the amount of waste sent to landfill.

The aggregated results for 2005-06, for the delivery bodies which reported in-year savings against some or all of the metrics, are shown in the following table. It is important to note that there will also be savings from these interventions in future years not counted here:

Metric	*In-year result*	*Cost per unit reduction for these in-year results (£)*
Increased sales	£14.6 million	1.27
Cost savings to business	£88 million	0.21
Virgin raw material savings	682,000 tonnes	27.24
Carbon savings	87,300 tonnes of carbon[1]	212.77
Water savings	5,630,000 cubic metres	3.39
Waste diverted from landfill	675,000 tonnes	27.52
Hazardous waste savings	120,000 tonnes	154.79

[1] For consistency, the delivery bodies that have reported in carbon dioxide have had their figures converted to carbon. Their carbon dioxide figures were multiplied by 12/44.

Work is currently underway to assess the impact of programme spending in 2006-07.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Organisation's budget was for 2005-06; and what it is planned to be in 2006-07. [143258]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA's business resource efficiency and waste (BREW) programme is returning £284 million raised from the landfill tax escalator back to businesses between 2005 and 2008 to improve their resource efficiency and to minimise the levels of waste that are unnecessarily sent to landfill.

Funds are awarded to a number of regional and national BREW delivery bodies. A total of £33 million was allocated in 2005-06 and £100.7 million was allocated in the 2006-07 financial year for spending on business resource efficiency activities in England.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many times his Department has been found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [139235]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Department is not aware of having been found to be in breach of the Data Protection Act since its establishment.

Joint Ministerial Committee

Mr. Heald: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he last attended a meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee. [140842]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Joint Ministerial Committee (JMC) exists in both function and plenary formats. It has met in various functional formats to discuss specific policy areas such as Health, Poverty, the Knowledge Economy and Europe. Of these four subject areas, the JMC on Europe meets most regularly and is serviced by staff from the Cabinet Office. The UK Government have always been represented at JMC plenary and functional meetings.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Foreign Workers

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil service posts in each department have been designated as reserved posts. [144128]

Mr. McFadden: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1621W.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many certificates under the Aliens Employment Act 1955 permitting employment of aliens in the civil service are in force; how many there were in 2006-07; and in which departments those holding such a certificate work. [144129]

Mr. McFadden: The total number of aliens' certificates in force during 2006-07 was 66.

The Departments and agencies employing aliens and the numbers of aliens' certificates in force during 2006-07 were:

	Number
ACAS	1
Central Office of Information	1
Crown Prosecution Service	2
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	1
Ministry of Defence	37
Department for Education and Skills	3
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	6
Government Actuary's Department	1
Department of Health	1
Home Office	1
Meat Hygiene Service	4
Meteorological Office	2
Office for National Statistics	1
Scottish Executive	1
HM Treasury	2
Department for Work and Pensions	1
Welsh Assembly Government	1
Total	66

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether posts in HM Revenue and Customs concerned with the collection of taxes are considered to be in the public service and thus restricted posts to European Economic Area nationals; and if she will make a statement. [144130]

Mr. McFadden: With very few exceptions, posts in HM Revenue and Customs concerned with the collection of taxes are not considered to be public service posts and are therefore open to applicants from the European Economic Area.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil service posts are reserved to UK nationals; how many she estimates it is operationally necessary so to reserve; and if she will make a statement. [144131]

Mr. McFadden: It is estimated that 27,000 civil service posts are currently reserved to UK nationals under the criteria specified on the face of the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007. They are all operationally necessary as a post cannot be reserved if it does not fall within these criteria.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of civil service posts in the UK are *(a)* available to Commonwealth, Irish and European Economic Area nationals and *(b)* designated as public service posts entirely reserved for UK nationals. [144132]

Mr. McFadden: It is estimated that 95 per cent. of all civil service posts are available to Commonwealth, Irish and European Economic Area nationals following the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007. The remainder, designated as public service posts, are reserved for UK nationals.

European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1622W, on the European Communities (Employment in the Civil Service) Order 2007, whether the revisions to which she refers have been completed; and if she will place copies of the revisions in the Library. [144127]

Mr. McFadden: Work on the various documents is still in progress. Once finalised, they will be freely available on the Cabinet Office website.

Social Exclusion Unit: Pilot Schemes

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what pilot projects have been *(a)* initiated and *(b)* supported by the Social Exclusion Unit and the Social Exclusion Task Force; and which of those have since been implemented on a national basis. [143803]

Hilary Armstrong: 'Reaching Out', the Social Exclusion Action Plan, published last September announced three sets of pilots: 10 Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) are now up and running; 12 Adults Facing Chronic Exclusion (ACE) were launched on 18 June; and up to 6 Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) for which the invitation to tender is due to take place in July. Progress on the pilots will be closely evaluated to provide lessons for cross-Government programmes tackling social exclusion.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Coastal Areas: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effects of climate change on coastal areas of Hampshire in *(a)* 2020, *(b)* 2050 and *(c)* 2080; and if she will make a statement. [142407]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Hampshire coast is covered by two Shoreline Management Plans. Once reviewed, these plans will provide a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal processes taking account of climate change and other factors. They will also provide a policy framework to manage risks in a sustainable manner, looking ahead over the next 100 years and based on up to date guidance. The reviews will include full consultation with those likely to be affected.

DEFRA published revised guidance for operating authorities on future rates of sea level rise in November 2006. This recommended the following allowances for the east and south east of England, including the effects of vertical land movement:

4.0 mm rise per year from the baseline of nominal 1990 levels to 2025

8.5 mm from 2025 to 2055

12.0 mm from 2055 to 2085

15.0 mm from 2085 to 2115.

Estimates of future sea level rise vary. The aforementioned guidance has been published solely for the purpose of informing flood and coastal erosion risk management decisions and is kept under review. The assumptions and qualifications on which the recommendations are based are included in the guidance which is published on the DEFRA website.

DEFRA policy has been guided by the Government's 2004 Foresight Report which presented possible future flood and coastal erosion risk scenarios. DEFRA, the UK Climate Impacts Programme and Met Office Hadley Centre will publish updated climate change scenarios for the UK in 2008 which should improve understanding of how climate change may affect sea level rise and storm surge over the next 100 years.

Conveyancing: Fees and Charges

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what figures her Department holds on the average cost charged by individual local authorities for property searches. [140862]

Yvette Cooper: The Office of Fair Trading 2005 report "Property Searches—A market study" showed the range of prices for LA searches from £55 to £269 with a median price of £119. We are currently looking at ways of updating these data. 50 local authorities have recently reduced the cost of their searches by an average of 20 per cent. in advance of the introduction of Home Information Packs.

Council Tax

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated total revenue from parish precepts on council tax in England is for 2007-08. [141776]

Ruth Kelly: Levels of council tax set by local authorities in England in 2007-08 were set out in the Communities and Local Government Statistical Release published on 27 March 2007 on the Department's website. The release may by accessed at http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax078.pdf and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Marketing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on *(a)* advertising, *(b)* publicity and *(c)* marketing for (i) home information packs, (ii) licensing of houses in multiple occupation and (iii) the tenancy deposit scheme. [128530]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1527W, for Home Information Packs. For the licensing of HMO's and the tenancy deposit scheme, please see the following table.

	£ million
Tenancy deposit scheme	1.4
Houses of multiple occupancy	1.4

All three campaigns have been carried out to inform the public of changes in law and to encourage them to find out more information about their duties and obligations under those laws.

East Midlands Regional Plan

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities have made formal submissions to the consultation on the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan; [110988]

(2) how many official submissions were made in response to the public consultation on the Draft East Midlands Regional Plan. [110989]

Meg Munn: The formal consultation on the draft East Midlands Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy for the East Midlands) ended on 20 December 2006. During the consultation 1284 responses were submitted and a list of all the respondents and a summary of representations is posted on the East Midlands RSS website:

http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/rss/east_midlands/index.htm.

Among the responses were 110 representations from Parish and Town Councils, 59 from local authorities (including all 46 local authorities in the East Midlands Region) and 23 from Government departments and other official agencies (including Regional Assemblies).

The local authorities that submitted formal representations included:

Amber Valley BC, Ashfield DC, Aylesbury Vale DC, Bassetlaw DC, Bedford BC, Bedfordshire CC, Blaby DC, Bolsover DC, Boston BC, Broxtowe BC, Cambridgeshire CC, Charnwood BC, Cherwell DC, Chesterfield BC, Corby BC, Daventry DC, Derby City, Derbyshire CC, Derbyshire Dales DC, East Lindsey DC, East Northamptonshire DC, East Staffordshire BC, Erewash BC, Gedling BC, Harborough DC, High Peak BC, Hinckley and Bosworth BC, Kettering BC, Leicester City, Leicestershire CC, Lincoln City, Lincolnshire CC, Mansfield DC, Melton BC, Newark and Sherwood DC, North East Derbyshire DC, North East Lincolnshire council, North Kesteven DC, North Lincolnshire council, North West Leicestershire DC, Northampton BC, Northamptonshire CC, Nottingham City, Nottinghamshire CC, Nuneaton and Bedworth BC, Oadby and Wigston BC, Peak District National Park Authority, Peterborough City, Rugby BC, Rushcliffe BC, Rutland CC, Sheffield City, South Derbyshire DC, South Holland DC, South Kesteven DC, South Northamptonshire DC, Staffordshire CC, Wellingborough BC and West Lindsey DC.

Fire Services: Urban Areas

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors are taken into account when considering the merging or amalgamation of fire stations in urban areas; and if she will make a statement. [144089]

Angela E. Smith: Fire and rescue authorities (FRAs) are required by the Fire and Rescue Service National Framework to have in place and maintain an Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) which reflects local need and sets out plans to tackle effectively both existing and potential risks to communities. The IRMP enables the authority to tailor cover to fire and other incidents to local circumstances by evaluating where risk is greatest and allocating resources accordingly.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse has been of *(a)* stakeholder events and *(b)* consultants on home information packs, broken down by main budget heading. [128597]

Ruth Kelly: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1527W.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* oral and *(b)* written representations her Department has received from the right hon. Member for Greenwich and Woolwich on Home Information Packs. [140852]

Ruth Kelly: My right hon. Friend the Member for Greenwich and Woolwich has sent two letters on Home Information Packs. The first was written on behalf of a constituent and was dated 30 November 2005. The second was a request for a meeting to discuss the implementation of Home Information Packs with representatives of the Construction Industry Council and was dated 26 July 2006. The meeting was held on 30 November 2006 with the Minister for Housing and Planning. I have frequent meetings with my colleagues during which a variety of issues are discussed.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the cost of local authority searches will become liable for VAT if they are included in a home information pack. [140859]

Yvette Cooper: Charges for searches provided by local authorities for inclusion in home information packs are currently not subject to VAT, and therefore they will not become so when included in a home information pack.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what expenditure has been incurred on marketing, public relations and communications relating to home information packs. [143498]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1527W.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the classification is of a greenhouse located with the curtilage of a domestic dwelling for the purposes of a Valuation Office Agency dwellinghouse or value significant coding. [141737]

Ruth Kelly: Greenhouses are not classified separately within the Valuation Office Agency's coding system.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's Dwellinghouse Code Validation Matrix as listed in CT IA 241005. [141774]

Ruth Kelly: A copy of this matrix has been placed in the Library of the House. This was an internal guide made available to VOA staff during the mass data capture exercise that took place in preparation for the (now postponed) council tax revaluation in England.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Valuation Office Agency's Dwellinghouse Coding Guide was last updated on the agency's intranet. [141775]

Ruth Kelly: 27 January 2005.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's document Mass Data Capture of Dwellinghouse Codes—FAQ. [141812]

Ruth Kelly: A copy of the document has been placed in the Library of the House and it can also be found on the Valuation Office website:

www.voa.gov.uk.

Land: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use the Automated Valuation Model of the Valuation Office Agency makes of the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [143476]

Angela E. Smith: The Valuation Office Agency's Automated Valuation Model makes use of grid co-ordinates supplied from the National Land and Property Gazetteer to identify the location of properties and their relative geographic position.

Local Government: Pay

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average increase in local government employee wages was in each year since 1996-97; and what the cost of the local government wage bill was in each year since 1996-97. [141823]

Ruth Kelly: Information on local government wages is not held centrally. However, the increase in the local government employee pay bill and the cost of the local government employee expenditure in each year is published in Local Government Financial Statistics or in National Statistics Releases as available from:

http://www.localcommunities.gov.uk/finance/stats/index.htm

All figures are for England only.

Parish Councils

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether district and unitary councils will have powers to direct parish councils to change their names under her proposals for reform of local government. [129745]

Ruth Kelly: Under the terms of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill there are no powers available to principle authorities to change the geographical name of a parish council. However, the principle authority is able to direct a parish council to change the way they refer to their area. The alternative terms of reference are "community", "neighbourhood" or "village".

Planning Gain Supplement

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she expects planning gain supplement to apply to new *(a)* farm buildings, *(b)* mobile phone masts and *(c)* ATM cash machines, where such developments require planning permission. [141816]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government set out the proposed scope of the Planning-gain Supplement in paragraphs 3.121 and 3.122 of the 2006 pre-Budget report.

Planning: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the suitability of Tees Valley being used as a pilot area for a Multi Area Agreement. [143427]

Mr. Woolas: Multi-Area Agreements (MAAs) are being taken forward through the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration. As a result we are still refining our thinking about how MAAs will operate and have not made any formal assessment on which sub-regions would have MAAs.

However, officials have been working closely with colleagues in Tees Valley who have established a very effective sub-regional partnership. Officials are continuing to work with the Tees Valley Partnership to further develop their city region business case as well as their thinking to develop a MAA. We are learning from their approach already and will continue our dialogue with them as we take this policy forward.

Public Sector Relocation Independent Review

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which Government agency or department now holds the documents produced by the Lyons Review of Local Government; and what plans the Government has to transfer this material to the National Archives. [142361]

Ruth Kelly: A copy of the Lyons Inquiry website has been captured to form part of the UK Government Web Archive at The National Archives. Other documents from the Inquiry are now held by the Department for Communities and Local Government. We will hold discussions with The National Archives about these documents in due course.

Second Homes: Taxation

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on the proportion of receipts from local taxation on second homes that should be spent in the district in which the home is located. [143805]

Mr. Woolas: The decision to change the council tax on second homes from between 50 per cent. to 90 per cent. lies with the local authority. The increased council tax receipts accrue to the local authority.

Communities and Local Government does not therefore hold a record of representations received about the proportion of receipts from the local taxation of second homes that should be spent in the district in which the home is located.

Travelling People

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will give directions to those local authorities, whose plans will not deliver land allocations for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation within the target framework, to meet unmet need. [144059]

Meg Munn: The Secretary of State may direct a local authority to amend its local development scheme to allocate land for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation, where she considers it appropriate. Directions in this regard have been given to two local authorities.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will require local planning authorities to report, upon receipt of pitch requirements from the relevant regional planning board on plans for delivery of those pitches, with a timetable. [144060]

Meg Munn: Local authorities must allocate sufficient sites in site allocation development plan documents to meet the pitch requirements allocated to them by Regional Assemblies in Regional Spatial Strategies. Section 35 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act requires every local authority to make an annual report to the Secretary of State containing information on the implementation of the local development scheme, which includes development plan documents, and the extent to which policies set out in local development documents are being achieved.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will instigate a review of caravan counts and the methods of ascertaining the size of the Gypsy and Traveller population for local authority biannual caravan counts. [144062]

Meg Munn: The caravan counts provide a snapshot of the number of caravans owned by Gypsies and Travellers situated in a local authority area on a single day. As such, it does not include Gypsies and Travellers living in bricks and mortar housing, and does not provide a record of the total Gypsy and Traveller population within a local authority area. There are no plans to review the caravan count at this time.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in her Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143891]

Mr. Lammy: The information relating to permanent part-time and full-time staff is contained in the following tables. We do not hold such information on temporary staff.

	Full-time		*Part-time*		
1 April each year	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
2005	254	226	12	33	525
2006	251	229	10	31	521
2007	271	223	7	26	527

	Disabled[1]		*Aged over 55*	
1 April each year	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
2005	6	7	19	20
2006	5	9	25	22
2007	5	7	25	25

[1] Note that Information on disabled staff relates to those staff who have self-declared a disability.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of staff in her Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143908]

Mr. Lammy: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 1 April 2007, 52.8 per cent. of the staff were male; 47.2 per cent. female; 2.3 per cent. recorded as being disabled and 9.5 per cent. aged 55 or over.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* services and *(b)* products her Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143798]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not procured any services or products in the last 12 months from Remploy.

Digital Broadcasting

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate she has made of the spectrum required for high definition television; and what safeguards are in place to ensure there will be sufficient spectrum available for such broadcasting. [143702]

Mr. Woodward: None.

HD can be provided on various platforms; it is essentially a matter for broadcasters and Ofcom. They are currently in discussion regarding the provision of HD on existing digital terrestrial television (DTT) capacity.

Nicholas Goodison

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether *(a)* she and *(b)* any Minister in her Department has met Sir Nicholas Goodison formally since the publication of his report to discuss his recommendations. [143291]

Mr. Lammy: Sir Nicholas Goodison's report was published in January 2004. The then Culture Minister, Estelle Morris, met Sir Nicholas Goodison on 11 October 2004 and I met Sir Nicholas on 18 January 2007 to discuss his report.

Regional Development Agencies

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* location was of each tourism event attended by Ministers in her Department in the last six months; who attended each event; and if she will make a statement; [141770]

(2) what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* date was of each meeting of Ministers in her Department with representatives from the tourism industry in the last six months; who attended each meeting; and if she will make a statement; [141771]

(3) what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* location was of each meeting of Ministers in her Department with representatives from (i) regional development agencies and (ii) VisitBritain in the last six months; who attended each meeting; and if she will make a statement. [141772]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is set out in the table. However, complete lists of organisations for events not organised by DCMS are not available.

Minister	*Purpose*	*Date*	*Event Location*	*Attendees*
Tessa Jowell	Introductory meeting with the Chair of Visit Britain	22 January 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain
Tessa Jowell	British Tourism Week launch and reception	12 March 2007	Tower of London	Royal representative Minister for Creative Industries and Tourism VisitBritain UKinbound
Tessa Jowell	British Travel Trade Fair	13 March 2007	National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham	VisitBritain Number of MPs Wales Tourism Alliance Northern Ireland Tourist Board Tourism Ireland Over 370 exhibiting businesses and 2,400 buyers
Tessa Jowell	Follow up meeting with the Chair of Visit Britain.	24 April 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain
Richard Caborn	Skills for Sport and Tourism Seminar	22 May 2007	House of Commons	Peoplelst SkillsActive Members of the Associate Parliamentary Skills Group Members of the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Sport and Tourism
Richard Caborn	VisitBritain strategy for attracting major sporting events to Britain	1 May 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain Vero Communications

Minister	Purpose	Date	Event Location	Attendees
				UK Sport
Shaun Woodward	Discussion on tourist guiding provision	9 January 2007	DCMS	Members of the Amicus Parliamentary Group Members of Amicus Association of Tourist Guiding Institute of Tourist Guiding
Shaun Woodward	Discussion on the Smoking Ban	11 January 2007	DCMS	Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers Bob Cotton, Chief Executive, British Association Hospitality The Bingo Association British Holiday and Home Park Association British Beer and Pub Association Business in Sport and Leisure Bar Entertainment and Dance Association Confederation of Registered Clubs' Associations
Shaun Woodward	Tourism Society's Prospects Tourism Conference	11 January 2007	Sofitel St. James Hotel, London	Association of British Travel Agents VisitBritain PKF Consultants TMI Hospitality Catering Melvin Consulting Ltd. Members of the Tourism Society
Shaun Woodward	Discuss use of the river Thames for tourism and commuter transport, particularly during the 2012 Games	15 January 2007	DCMS	Thames Clippers
Shaun Woodward	Update on the National Skills Strategy	17 January 2007	DCMS	People 1st
Shaun Woodward	A meeting with representatives from the events industry	17 January 2007	DCMS	Business Tourism Partnership Eventia British Association of Conference Destinations and Association of British Professional Conference Organisers Events Industry Alliance VisitBritain
Shaun Woodward	Meeting on Tourism 2012 Strategy	23 January 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain London Organising Committee Of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) South West Regional Development Agency Local Government Association Chief Executive, People 1st British Holiday and Home Parks Association British Hospitality Association Business in Sport and Leisure Tourism Together Visit Wales Scottish Executive
Shaun Woodward	Regular update meeting with BHA	24 January 2007	DCMS	British Hospitality Association

Minister	Purpose	Date	Event Location	Attendees
Shaun Woodward	Meeting with Tourism Together (the Local Authority Tourism umbrella body)	24 January 2007	DCMS	British Hospitality Association One NorthEast Tourism Society DPUK Institute of Sport, parks and Leisure British Resorts and Destinations Association South West Regional Development Agency
Shaun Woodward	Accessible Tourism and the Issues Raised in the welcome Legacy Consultation	7 February 2007	DCMS	Tourism for All
Shaun Woodward	Follow up to 15 January meeting about the river Thames	8 February 2007	DCMS	Thames Clippers
Shaun Woodward	UK Brand Perceptions—The Anholt Index	19 February 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain
Shaun Woodward	Tourism 2012 Strategy	19 February 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain Visit London London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) South West Regional Development Agency Local Government Association People 1st British Holiday and Home Parks Association British Hospitality Association Tourism Together Visit Wales Scottish Executive
Shaun Woodward	Regular meeting with the Tourism Alliance	20 February 2007	Hilton Hotel, London	Tourism Alliance English UK Association of Leading Visitor Attractions Tourism Southeast British Hospitality Association British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions VisitBritain British Beer and Pub Association Business Tourism Partnership British Holiday and Home Parks Association Visitor Attractions Forum CBI South East England Development Agency Historic Houses Association
Shaun Woodward	Discuss VisitBritain's operations in the key US market	26 February 2007	Los Angeles	US VisitBritain personnel
Shaun Woodward	Discuss a range of tourism issues	28 February 2007	DCMS	Visit London
Shaun Woodward	Launch of People 1st's National Skills Strategy for the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries	7 March 2007	One Whitehall Place, London	Peopleist British Hospitality Association Merlin Entertainment Group

Minister	Purpose	Date	Event Location	Attendees
				VisitBritain
				Learning and Skills Council
				Leitch Review, HM Treasury
				Northwest Regional Development Agency
				South West Regional Development Agency
				A mixture of leading employers and tradé associations-representative bodies from across the hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism industries and education and government, were also present
Shaun Woodward	The SHINE Awards - For Women's Achievements in Travel, Tourism and Hospitality, 2007	9 March 2007	Italian Institute of Culture, London	Shine people and Places
				Senior professionals from the travel, tourism and hospitality industry, supporting industries and event sponsors.
Shaun Woodward	Launch of British Tourism Week 12-18 March	12 March 2007	Tower of London	Royal representative
				SoS, DCMS
				VisitBritain
				Ukinbound
				Representatives from tourism industry organisations and businesses
Shaun Woodward	British Hospitality Association Council meeting	19 March 2007	Grosvenor House, London	VisitBritain
				Marriott
				Compass
				Best Western
				De Vere Group
				Azcor Group
				Jarvis Hotels
				Sodaxo
				Aramark
				Whitbread
				Travelodge
				Choice Hotels
				IHG Group (Holiday Inn)
				Hilton
Shaun Woodward	2012 Tourism Strategy meeting	27 March 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain
				British Holiday and Home Parks Association
				British Hospitality Association
				Business in Sport and Leisure
				British Resorts and Destinations Association
				People 1st
				London Organising Committee Of the Olympic Games (LOCOG)
				Local Government Association
				South West Regional Development Agency
				VisitLondon
Shaun Woodward	Meeting with the British Holiday and Home Parks Association	14 May 2007	Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Norfolk	British Holiday and Home Parks Association
				Representatives from Kelling Heath
				VisitNorwich
				Norfolk Tourism Executive

Minister	Purpose	Date	Event Location	Attendees
				East of England Regional Development Agency
				East of England Tourism
				Norfolk Tourism
				VisitBritain
				Representatives from tourism industry businesses and local government.
Shaun Woodward	Regular meeting with the Tourism Alliance	18 April 2007	Marriott County, London	Tourism Alliance Hall,
				English UK
				Association of Leading Visitor Attractions
				Tourism Southeast
				British Hospitality Association
				British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions
				VisitBritain
				British Beer and Pub Association
				Business Tourism Partnership
				British Holiday and Home Parks Association
				Visitor Attractions Forum
				CBI
				South East England Development Agency
				Historic Houses Association
Shaun Woodward	Discussion on air transport issues	24 April 2007	Trafalgar Hotel, London	Airways British
Shaun Woodward	Visit to Stanley House Hotel (to meet North West winners of the Enjoy England Awards for Excellence 2007) and Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery.	26 April 2007	Blackburn (Stanley House Hotel) (Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery):	Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board
				Culture North West
				Lancashire Economic Partnership
				Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
				National Football Museum
				Blackpool Council
				Ribble Valley Borough Council
				Representatives Number One Bed and Breakfast, Blackpool
				Representatives Stanley House Hotel
				Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
				Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery
Shaun Woodward	Meeting with North West Regional Development Agency	27 April 2007	NWRDA Offices, Renaissance House, Warrington	North West Regional Development Agency
Shaun Woodward	Discuss tourism issues and 2012 opportunities	30 April 2007	DCMS	Travelodge Reputation inc
Shaun Woodward	Discussion with industry on UK Skills Passports	8 May 2007	Mirrabell Restaurant, London	Mitchells and Butler
				Travelodge Hotels
				McDonald's
				Gala Coral Group
				Public Sector Catering Council
				Starbucks
				Marston's

Minister	Purpose	Date	Event Location	Attendees
				Premier Travel Inn
				People 1st
				British Hospitality and Restaurant Association
Shaun Woodward	2012 Tourism Strategy meeting	9 May 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain
				Business in Sport and Leisure)
				London Organising Committee Of the Olympic Games (LOCOG
				Local Government Association
				South West Regional Development Agency
				Scottish Executive
				People 1st
				British Holiday and Home Parks Association
				British Hospitality Association
				Tourism Together
				Visit Wales
Shaun Woodward	Meeting with representatives of the, Historic Houses Association	14 May 2007	Houghton Hall Norfolk	Representatives of Houghton Hall Historic Houses Association
Shaun Woodward	Follow up meeting to meeting on 19 February	6 June 2007	DCMS	VisitBritain
Shaun Woodward	Regional visit to Liverpool		Liverpool Arena and Convention Centre and St George's Hall, Liverpool	Liverpool Culture Company
				The Mersey Partnership
				North West Development Agency
				Northwest Tourism Forum
				Representatives of the Arena and Convention Centre Liverpool
				Liverpool City Council
				Liverpool Attractions Group
				Liverpool Restaurant Group
				Liverpool Tourism Business Network

World Heritage Sites

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will take steps *(a)* to develop comprehensive visual studies and *(b)* to designate buffer zones in order to protect areas that hold World Heritage Site status from possible adverse impacts caused by the development of tall buildings. [143404]

Mr. Lammy: In March 2007 the Government published 'Heritage Protection for the 21st Century', which sets out proposals to strengthen and clarify protection for world heritage sites. These measures include a commitment to produce a planning circular which will clarify policy on world heritage sites including the use of buffer zones. This will be published for consultation later this year.

It is for each world heritage site steering group, in consultation with the relevant local authorities, to decide how best to protect the setting and outstanding universal value of the site in question. In some cases, a comprehensive visual study may be appropriate as a tool for achieving this. In some cases, also, buffer zones are one of the approaches which can be used for protecting the setting but they may not be appropriate for all world heritage sites.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Adoption

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the target is for each local authority classified by relevant Government office for numbers of adoptions from care in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [142137]

Mr. Dhanda: No adoption targets have been set by central Government for individual local authorities, though some authorities have chosen to develop adoption targets as part of the local area agreement/ local public service agreement process.

I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Minister of State at the Department

for Communities and Local Government on 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1073W.

Local public service agreements are based entirely around reward targets. They have now been largely merged into local area agreements, which contain non-reward and reward targets, and typically run for three years. No local authority has a reward target specifically on adoptions which is dependent on performance in either 2006-07 or 2007-08. There is no detailed central record of non-reward targets in local area agreements, although the agreements themselves are available on the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) website.

Apprenticeships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1272W, on apprentices, how many pupils in *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships achieved separate technical certificates in each year since 1997. [131377]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 16 April 2007]:* Data on Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships are collected on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Individualised Learner Record (ILR). As reported in the answer of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1272W, this can record all of the individual learning aims that an Apprentice is undertaking as part of the framework, including those identified as separate technical certificates. However, although in principle it is possible to identify those learners who have achieved both the full framework and a technical certificate, the required information is not contained on the framework record which is used to calculate success rates. The analysis would require the creation of a new methodology for bringing the information on technical certificates forward from the raw data to the framework record. The undertaking of this work would require a significant resource in terms of analyst time and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Additionally it is not possible to identify those learners who have already obtained the technical certificate through prior learning.

Children in Care

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many children were taken into care in each local authority in each of the last 10 years; [133507]

(2) when he will reply to question number 133507, on children in care, tabled by the hon. Member for North West Cambridgeshire on 18 April 2007. [143680]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Looked after children taken into care during the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], England

Number

	1997[2]	*1998[3]*	*1999[3]*	*2000[3]*	*2001[3]*	*2002[3]*	*2003[3]*	*2004[2]*	*2005[2]*	*2006[2]*
England	6,100	7,100	7,200	7,700	7,000	7,400	8,100	7,500	7,700	7,600
North East	320	390	410	450	350	460	450	450	440	470
Darlington	10	30	20	15	30	25	35	20	20	20
Durham	35	40	70	75	35	60	100	100	80	65
Gateshead	30	40	45	40	30	25	55	25	25	55
Hartlepool	15	15	35	35	30	15	15	25	20	15
Middlesbrough	15	15	10	25	20	30	20	40	35	30
Newcastle upon Tyne	25	20	25	45	45	55	35	55	40	45
North Tyneside	25	25	15	35	30	20	15	20	15	35
Northumberland	25	50	20	20	20	60	60	45	55	45
Redcar and Cleveland	15	25	10	15	20	45	30	10	25	35
South Tyneside	30	40	30	20	30	35	40	40	35	45
Stockton-on-Tees	20	30	30	40	15	30	20	45	25	35
Sunderland	70	50	55	75	50	65	35	35	60	40
North West	1,000	1,130	1,170	1,310	1,070	1,260	1,200	1,260	1,330	1,260
Blackburn with Darwen	25	60	30	15	45	50	35	50	50	55
Blackpool	25	25	35	40	30	30	20	25	35	35
Bolton	35	50	35	40	20	60	30	55	70	45
Bury	15	15	30	30	30	45	25	45	45	30
Cheshire	35	50	65	55	60	25	55	35	45	55
Cumbria	45	60	85	90	60	135	105	65	50	60
Halton	10	10	15	40	20	25	10	15	15	15
Knowsley	20	10	20	35	25	15	20	35	45	20
Lancashire	175	185	130	150	105	145	200	160	210	205
Liverpool	90	60	120	135	115	75	55	80	40	50
Manchester	200	245	200	180	175	200	185	170	195	205
Oldham	25	35	30	50	45	40	40	45	55	55

Looked after children taken into care during the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], England

	1997[2]	1998[3]	1999[3]	2000[3]	2001[3]	2002[3]	2003[3]	2004[2]	2005[2]	Number 2006[2]
Rochdale	20	30	45	60	15	30	35	60	40	30
Salford	75	60	50	100	70	55	65	70	75	70
Sefton	25	35	40	35	30	20	70	35	45	75
St. Helens	20	25	10	30	30	45	10	30	40	60
Stockport	35	25	80	55	65	55	45	60	55	40
Tameside	20	20	20	20	20	8 30	50	55	60	25
Trafford	20	40	15	25	45	40	25	20	25	15
Warrington	15	15	—	25	—	20	15	25	15	5
Wigan	45	40	60	40	20	35	30	70	50	50
Wirral	15	35	45	65	55	100	65	55	65	65
Yorkshire and the Humber	850	920	950	1,060	920	940	990	840	920	760
Barnsley	25	70	40	45	65	35	40	45	40	35
Bradford	80	70	120	110	130	115	110	115	120	90
Calderdale	30	20	20	35	20	35	30	30	35	20
Doncaster	65	60	50	110	45	80	50	70	85	80
East Riding of Yorkshire	45	40	25	40	25	35	35	10	50	30
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	95	145	90	55	45	70	95	40	45	60
Kirklees	45	40	45	85	50	50	50	60	55	55
Leeds	190	210	180	205	180	180	220	205	200	130
North East Lincolnshire	40	25	50	45	30	40	20	25	25	10
North Lincolnshire	15	15	45	10	—	20	35	25	20	25
North Yorkshire	45	35	50	45	55	35	60	35	55	45
Rotherham	40	40	30	55	70	35	55	45	65	40
Sheffield	65	60	100	130	125	125	110	55	60	70
Wakefield	60	85	75	35	30	65	70	55	35	50
York	20	—	25	40	30	20	15	25	20	20
East Midlands	460	590	640	610	610	550	550	490	470	450
Derby	60	50	45	45	50	20	40	30	30	35
Derbyshire	30	80	110	115	80	100	80	70	75	50
Leicester	45	70	50	80	105	70	70	80	70	65
Leicestershire	25	20	45	50	35	65	60	40	35	40
Lincolnshire	105	120	165	65	105	85	75	75	70	60
Northamptonshire	65	60	70	100	60	105	85	105	95	115
Nottingham	55	110	90	85	60	65	65	55	40	20
Nottinghamshire	70	85	70	55	105	40	70	30	50	60
Rutland	0	0	0	—	5	0	0	—	—	—
West Midlands	660	930	940	810	820	920	1,060	800	890	910
Birmingham	185	420	360	260	225	265	280	190	250	255
Coventry	50	40	50	75	55	55	55	60	70	65
Dudley	55	55	55	65	55	70	75	45	75	55
Herefordshire	15	25	35	30	20	15	20	30	15	10
Sandwell	60	40	65	50	60	70	85	80	55	80
Shropshire	5	5	10	10	15	40	25	15	35	15
Solihull	15	10	30	20	30	30	20	25	30	25
Staffordshire	60	65	60	80	70	65	105	80	85	125
Stoke-on-Trent	30	65	55	45	40	55	85	60	65	50
Telford and Wrekin	5	10	10	—	35	10	20	15	5	20
Walsall	25	50	50	50	45	75	110	55	55	70
Warwickshire	20	30	15	15	20	70	35	40	35	35
Wolverhampton	50	50	50	25	65	35	50	65	45	45
Worcestershire	80	55	100	90	90	65	90	45	65	50
East of England	640	620	580	710	630	690	680	680	690	650
Bedfordshire	15	30	30	45	50	70	45	50	25	15

Looked after children taken into care during the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], England

Number

	1997[2]	*1998*[3]	*1999*[3]	*2000*[3]	*2001*[3]	*2002*[3]	*2003*[3]	*2004*[2]	*2005*[2]	*2006*[2]
Cambridgeshire	55	50	45	40	30	35	30	50	55	50
Essex	165	135	120	220	105	115	155	160	200	170
Hertfordshire	115	135	105	120	110	100	105	135	80	110
Luton	40	5	30	20	55	55	90	50	40	25
Norfolk	55	65	60	75	135	160	110	100	135	105
Peterborough	40	60	25	95	20	30	20	25	40	40
Southend-on-Sea	50	25	50	20	30	35	20	20	40	30
Suffolk	65	90	85	50	85	75	95	60	55	100
Thurrock	30	10	20	20	10	15	15	30	15	15
London	960	1,070	1,170	1,220	1,200	1,310	1,740	1,540	1,550	1,570
Inner London	440	530	570	600	590	660	920	860	790	810
Camden	30	30	45	40	60	85	95	85	60	75
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Hackney	30	40	60	50	45	20	45	70	65	45
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	30	25	40	40	50	70	40	35	45
Haringey	15	15	45	40	75	75	120	100	70	90
Islington	35	40	40	50	25	50	45	55	45	60
Kensington and Chelsea	15	20	35	35	30	35	30	45	30	30
Lambeth	50	45	50	50	50	50	45	65	80	65
Lewisham	35	40	40	65	40	40	65	85	80	65
Newham	45	50	75	75	65	75	140	85	60	100
Southwark	45	75	45	25	50	70	60	75	90	85
Tower Hamlets	70	65	30	45	30	45	40	60	85	75
Wandsworth	35	40	35	40	50	30	70	60	50	35
Westminster	25	45	50	40	30	35	95	40	40	45
Outer London	520	550	600	610	610	650	820	680	770	760
Barking and Dagenham	20	10	35	30	15	45	80	55	60	40
Barnet	25	20	25	30	65	45	80	65	60	55
Bexley	30	20	35	25	15	40	15	10	25	25
Brent	85	40	80	30	60	40	50	65	55	70
Bromley	15	35	35	20	40	30	50	55	35	20
Croydon	50	65	40	70	20	25	45	30	50	40
Ealing	55	60	65	65	55	45	70	55	75	70
Enfield	30	5	25	15	25	45	75	40	60	45
Greenwich	35	60	75	70	70	95	75	65	70	85
Harrow	5	25	30	40	35	10	20	20	30	15
Havering	5	—	15	20	20	5	20	20	20	35
Hillingdon	20	30	5	45	20	15	20	30	40	55
Hounslow	35	35	20	40	70	45	55	60	50	85
Kingston upon Thames	—	20	—	10	—	10	5	10	15	10
Merton	20	25	20	15	25	40	35	15	30	15
Redbridge	45	45	20	25	10	35	30	15	15	20
Richmond upon Thames	10	25	25	15	5	5	15	10	15	10
Sutton	20	—	10	25	10	15	10	10	35	15
Waltham Forest	10	20	35	30	50	50	70	40	30	50
South East	820	950	900	1,000	950	780	990	880	910	900
Bracknell Forest	—	—	25	5	—	—	5	5	10	5
Brighton and Hove	40	70	65	30	35	55	105	60	60	85
Buckinghamshire	20	15	45	30	45	40	40	50	20	20
East Sussex	45	45	75	80	80	80	80	65	80	70
Hampshire	70	150	150	140	125	90	115	95	130	105
Isle of Wight	30	10	—	60	20	20	10	15	—	15
Kent	125	210	165	195	205	170	170	165	210	160

Looked after children taken into care during the years ending 31 March 1997 to 2006[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7], England

	1997[2]	1998[3]	1999[3]	2000[3]	2001[3]	2002[3]	2003[3]	2004[2]	2005[2]	Number 2006[2]
Medway Towns	55	60	50	45	35	15	55	60	30	40
Milton Keynes	35	65	35	30	15	25	55	30	45	35
Oxfordshire	100	40	60	60	75	35	65	50	65	85
Portsmouth	40	45	20	15	55	25	30	35	35	30
Reading	15	—	5	15	5	25	25	25	15	30
Slough	10	5	—	20	10	10	15	—	15	20
Southampton	50	65	60	85	85	40	45	30	25	20
Surrey	75	60	60	75	60	55	70	130	90	75
West Berkshire	20	—	20	5	5	—	15	10	10	—
West Sussex	75	85	50	90	85	80	85	55	60	85
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	5	10	10	0	0	5	10	—	—
Wokingham	5	10	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	10
South West	450	500	550	530	480	510	520	600	540	630
Bath and North East Somerset	10	10	20	10	15	15	10	10	5	30
Bournemouth	25	55	35	30	45	30	40	20	15	20
Bristol, City of	55	60	85	40	35	30	65	85	105	90
Cornwall	65	75	60	75	60	50	70	100	60	95
Devon	65	45	100	100	80	65	65	80	80	55
Dorset	25	15	20	20	25	10	10	10	20	20
Gloucestershire	45	35	35	55	55	70	35	45	30	55
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	30	20	15	25	25	—	5	35	10	25
Plymouth	30	40	45	45	30	40	55	40	45	30
Poole	10	30	15	15	10	25	20	10	—	10
Somerset	35	30	35	25	50	65	60	55	55	85
South Gloucestershire	15	25	10	20	15	25	30	30	10	20
Swindon	10	10	15	—	5	10	5	20	25	35
Torbay	15	25	25	30	20	25	30	25	25	25
Wiltshire	15	35	35	30	15	40	15	35	45	40

[1] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[2] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 return which in 1996-97, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 covered all looked after children.
[3] Figures are taken from the SSDA903 one-third sample survey.
[4] Only the first occasion on which a child was taken into care in the year has been counted.
[5] "Children taken into care" are children who started to be looked after under the following legal statuses: interim or full care orders, and police protection or emergency protection or child assessment orders. They exclude children freed for adoption or for whom a placement order was granted, they exclude children under voluntary accommodation and they also exclude children under youth justice legal statuses.
[6] Historical figures may differ from older publications. This is mainly due to the implementation of amendments sent by some local authorities after the publication date of previous materials.
[7] To maintain the confidentiality of each individual child, data at national level are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. At local authority level, data are rounded to the nearest five and at region level, to the nearest 10. Where the number was five or less (other than 0) this has been suppressed and replaced with '—'.

Children in Care: Death

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will put in place arrangements for collecting centrally details of all fatalities of young people in *(a)* foster and *(b)* residential care that take place in England. [143861]

Beverley Hughes: Both fostering service providers and the providers of children's homes are already required to notify the Secretary of State of particular events, including the death of a looked after child in their care.

However, in order to monitor and investigate child deaths more effectively, the Government are putting in place new child death review processes which will be the responsibility of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs). Reviewing deaths will become mandatory in April 2008 though LSCBs have been able to do this since 2006. These arrangements include children in foster care and residential care.

There are two elements to the child death review process: firstly, a rapid response by a group of professionals who are responsible for inquiring into and evaluating each unexpected death of a child; secondly, the review of deaths of all children in the local authority area through Child Death Overview Panels (CDOPs). CDOPs will identify any trends or patterns in these deaths. This information will be used by LSCBs to prevent or avoid such deaths in the future. It will inform local strategic planning for children's services and policy at a local and national level. Detailed guidance on how these procedures work is set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006).

Children in Care: Standards

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the LILAC (Leading improvements for looked-after children) scheme for involving care-experienced young people in the inspections of local authority's care services. [142310]

Mr. Dhanda: I understand that an evaluation report of the LILAC scheme by A National Voice will be published shortly. We are fully committed to the policy of ensuring that young people in care are actively involved in the care planning process. The recent Green Paper, 'Care Matters: transforming the lives of children and young people in care', contains a range of proposals that aim to give young people a voice and more control over their lives while in care.

Council for Disabled Children

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects the Council for Disabled Children to publish its good practice guidance on transition; and if he will make a statement. [143409]

Mr. Dhanda: We intend that the Transition Support Programme will be piloted from 2008-09. Work is in progress on developing the pilots and more details will be available later this year. No decision has yet been taken on what parts of the country the pilots will take place.

The Council for Disabled Children has produced draft guidance on transition which will be published by the Department later this summer.

Children: Work Permits

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what plans he has to publicise the requirements for work permits for child employment; [143272]

(2) how many children who require work permits his Department estimates are in employment; [143273]

(3) whether the Head of Children's Services in a local authority is formally accountable for the implementation of child employment policy in that authority; and if he will bring forward proposals to require a named member to also have special responsibility. [143761]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answers 15 June 2007]:* In 2005, the Government published "Statutory guidance on the roles and responsibilities of the Director of Children's Services and Lead Member for Children's Services". This guidance is clear that local authorities' functions relating to child employment under section 559 of the Education Act 1996 and sections 18(2) and 37 of the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 fall within the Director of Children's Services areas of responsibility by virtue of section 18(2)(a) of the Children Act 2004. Directors of Children's Services are accountable to the elected members of their authorities for all aspects of their work.

Local authorities are responsible for granting child employment permits and for the enforcement of child employment legislation, including explaining and publicising its requirements. Information is not collected centrally about the numbers of children who require employment permits. The Government plan to help local authorities, employers, young people and other stakeholders to understand and operate the system by producing clear guidance.

Classroom Assistants: Visually Impaired

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that there is a sufficient number of qualified teaching assistants able to help those children with a visual impairment. [133825]

Mr. Dhanda: Decisions on the number and deployment of teaching assistants are matters for local determination by individual schools and their local authorities.

All schools receive a School Development Grant which they are able to use to support improvements in any aspect of teaching and learning. This can be used to support staff training, including sending teaching assistants on specialised training courses. Local authorities may retain a proportion of this grant, in certain circumstances, to provide specific training and development in relation to special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities.

Support staff, including teaching assistants, play an important role in schools, often working closely with pupils with SEN and disabilities. In recognition of this, the Training and Development Agency for Schools, which now has responsibility for support staff training and development, has developed national occupational standards for teachers/classroom assistants to cover roles that support teaching and learning in schools. The revised standards have been strengthened to reflect the role of teaching assistants working with pupils with additional needs, including those with sensory impairment. Induction training material on SEN for teaching assistants working in both primary and secondary schools is also available, as is introductory training for other support staff, which contains a discrete module covering SEN and disabilities.

The standards for higher level teaching assistants (HLTAs), for which the TDA is also responsible, require HLTAs to know how to support learners in accessing the curriculum, in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice and disability legislation.

Departments: Delivery Unit

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills in which *(a)* policy areas and *(b)* projects his Department is (i) receiving support or advice from the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and (ii) has received such support or advice over the last 12 months. [137065]

Mr. Dhanda: The Prime Minister's Delivery Unit (PMDU) works with my Department in the following policy areas: primary and secondary school standards; attendance and behaviour; targeted youth support; attainment at 19; those not in education, training or employment (NEETs); academies; trust schools; and extended schools. With regard to projects my

Department has received support from the PMDU on over the last 12 months, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 116W. The PMDU is currently working with the Department on the impact of School Improvement Partners on raising standards.

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what strategy he has put in place for *(a)* the use of renewable energy and *(b)* meeting energy targets in his Department's buildings; and if he will make a statement. [125407]

Mr. Dhanda: DFES has recently introduced a Sustainable Operations Management System (SOMS), to help it meet the framework for Sustainable Development in Government's (SDiG) renewable energy and energy reduction targets on its office estate.

As part of DFES strategy within the SOMS and supporting action plans, DFES will conduct a feasibility study into on-site low and zero carbon heat and power generation systems. This will include a cost benefit analysis for sourcing more energy from renewables.

As part of DFES strategy within the SOMS and supporting action plans, DFES will set annual targets to meet SDiG energy efficiency targets, developing and communicating energy protocols incorporating short and long term energy management improvement actions (including Carbon Trust identified actions) and energy monitoring programmes to report on energy usage and trends.

Departments: Food

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department has taken in response to the National Audit Office Report Smarter Food Procurement by the Public Sector. [142754]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The Department worked closely with the National Audit Office (NAO) in establishing the facts published in its report 'Smarter Food Procurement in the Public Sector' and has consulted the NAO in taking forward action on the report's recommendations. It is also working closely with the Department for the Environment Food and Rural Affairs, the School Food Trust and the North East Centre of Excellence in taking forward the report's recommendations. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) held a hearing on the NAO report on 11 October 2006 and published their report on 30 March 2007 (the 13th Report of the Public Accounts Committee). Details of the work being taken by this Department and other Government Departments in response to the PAC report is set out in the Treasury Minute published on 23 May 2007 (Cm 7077).

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139402]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills spent £172,043 in 2002-03, £275,523 in 2003-04, £243,286 in 2004-05, £250,815 in 2005-06 and £192,594 in 2006-07 on external legal services (i.e. advice and some litigation services). The figures have been rounded to the nearest pound.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts. [137718]

Mr. Dhanda: There are currently 61 members of staff who are without a permanent post in my Department. This number is broken down by site and grade as follows:

	Darlington	*London*	*Runcorn*	*Sheffield*	*GIO*	*Total*
EA	0	12	1	8	0	21
EO	0	10	4	3	0	17
HEO	0	1	0	2	1	4
SEO	0	3	0	2	0	5
G7	0	5	1	3	0	9
G6	0	2	0	3	0	5
Total	0	33	6	21	1	61

When staff find themselves without a permanent post, they are supported by their line manager and HR, and are deployed on projects or other meaningful work until they secure a permanent post. Our expectation is that all displaced staff will find a new post within a three month period.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what visits he has made involving a mix of political and official engagements where Government Car Service vehicles were used in 2007; and whether the Government was reimbursed a proportion of the cost in each case. [142643]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* All travel is undertaken in accordance with Travel by Ministers and the Ministerial Code, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143101]

Mr. Dhanda: Information for Executive Assistant to Grade 6 bonus payments received in 2006-07 is not yet available. Members of the Senior Civil Service will not receive their bonus payments until November 2007.

For my Department's most up to date information, I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1706W.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which postal companies handle mail dispatched by his Department and its agencies. [128244]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills use the following postal companies to handle mail dispatched from its head office buildings.

Royal Mail;

Parcel Force;

Copley Couriers;

Central Dispatch Couriers.

The Department could provide information in respect of its agencies only at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139434]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills uses the Central Office of Information (COI) for "above the line" advertising campaigns; it does not keep separate information centrally on any subcontracted consultancy services that COI may employ relating to any advertising campaigns. The Department contracts with agencies for "below the line" publicity, including design agencies and PR agencies—but these are for services such as design and PR services, not consultancy.

The Department for Education and Skills does not have any agencies.

Departments: Sexual Harassment

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many complaints of sexual harassment have been investigated in his Department in the last 12 months; and how many complaints have been upheld. [135370]

Mr. Dhanda: No complaints of sexual harassment were investigated in my Department in the last 12 months.

The Department believes that each and every individual has the right to be treated fairly, with dignity and respect. As such, we do not tolerate unacceptable behaviour towards others. Formal complaints of sexual harassment would be investigated quickly and thoroughly and, where complaints were upheld, appropriate disciplinary action would be taken. All cases are treated seriously.

The overall aim of our harassment and bullying policy is to prevent such unacceptable behaviour occurring but, where it does occur, to ensure that appropriate and effective action is taken to deal with it and prevent it happening again. This applies to everyone in the Department. Every individual is personally responsible for their own behaviour, and every manager is responsible for enforcing the policy in accordance with the guidance and procedures set out in our Staff Handbook.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143107]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is set out in the following table.

Calendar year	*Average number days lost through sick leave per staff year*
2005	8.9
2004	9.0
2003	10.3
2002	9.8
2001	8.4

The data are taken from the report 'Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service', which Cabinet Office publishes annually.

Departments: Working Hours

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many staff at each grade in his Department have opted out of the Working Time Regulations. [137679]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department is committed to reducing the number of employees who work in excess of the Working Time Directive maximum to an absolute minimum.

The current number and grade of employees who have signed a formal opt out from the Working Time Directive is set out in the table as follows:

Grade	*Number*
AO	6
EO	12
HEO	12
SEO	6
Grade 7	7
Grade 6	2
SCSB1	2

The number of hours that each employee works per week is not kept centrally, therefore the number of hours in excess of the maximum allowed under the Working Time Directive could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Executive Agencies

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which executive agencies are the responsibility of his Department; what the function is of each agency; and what the budget was of each agency in the most recent year for which figures are available. [116746]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is not responsible for any executive agencies.

Foster Care: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children in the North East are *(a)* in recognised foster care and *(b)* subject to special guardianship or residence orders with friends or family other than their parents. [134887]

Mr. Dhanda: Information on the numbers of children that are *(a)* in recognised foster care and *(b)* subject to special guardianship or residence orders with friends or family other than their parents is not collected centrally by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES).

Information on looked after children who were taken into care is collected in the annual SSDA903 return which is completed by local authority social services departments in England. The SSDA903 return does not distinguish whether a foster care is recognised or not. The closest data available are the number of children in the North East of England that are in foster care at 31 March 2006. The information is available in table 4 at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/TablesfinalRENAMED.xls

The data do not distinguish whether looked after children subject to special guardianship or residence orders are with friends or family other than their parents. The closest data available are the number of children who ceased to be looked after during the year ending 31 March 2006 in England by reason episode ceased and age on ceasing. Please note that the information only shows the number of children who ceased to be looked after because of the granting of a special guardianship or residence order who are living in all types of placement, and not just for those who are placed with friends or family other than their parents. The information is available in table AH at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000721/All_National_Tables.xls

Pupils: Dyslexia

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in each local authority area were diagnosed with dyslexia in each of the last 10 years. [141219]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information has been placed in the House Library.

Information was collected from schools on pupils who are supported at School Action Plus and those pupils with statements of special educational needs (SEN) about their main or primary need and, if appropriate, their secondary need for the first time in 2004.

Information on the number of pupils with dyslexia alone is not collected centrally. Figures relating to pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties have been provided. Pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties have a particular difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or manipulate numbers and this includes pupils with dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

There are a number of sensitivities about categorising pupils by their type of SEN. It is important that anyone using the data should be aware of the concerns and also understand the limitations of the data's reliability and validity. There are a range of factors which may affect the data recorded, including:

Local interpretation of definitions

Classification of children with multiple needs

Statistics are based on school and local authority identification of need rather than a diagnosis by medical of psychological staff

Availability of special school provisions in Authorities

Respite Care

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what progress has been made on the issuing of best practice guidelines to local authorities on the provision of respite care to families with disabled children pursuant to the Government's commitment given on 23 February 2007; [141280]

(2) how the recently announced additional £280 million funding to increase respite care for families with disabled children will be spent; and if he will make a statement. [141281]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answers 11 June 2007]:* The Council for Disabled Children has started to develop good practice guidance to help local authorities commission quality short breaks services for disabled children and their families. A first draft of the guidance will be submitted to the Department in the autumn and this will be trialled with a small number of authorities. The trial findings will be used to inform the final draft of the guidance for publication in spring 2008.

Implementation plans are being developed to deliver the step change in the provision of short breaks announced in the DfES/HMT report 'Aiming high for disabled children: better support for families' (May 2007). There is an expectation the £280 million made available for this purpose will be phased—with pathfinders in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and national roll-out in 2010-11. The priority is to support the development of sustainable short breaks services locally.

Our plans will need to take account of the NHS comprehensive spending review settlement later this year which will provide additional funding to provide short breaks for disabled children with complex health needs.

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of current pupils with *(a)* statemented special educational needs (SEN) and *(b)* non-statemented SEN have received a fixed period exclusion from (i) maintained mainstream and (ii) other schools (A) once, (B) twice, (C) more than twice and (D) more than five times. [132386]

Mr. Dhanda: The available information is given in the tables.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools[1]: Number of pupils excluded for a fixed period from school by special educational needs (SEN), 2004/05, England

Maintained primary and secondary schools

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil:	Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements		Pupils with no identified SEN		Total[2]	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
1	6,820	3.2	42,130	19.6	86,880	40.5	135,830	63.3
2	2,770	1.3	16,170	7.5	22,260	10.4	41,190	19.2
3 to 5	2,700	1.3	13,930	6.5	14,970	7.0	31,600	14.7
More than 5	630	0.3	2,930	1.4	2,260	1.1	5,810	2.7
Total number of pupils	12,910	6.0	75,150	35.0	126,370	58.9	214,440	100.0

Maintained special schools

Number of fixed period exclusions per pupil:	Pupils with statements of SEN		Pupils with SEN without statements		Pupils with no identified SEN		Total	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
1	2,590	40.5	90	1.5	280	4.3	2,960	46.3
2	1,160	18.2	40	0.6	120	1.9	1,320	20.7
3 to 5	1,360	21.2	60	1.0	100	1.5	1,520	23.7
More than 5	520	8.2	20	0.2	60	0.9	600	9.3
Total number of pupils	5,640	88.0	210	3.3	550	8.7	6,400	100.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Excludes non-maintained special schools.
[2] Includes pupils for whom information on stage of SEN has not been established.
[3] Number of pupils who have been excluded for a fixed period expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils who were excluded for a fixed period from the same type of school.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Vocational Guidance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to require all publicly-funded providers of post 16 learning, other than universities, to put in place a programme of careers education. [143121]

Mr. Dhanda: We have no plans to place a statutory duty on providers of post 16 learning to provide a programme of careers education.

JUSTICE

Voting Age

25. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations she has received since 2005 on lowering the voting age for elections in the UK. [143371]

Bridget Prentice: I have received a number of representations since 2005. These have included approximately 36 letters that were mainly from young people, nine letters from Members of Parliament and four Parliamentary Questions.

Children's Panel Solicitors

26. **John Mann:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many children's panel solicitors there are in Nottinghamshire; and how many there were three years ago. [143372]

Vera Baird: The Law Society has informed me that there are 36 solicitors currently registered on the children's panel in Nottinghamshire. However they do not hold historical data on specific regions.

Departmental Responsibilities

27. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what matters concerning the establishment and operation of the Ministry of Justice remain under discussion between her Department and members of the senior judiciary. [143373]

28. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on her Department's working group with the senior judiciary on recent reorganisation of government departmental responsibilities. [143374]

Ms Harman: Discussions between the judiciary and the Lord Chancellor and officials in the Ministry of Justice are ongoing.

Postal Votes

29. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what provisions are being made to ensure that all those eligible who wish to do so are able to vote via postal voting. [143375]

Bridget Prentice: In 2001, postal voting on demand was introduced to encourage greater participation in the electoral process, by allowing electors to vote using a method that is convenient for them.

The Government continue to believe, given today's lifestyles and its popularity, that people should continue to have the choice of a postal vote available to them. However, the Government also recognises that the integrity of the electoral process must be maintained, and to that end, has introduced new security measures through the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and Regulations, including the introduction of personal identifiers for absent voters.

Court Staff: Regional Pay Rates

30. **Mr. Illsley:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will make a statement on the introduction of regional pay rates for court staff. [143377]

Ms Harman: Regional pay is a reality in the economy as a whole-pay variations by location are not new. The system we are introducing offers greater coherence, greater transparency and enables us to target public money most effectively on those areas where there is greatest need. It will allow us to offer competitive salaries to attract and retain staff with the skills we need where we need them.

Prisons: Treatment Provision

31. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she is taking to increase provision for treatment in prisons. [143378]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Investment in prison health care has increased significantly from £118 million in 2002-03 to £200 million in 2006-07. This includes £20 million specifically available for mental health in-reach services each year from 2006-07. In 2007-08 the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Department of Health are jointly investing £18.7 million in the introduction of the integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) in prisons.

Prison Swimming Pools

32. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the running costs are of maintaining swimming pools in prisons in England and Wales; and if she will make a statement. [143379]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my answer on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 387W.

Legal Services Bill

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the likely impact of the Legal Services Bill, if enacted, on the right to practise of British lawyers *(a)* in Germany, *(b)* in other European jurisdictions and *(c)* outside Europe. [143165]

Bridget Prentice: Sir David Clementi considered the impact of his proposals, which form the basis of the Legal Services Bill, on the right of British lawyers to practise in other jurisdictions. Appendix 2 of his Report of December 2004, contained a legal opinion from Slaughter and May which concluded that:

"We believe that Model A and Model B+ are compatible with Community law, international norms and the European Convention on Human Rights".

Throughout the development of our proposals, we have consistently taken account of the international position, and remain confident that while the proposals in the Legal Services Bill are likely to increase the competitiveness of the legal services industry of England and Wales, they will also safeguard and strengthen its independence.

The only opposing evidence we have identified came from Bundesrechtsanwältskammer or BRAK—which is the self-regulatory body of the German legal profession and acts as the umbrella organisation which represents the 27 regional Bars and the Bar at the Federal Court of Justice. BRAK did make representations both to the Joint Committee on the draft legal Services Bill and to Lord Neill of Bladen who debated some of the issues raised by BRAK during Lords passage of the Bill.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations she has received on the impact of the Legal Services Bill on the right to practise of British lawyers *(a)* in Germany, *(b)* in other European jurisdictions and *(c)* outside Europe. [142623]

Bridget Prentice: I have received no representations from bodies which are responsible for the recognition or regulation of legal professions in other jurisdictions about the impact of the right of British lawyers to practise as a result of the Legal Services Bill. However, I am aware that the Bundesrechtsanwältskammer or BRAK—which is the self-regulatory body of the German legal profession and acts as the umbrella organisation which represents the 27 regional bars and the bar at the Federal Court of Justice—did make representations both to the Joint Committee on the Draft legal Services Bill and to Lord Neill of Bladen who debated some of the issues raised by BRAK during Lords passage of the Bill.

Of particular relevance in this context, appendix 2 of Sir David Clementi's report of December 2004 contained an opinion from Slaughter and May, which concluded that:

"We believe that both Model A and Model B+ are compatible with Community law, international norms and the European Convention on Human Rights."

Children: Abuse

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to bring forward proposals to make the *(a)* creation and *(b)* possession of (i) cartoon and (ii) computer generated graphic images of the sexual abuse of children a criminal offence. [143675]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are consulting on the issues raised in respect of the possession of non-photographic visual depictions of child sexual abuse, including the option of creating a new offence of possession of such material. The consultation period ends on the 22 June 2007. The Government will publish a summary of responses and its conclusions.

Crime: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many crimes *(a)* were and *(b)* are alleged to have been committed in the Metropolitan Police District by offenders convicted of child abuse and wearing electronic tags in each London borough in each year since their introduction; [142624]

(2) how many crimes were *(a)* committed and *(b)* alleged to have been committed in the Metropolitan Police District by offenders wearing electronic tags in each London borough in each year since their introduction; [142625]

(3) how many offenders convicted of child abuse *(a)* re-offended and *(b)* are alleged to have re-offended in the Metropolitan Police District while wearing electronic tags in each London borough in each year since their introduction; [142627]

(4) how many offenders *(a)* re-offended and *(b)* are alleged to have re-offended in the Metropolitan Police District while wearing electronic tags in each London borough in each year since their introduction. [142628]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Data on re-offending committed by offenders wearing electronic tags are only collated centrally for those offenders released on to the Home Detention Curfew Scheme. However, the data are not broken down by the offender's original offence or by the local government area in which any subsequent offence was committed. To provide such information would involve a manual trawl of the data and would incur disproportionate cost.

Serious violent offenders and all sexual offenders are either statutorily excluded or are presumed unsuitable for release on HDC. In addition, prisoners convicted of other serious offences considered to be of particular concern to the public are also presumed unsuitable for release on HDC unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Crime: Schools

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of safer schools partnerships in reducing crime in schools. [143210]

Bridget Prentice: A University of York evaluation published in January 2006 showed that Safer School Partnerships (SSPs) are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, with truancy falling significantly and pupils feeling much safer. Unfortunately this evaluation was not able to measure any changes in offending because the appropriate data were not held. However, positive feedback on changes in behaviour and offending has also been received from many police officers, teachers and other local agencies that have been involved in SSPs.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much the Department for Constitutional Affairs spent on consultancy and professional services in 2006-07. [143369]

Vera Baird: Expenditure by the Department for Constitutional Affairs to 30 November 2006 was £7.8 million on consultancy and £12.4 million on other professional services. Figures for the full year are currently being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as they are available.

Industrial Health and Safety: Coroners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps she has taken to ensure that health and safety regulations requiring employers to make a suitable and sufficient assessment of risks to health and safety to which employees are exposed while at work have been carried out by those responsible for coroners and coroners' officers. [144099]

Ms Harman: Coroners are appointed and funded by the relevant local authority. Their officers are employed by the relevant local authority or police authority. The issue of the health and safety in coroner's offices is a matter for the relevant local authorities and police authorities.

Legal Services Board: Public Appointments

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations the Government have received from consumers of legal services on the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice in appointments of members to the proposed Legal Services Board. [142329]

Bridget Prentice: We have discussed the issue of the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice in appointments of members of the Legal Services Board with the Secretary of State's Consumer Advisory Panel, established to advise on the Ministry's programme of reform of legal services regulation and delivery. The panel's view was that peers' amendments to require the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice in appointments to and dismissals from the board should be overturned.

We have also had a number of separate meetings with a broad range of consumer organisations during the passage of the Legal Services Bill. The issue of concurrence has been discussed at several of those meetings and all such organisations were opposed to the amendments made in the House of Lords on Lord Chief Justice concurrence.

Life Imprisonment: North West Region

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the profiled maximum number of prisoners with sentences of indeterminate imprisonment for public protection (IPP) and life sentences is in each prison in the North West Region; and what the number of IPP and life sentenced prisoners is in each of those prisons on the most recent date for which figures are available. [142457]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the numbers of prisoners sentenced to life or indeterminate sentences for public protection held in prison establishments in the North West prison region in England can be found in the following table:

Life/IPP population in prisons in NW region[1]

Establishments in the NW region with IPP/Life population	*Rounded IPP/Life population figures*
Total	1,000
Altcourse	70
Buckley Hall	20
Forest Bank	40
Garth	250
Hindley	30
Haverigg	20
Kirkham	30
Lancaster	0
Lancaster Farms	30
Liverpool	120
Manchester	180
Preston	50
Risley	60
Styal	30
Wymott	60

[1] Extract taken on 30 April 2007.

Note: These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

The issue of what is acceptable as the maximum number of such prisoners held in prison establishments against the available resources for their treatment and training is currently the subject of court action in the form of a judicial review to be heard on 22 June and in these circumstances it would not be appropriate for me now to make a statement on this part of the question.

Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what plans she has for improving the *(a)* treatment and *(b)* facilities for offenders suffering from (i) psychotic illnesses and (ii) other mental illnesses; and if she will make a statement; [143311]

(2) what plans she has to improve the screening of offenders for *(a)* mental illnesses and *(b)* drug addiction; and if she will make a statement. [143312]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the Mental Health Act 1983 the courts have powers to assess mentally disordered offenders before sentencing and to divert them to receive specialist treatment in hospital rather than punishment. The police also have the power under the Act to remove a person who appears to be suffering from mental disorder to a place of safety. The Government plan to publish guidance this year to the NHS and partner agencies which supports the development of local diversion services by building on current best practice.

The prison population has a disproportionately high prevalence of mental illness, and so it has been the policy of the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office and Department of Health to improve the provision of mental health services in our prisons.

Beginning in 2003, and completing in April 2006, the national health service took over the commissioning responsibility for all prison health services in public sector prisons. This was previously the responsibility of the Prison Service. One of the main reasons this transfer has made was to help ensure that prisoners had better access to mainstream health services.

All prisoners, both new prisoners and those transferred in from one prison to another, benefit from a new health screening process, introduced across the prison estate in 2004, that is designed to detect physical and mental health problems.

Prisoners who are identified as needing further help can be referred to a mental health in-reach team, who will arrange further assessment and follow up referral.

Investment in prison mental health in-reach services has been steadily increasing, with nearly £20 million invested in these services each year since 2004-05, and 360 whole time equivalent staff employed, more than the initial commitment in the NHS Plan to create 300 posts.

People who are mentally too ill to remain in prison should be transferred to hospital. We have introduced tighter monitoring to identify prisoners waiting an unacceptably long period for transfer to hospital, and a protocol was issued to prisons and primary care trusts in October 2005 setting out what must be done when a prisoner has been waiting for a hospital place for more than three months following acceptance by the national health service.

These measures have helped bring about positive results. In 2006, 33 per cent. more prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 961 from 723. There has been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer—in the quarter ending March 2007, 40 prisoners were waiting, down from 51 in the same quarter in 2005.

The healthcare screening process also inquires about drug and alcohol use, and looks for evidence of dependence in those who report current or recent use. Reception screening should be focused to ensure that appropriate prescribed clinical management is undertaken by a doctor soon after reception. Clinical drug testing is used to establish the level of opiate dependence before clinical management begins. The new Integrated Drug Treatment System is introducing National Treatment Agency models of care to 49 prisons.

Northern Ireland Court Service: Interpreters

Lady Hermon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many interpreters were employed by the Northern Ireland Courts Service in each of the last five years, broken down by language; and what the cost was in each year. [143294]

Mr. Hanson: The Northern Ireland Court Service (the Court Service) engages language interpreters required for criminal, civil and family proceedings on a fee paying basis, as such language interpreters are not employees of the Court Service.

The number of language interpreters engaged to work in criminal courts, broken down by language, and with costs for each of the last five years and the number of language interpreters engaged to work in the civil and family courts, broken down by language, and with costs for each of the last five years can be found in the table as follows.

Interpreters in criminal courts

Language	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Albanian	3	—	1	—	1
Algerian	—	—	—	—	1
Arabic	1	—	5	9	19
Bengali	2	—	—	—	14
Bulgarian	—	3	—	—	—
Cantonese	9	10	8	34	11
Czech	—	—	3	4	7
Danish	1	2	—	—	—
Dutch	2	14	—	—	—
East Timor	—	—	—	5	13
Eritrean	2	—	—	—	—
Estonian	—	—	—	—	4
Ethiopian	—	—	—	—	—
Farsi	1	—	—	—	—
French	16	12	1	3	15
German	—	—	—	—	2
Hakka	1	—	—	—	—
Hungarian	—	—	2	1	9
Italian	—	2	—	2	3
Kurdish	—	1	—	—	—
Latvian	—	—	1	14	36
Lithuanian	—	—	48	277	344
Mandarin	6	2	7	30	43
Pilipino	—	—	24	—	4
Polish	—	2	4	47	209
Portuguese	9	9	45	67	63
Romanian	—	8	24	15	24
Russian	5	62	9	19	90
Slovakian	—	—	—	3	15
Spanish	2	—	—	1	—
Tagalog	—	—	—	10	4
Tunisian	—	—	2	—	
Turkish	2	—	1	—	3
Ukrainian	—	—	—	2	2
Urdu	—	—	7	—	—
Vietnamese	2	—	—	—	—
Total	64	127	192	543	936
Total costs (£)	4,591	33,956	53,552	118,470	190,202

Interpreters requested in civil and family court

Language	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cantonese	—	1	—	—	—
Polish	—	—	—	—	2
Portuguese	—	—	—	—	1
Russian	—	1	—	—	—
Turkish	—	—	—	—	2
Total	—	2	—	—	5
Total costs (£)	—	851	—	—	1,053

Offensive Weapons

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many and what percentage of people convicted of encouraging violent behaviour involving the use of a knife under the Knives Act 1997 received *(a)* a fine and *(b)* a custodial sentence of (i) less than six months, (ii) six to 12 months, (iii) 12 to 18 months and (iv) 18 to 24 months in (A) Suffolk, (B) Bedfordshire, (C) Cambridgeshire, (D) Essex, (E) Hertfordshire and (F) Norfolk in each year since the Act was introduced; [140687]

(2) how many people were found guilty of offences related to the illegal sale and marketing of knives in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year since 1997. [140689]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

No persons convicted or sentenced under the Knives Act 1997 in the police force areas mentioned were reported to the Home Office court proceedings database during the years 1997 to 2005.

Orders and Regulations

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many statutory instruments were *(a)* made, *(b)* repealed and *(c)* amended in each of the last five years. [143802]

Vera Baird: The following table provides details of the number of UK statutory instruments made in each year from 2002 to 2006 and for the first five months of 2007:

	Number of UK General SIs made by UK Government Departments	*Number of UK Local SIs made by UK Government Departments*	*Number of UK SIs made by the National Assembly for Wales*	*Total number of UK Sis*
2002	1,592	1,365	314	3,271
2003	1,512	1,521	321	3,354
2004	1,495	1,660	297	3,452
2005	1,580	1,746	273	3,599
2006	1,430	1,766	313	3,509
2007 (to end May)	683	747	130	1,560

Updated statistics in relation to statutory instruments are also available on the OPSI website at: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si-statistics.htm. No records are maintained centrally of the number of statutory instruments that have been repealed and amended and this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Accommodation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what proportion of inmates detained in the prison estate are held in areas designated as dormitory accommodation in *(a)* the juvenile estate, *(b)* male prison establishments and *(c)* female prison establishments, broken down by category of establishment; and if she will make a statement. [142869]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The number of prisoners held in dormitory accommodation, as defined in Prison Service Instruction 09/2007 Smoke Free Legislation: Prison Service Application, is as follows:

Establishment	Male prisoners (closed conditions)[1]	Male prisoners (open conditions)[2]	Women prisoners	Total
Askham Grange	0	0	20	20
Brockhill	8	0	0	8
Dorchester	4	0	0	4
Dover[3]	105	0	0	105
East Sutton Park	0	0	50	50
Foston Hall	0	0	3	3
Hewell Grange	0	130	0	130
Holloway	0	0	169	169
Lancaster Castle	45	0	0	45
New Hall	0	0	13	13
North Sea Camp	0	0	0	0
Norwich	3	0	0	3
Styal	0	0	6	6
Wormwood Scrubs	15	0	0	15
Total	180	130	261	571

[1] Male prisoners held in closed dormitory conditions are lower security prisoners, invariably category C.
[2] Male prisoners held in open dormitory conditions are category D prisoners.
[3] Dover is a Border and Immigration Agency removal centre managed by the Prison Service.

There is further accommodation that has been converted into cubicles from former dormitories, which may not have separate ventilation. The numbers of prisoners held in this accommodation is not recorded centrally.

No prisoners aged under 18 are held in dormitory accommodation.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what proportion of the space within the prison estate is designated as private residential space; and if she will make a statement. [142876]

Mr. Sutcliffe: An assessment of the proportion of the total prison estate used as private residential space could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All cells containing up to four persons will be regarded as private residential space for the purposes of designation as places where smoking is permissible when occupied only by smokers.

Prison Officers' Association: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the National Chairman of the Prison Officers' Association is entitled to receive the inner London local pay uplift; whether the post attracts this allowance; and if she will make a statement. [143415]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The remuneration of a Prison Service employee is determined by various factors, which takes into account their grade, location of their work and other relevant circumstances. It is not appropriate to disclose the remuneration details of individual employees.

Prison Service: Ethnic Groups

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what percentage of prison officers in each prison are from an ethnic minority. [142711]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the percentage of officer grade staff recorded as Black and Minority Ethnic expressed as the percentage of officers who have declared their ethnicity is shown in the following tables.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) officers as a percentage of officers who have declared their ethnicity in public sector prisons as at 31 May 2007

Establishment	BME (percentage)
Acklington	0.9
Albany	1.9
Ashwell	2.8
Askham Grange	5.7
Aylesbury	9.2
Bedford	7.4
Belmarsh	9.1
Birmingham	13.2
Blakenhurst	5.2
Blantyre House	4.9
Blundeston	3.9
Brinsford	8.8
Bristol	2.5
Brixton	26.7
Brockhill	6.4
Buckley Hall	3.0
Bullingdon	3.6
Bullwood Hall	2.4
Camp Hill	1.2
Canterbury	1.8
Cardiff	2.5
Castington	1.4
Channings Wood	2.2
Chelmsford	5.5
Coldingley	2.9
Cookham Wood	1.1
Dartmoor	4.8
Deerbolt	0.0
Dorchester	0.0
Dover	5.6
Downview	9.3
Drake Hall	2.4

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) officers as a percentage of officers who have declared their ethnicity in public sector prisons as at 31 May 2007

Establishment	*BME (percentage)*
Durham	0.7
East Sutton Park	0.0
Eastwood Park	0.7
Edmunds Hill	3.0
Elmley	1.8
Erlestoke	3.4
Everthorpe	0.5
Exeter	1.7
Featherstone	3.4
Feltham	15.4
Ford	3.1
Foston Hall	3.9
Frankland	1.5
Full Sutton	0.8
Garth	0.7
Gartree	4.9
Glen Parva	4.3
Gloucester	4.0
Grendon	6.6
Guys Marsh	3.0
Haslar	5.5
Haverigg	1.6
Hewell Grange	0.0
High Down	7.9
Highpoint	1.5
Hindley	3.1
Hollesley Bay	1.9
Holloway	34.1
Holme House	0.0
Hull	3.1
Huntercombe	6.7
Kennet	0.0
Kingston	3.9
Kirkham	2.9
Kirklevington Grange	2.0
Lancaster	1.0
Lancaster Farms	2.9
Latchmere House	7.7
Leeds	5.3
Leicester	5.7
Lewes	4.9
Leyhill	2.4
Lincoln	1.8
Lindholme	1.9
Littlehey	4.2
Liverpool	0.2
Long Lartin	1.8
Low Newton	0.6
Maidstone	3.8
Manchester	2.1
Moorland	4.2
Morton Hall	2.5
New Hall	4.9
North Sea Camp	0.0
Northallerton	3.0
Norwich	5.2
Nottingham	4.0
Onley	3.0
Parkhurst	2.5
Pentonville	24.7
Portland	3.0
Preston	2.5
Ranby	2.7
Reading	8.0
Risley	0.7
Rochester	6.3
Send	4.8
Sheppey Reducing Reoffending	2.9
Shepton Mallet	1.5
Shrewsbury	3.4
Stafford	2.9
Standford Hill	4.2
Stocken	3.6
Stoke Heath	3.8
Styal	4.7
Sudbury	4.3
Swaleside	2.3
Swansea	0.6
Swinfen Hall	4.1
The Mount	9.9
The Verne	0.9
Thorn Cross	1.6
Usk/Prescoed	2.0
Wakefield	1.8
Wandsworth	19.9
Warren Hill	3.3
Wayland	1.8
Wealstun	1.9
Wellingborough	4.4
Werrington	3.6
Wetherby	4.4
Whatton	5.1
Whitemoor	3.2
Winchester	0.5
Woodhill	2.7
Wormwood Scrubs	23.3
Wymott	2.1
HQ	14.3
Public Sector Prison Service	5.0

Note: For public sector prisons, officer grade is all prison officers, senior officers and principal officers.

Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) officers as percentage of officers who have declared their ethnicity in private prisons as at 31 March 2007

Establishment	*BME (percentage)*
Ashfield	1.1
Doncaster	1.1
Dovegate	3.1
Lowdham Grange	2.2

Note: For private prisons, officer grade is prison custody officer. It was not possible to obtain information about the remaining private prisons in England and Wales in the time available to answer this question.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether the required hours allowance is consolidated into pay on the promotion to senior operational manager of an individual previously in a non-operational post within HM Prison Service

and in receipt of that allowance on the discretion of the area manager; and if she will make a statement. [143414]

Mr. Sutcliffe: HM Prison Service policy is that managers in paybands E, F and G that are in receipt of required hours addition allowance and are promoted to senior manager have the allowance added to basic salary and the promotion increase calculated on the resultant salary.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all heads of personnel at prison establishments are entitled to receive the regulations allowance; on what basis those so entitled have the entitlement; and if she will make a statement. [143412]

Mr. Sutcliffe: HM Prison Service does not pay a regulations allowance.

Prison Service: Sick Leave

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average amount of sick leave taken by prison officers in each prison was in each of the last five years. [142710]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information on the average number of working days taken as sick leave by officer grade staff in each prison establishment over the past five years is shown in the following table.

Working days lost to sickness absence by officer grade staff by establishment public sector prisons—financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Working days lost per officer per year				
Establishment	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Acklington	14.2	12.8	11.6	12.1	15.0
Albany	13.2	11.6	9.3	7.5	10.6
Ashwell	15.2	11.5	10.4	7.4	8.4
Askham Grange	19.4	6.9	8.5	10.0	4.9
Aylesbury	19.5	14.9	17.0	12.4	11.5
Bedford	19.9	8.0	11.6	10.2	8.0
Belmarsh	22.9	14.2	13.6	14.9	11.8
Birmingham	13.9	10.8	11.8	13.5	11.9
Blakenhurst	17.8	15.3	15.4	10.5	10.5
Blantyre House	8.2	10.0	8.6	5.9	7.5
Blundeston	14.0	22.0	15.7	16.8	9.0
Brinsford	11.8	13.8	13.8	14.9	9.7
Bristol	15.5	16.7	16.6	21.0	18.0
Brixton	20.8	19.4	19.5	19.4	9.1
Brockhill	27.6	20.9	20.2	23.5	22.7
Buckley Hall	22.9	21.3	15.1	14.9	14.0
Bullingdon	16.2	15.6	13.4	10.8	11.6
Bullwood Hall	6.1	12.2	10.2	10.8	9.9
Camp Hill	9.2	12.7	11.4	10.9	8.1
Canterbury	14.9	14.4	9.8	9.6	12.9
Cardiff	9.7	7.9	7.4	10.4	10.5
Castington	20.2	12.7	16.2	12.8	10.3
Channings Wood	14.3	20.9	14.8	16.9	12.5
Chelmsford	14.7	13.2	10.1	8.1	7.8
Coldingley	10.2	12.0	14.5	13.6	9.1
Cookham Wood	16.2	28.0	16.5	12.6	13.1
Dartmoor	23.5	20.4	16.3	13.5	10.9
Deerbolt	17.3	8.8	14.5	11.6	15.9
Dorchester	15.9	13.5	10.9	16.7	11.5
Dover	15.0	16.8	20.0	14.1	9.2
Downview	16.8	21.4	15.2	12.7	12.7
Drake Hall	11.4	12.2	14.9	15.4	13.2
Durham	15.8	16.8	16.1	12.9	16.0
East Sutton Park	17.2	18.9	7.0	20.2	18.7
Eastwood Park	28.4	17.6	16.9	15.4	17.4
Edmunds Hill	18.8	17.5	14.3	12.0	13.3
Elmley	13.7	16.6	16.6	11.8	10.2
Erlestoke	11.7	10.1	12.0	11.4	14.6
Everthorpe	8.2	11.0	15.4	8.9	9.2
Exeter	18.7	15.3	17.2	14.4	11.1
Featherstone	9.9	11.5	19.5	15.5	10.5
Feltham	16.7	13.9	15.1	15.3	14.6
Ford	21.7	28.8	18.8	16.9	18.9
Foston Hall	19.9	12.0	25.0	18.1	24.7
Frankland	13.6	10.7	11.3	14.7	13.3
Full Sutton	13.5	10.4	10.8	10.9	13.6
Garth	14.8	10.4	11.4	14.7	16.7
Gartree	8.7	8.8	9.8	14.1	16.1
Glen Parva	18.9	14.3	10.1	8.3	9.6
Gloucester	17.9	20.1	13.8	14.4	10.0
Grendon	21.5	14.3	14.3	15.0	11.0
Guys Marsh	21.2	20.6	16.2	17.9	16.2
Haslar	20.4	16.0	18.8	10.7	7.6
Haverigg	14.0	17.8	24.3	19.3	15.6
Hewell Grange	18.7	5.7	9.6	5.2	10.7
High Down	21.6	13.3	13.9	11.5	13.3
Highpoint	15.5	8.9	12.7	12.0	10.4
Hindley	24.8	33.2	25.9	20.2	15.5
Hollesley Bay	6.9	18.6	10.5	6.5	5.5
Holloway	28.0	20.2	15.0	11.0	10.8
Holme House	20.9	12.9	13.6	15.2	14.1
Hull	11.0	11.9	12.7	12.9	12.0
Huntercombe	16.2	19.6	17.6	17.8	17.1
Kingston	24.0	14.6	7.8	6.4	10.4
Kirkham	14.2	16.2	13.2	16.6	16.0
Kirklevington Grange	6.7	6.1	9.8	9.1	9.1
Lancaster	11.9	7.8	11.3	15.8	18.8
Lancaster Farms	13.8	15.6	18.4	13.4	17.2
Latchmere House	13.7	13.0	6.7	15.9	6.1
Leeds	19.9	14.8	14.9	15.5	14.1
Leicester	19.4	8.2	7.3	9.1	8.9
Lewes	17.4	15.7	12.1	13.6	13.7
Leyhill	13.1	12.3	12.2	14.1	13.3

Working days lost to sickness absence by officer grade staff by establishment public sector prisons—financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Working days lost per officer per year				
Establishment	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Lincoln	23.1	15.3	15.8	11.1	11.9
Lindholme	13.9	12.1	15.2	14.4	14.2
Littlehey	16.2	12.7	15.9	8.7	10.6
Liverpool	23.0	23.2	22.2	10.7	13.0
Long Lartin	10.6	13.9	11.2	9.2	11.1
Low Newton	12.1	13.0	13.5	12.9	12.3
Maidstone	19.5	22.7	17.0	16.8	14.4
Manchester	20.8	17.3	11.3	11.1	10.9
Moorland	12.2	10.3	11.4	12.3	15.3
Morton Hall	13.7	18.7	14.3	9.7	11.5
New Hall	17.5	19.0	20.2	21.4	19.5
North Sea Camp	14.2	11.8	9.5	25.1	13.8
Northallerton	20.6	22.1	30.8	16.0	12.3
Norwich	19.9	10.0	8.9	12.9	15.3
Nottingham	13.4	13.0	16.0	14.5	12.4
Onley	21.3	12.4	22.3	25.0	10.3
Parkhurst	19.2	13.3	15.6	10.3	11.2
Pentonville	18.7	15.9	17.3	14.5	12.1
Portland	21.5	19.0	26.3	18.7	13.7
Preston	19.6	22.7	11.4	10.1	9.5
Ranby	18.3	13.8	7.1	10.5	12.7
Reading	16.3	15.5	11.3	15.3	10.9
Risley	29.7	22.4	18.0	22.9	20.4
Rochester	27.9	24.3	18.2	14.0	11.1
Send	13.5	15.9	12.6	10.5	11.8
Shepton Mallet	13.8	13.6	12.8	10.9	9.9
Shrewsbury	17.6	15.2	7.4	9.4	13.1
Stafford	19.9	17.1	13.3	13.8	13.5
Standford Hill	17.0	16.3	10.7	13.6	15.8
Stocken	8.2	11.1	14.5	15.7	12.3
Stoke Heath	23.2	20.1	18.7	18.0	22.8
Styal	15.9	16.8	11.4	15.1	15.0
Sudbury	10.9	11.9	10.0	10.1	8.5
Swaleside	13.7	13.0	10.0	12.1	7.0
Swansea	12.9	10.5	9.9	13.8	12.2
Swinfen Hall	9.9	8.1	9.5	11.0	10.5
The Mount	14.6	15.7	8.1	8.7	5.9
The Verne	9.4	10.9	12.4	12.6	11.3
Thorn Cross	22.3	19.9	18.0	16.5	12.5
Usk/ Prescoed	11.0	5.4	2.6	8.5	13.1
Wakefield	14.0	15.0	14.5	11.7	12.9
Wandsworth	21.1	19.9	14.4	13.1	12.9
Warren Hill	72.1	12.9	10.6	11.5	11.1
Wayland	8.2	10.5	9.4	5.9	7.9
Wealstun	9.8	8.3	11.5	14.4	13.4
Weare	16.6	22.6	15.5	2.9	Closed
Wellingborough	18.0	14.6	17.0	21.1	15.8
Werrington	19.3	16.5	12.2	17.6	18.8
Wetherby	18.1	17.7	17.4	14.5	12.4
Whatton	11.1	9.7	9.2	11.0	7.7
Whitemoor	18.7	16.5	15.6	16.4	14.2
Winchester	16.2	20.5	18.6	12.2	12.0
Woodhill	19.0	15.3	14.3	17.0	13.1
Wormwood Scrubs	22.8	23.2	12.3	11.5	13.0
Wymott	15.3	15.0	18.5	18.1	16.1
HQ	9.4	7.5	5.6	6.3	7.0
Public sector Prison Service	17.1	15.2	14.1	13.5	12.8

Note:
For public sector prisons, officer grade is all prison officers, senior officers and principal officers.

Working days lost to sickness absence by officer grade staff by establishment private prisons—calendar years 2002 to 2006

	Working days lost per officer per year				
Establishment	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Doncaster	8	9.5	11	11.5	6
Dovegate	16.6	16.4	16.5	16.2	13.5
Lowdham Grange	5	9	15	14	10

Note:
For private prisons, officer grade is prison custody officer. It was not possible to obtain information about the remaining private prisons in England and Wales in the time available to answer this question.

Prisoners

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what percentage of *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners in each region are not imprisoned in their home region, broken down by age. [142712]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is provided in the following table.

Prisoners held in prisons outside of their region of origin by age band

Percentage

	Male			
Prisoners from:	*15-17*	*18-20*	*21+*	*Female*
East Midlands	100	34	38	71
Eastern	48	58	43	70
London	70	78	63	74
North East	16	14	22	16
North West	23	38	25	41
South East	65	38	33	29
South West	17	32	29	43
Wales	80	35	38	100
West Midlands	18	34	37	86
Yorkshire and the Humber	16	25	26	28
Total	45	44	40	60

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of the percentage of prisoners either of whose parents were sent to prison during their childhood. [143065]

Mr. Sutcliffe: This information is not collected centrally. However, data from the 1991 National Prison Survey showed that 11.2 per cent. (341 of 3,050 prisoners interviewed) of convicted non-civil prisoners had experienced a parent in prison at some point (not necessarily during childhood).

Prisoners: Transport

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners were held in prisoner transport vehicles at Crown and magistrates courts *(a)* before their hearings and *(b)* after their hearings because of lack of room in court cells in the last month; and for how long in each case. [143010]

Mr. Hanson: There have been no reports of prisoners held in vehicles either before or after their hearings because of a lack of space in court cells.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners were returned to a prison or young offender institution after their court hearing different from that from which they were delivered to court in the last month; and how many who were not released from custody were not returned to prison but kept overnight or for longer in *(a)* police stations and *(b)* court cells. [143014]

Mr. Hanson: In May 2006 management information provided by our contractors show that there were 1,913 prisoners returned to a different prison or young offender institution after their court hearing to that from which they were delivered to court. The number of prisoners, escorted to court from prison, who following their court hearing were kept overnight or longer in police stations was 3,399; the figure for those kept overnight in court cells was 71.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female prisoners aged (i) 21 or more and (ii) 18 to 21 were returned to prison after court hearings having spent more than (A) two, (B) three, (C) four, (D) five and (E) six or more hours in prisoner transport vehicles in the last month. [143015]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as set out on the following table:

Details of journey times from courts to prisons of over two hours—May 2007

	2 to 3 hours[1]	*3 to 4 hours*	*4 to 5 hours*	*5 to 6 hours*	*Over 6 hours*
Male aged over 21	437	187	38	16	11
Female aged over 21	137	40	8	1	3
Male aged 18 to 21	131	42	22	8	2
Female aged 18 to 21	25	7	0	0	0

[1] This excludes information on prisoners escorted from courts in the London and South East whose journeys were between two and three hours as this information is not available.

Prisons: Disciplinary Proceedings

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many disciplinary proceedings took place in each prison in each of the last five years; and how many complaints were upheld. [142709]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information in the form requested is not readily available. Figures on the numbers and types of offences punished under the prison disciplinary system, and types of establishment, for years before 2002 were published in 'Prison Statistics, England and Wales, 2002' (Command Paper 5996), chapter 8 available at:

www.archive2.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm59/5996/5996.pdf.

Figures on types of offence and punishments up to 2005 are published in 'Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005', Home Office Statistical Bulletin 18/06 at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1806.pdf.

The data only include proven adjudication offences nationally, and have not been analysed below this level. The tables on adjudications from chapter 9 of this document (including two tables not included in the bulletin itself) are also available at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section9.xls.

Prisons: Smoking

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice for what reason dormitory accommodation within the prison estate is not considered exempt from the terms of smoking under Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; and if she will make a statement. [142878]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Non-smoking prisoners cannot be required to share accommodation with smokers. Designating dormitories for smokers or non-smokers would not provide sufficient flexibility in the use of accommodation.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many enforcement officers will be designated as responsible for ensuring compliance with Prison Service Instruction 09/2007 in *(a)* each regional area and *(b)* each prison establishment; what frequency is anticipated for deployment of enforcement officer visits at each prison establishment; from which budget source enforcement officers will be resourced and at what estimated cost; and if she will make a statement. [142859]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No enforcement officers are being deployed specifically to ensure compliance with Prison Service Instruction 9/2007. In public sector prisons, Prison Service Area Managers monitor compliance with all Orders and Instructions in the course of routine line management contacts and visits. In contracted prisons, the Home Office Controller on site monitors compliance.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much has been allocated to *(a)* the preparation of risk assessments and *(b)* reviewing existing assessments on how the health and safety of

(i) employees, (ii) visitors and (iii) non-smoking inmates are best protected under the terms of Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; from what budget the funding will be drawn; and if she will make a statement. [142860]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No additional budget was required to carry out these risk assessments.

The Prison Service has in place policies and procedures for training staff to carry out risk assessments and for carrying out risk assessments to staff and others who may be affected by its undertakings. These have been used in *(a)* the preparation of risk assessments and *(b)* reviewing existing assessments on how the health and safety of (i) employees, (ii) visitors and (iii) non smoking inmates are best protected under the terms of Prison Service Instruction 09/2007.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what estimate she has made of the cost of compliance with Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; from what budget these resources will be drawn; and if she will make a statement; [142861]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely costs arising from the exemption to smoke-free legislation under Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; from what budget this will come; and if she will make a statement; [142863]

(3) what budget is available for the *(a)* commission and *(b)* display of signs required under Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; from where the budget for these signs is sourced; and if she will make a statement. [142880]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The only visible cost of these arrangements will be a one-off cost for installing relevant signs which are manufactured in prison workshops. No estimate has been made of these costs, which are being met from existing local resources.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what mechanisms will be available to ensure that prison cell doors are closed when inmates are smoking, to ensure compliance with Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; and if she will make a statement. [142862]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison staff will ensure that cell doors are locked or fully closed when prisoners are smoking.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of the cost of installing ventilation systems at each prison establishment in consequence of Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; from what budget such resources will be drawn; and if she will make a statement. [142864]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are no plans to install additional ventilation systems.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much has been allocated in *(a)* HM Prison Service headquarters budget and *(b)* individual prison establishment budgets for the implementation of stop smoking services under Prison Service Order 3200; and if she will make a statement. [142865]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The NHS has been responsible for commissioning prison healthcare services, including smoking cessation, for publicly run prisons in England since April 2006.

For each of the financial years 2003-2006, the Department of Health provided an additional £500,000 funding to bring smoking cessation services in line with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. Resources are now contained within the baseline funding of NHS primary care trusts.

Health care arrangements in private prisons are provided under their establishing contract. Information on expenditure on specific health services in these prisons is not collected centrally.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what advice she has provided to prison establishments on the provision of accommodation to inmates choosing to smoke during designated periods of association; and if she will make a statement. [142873]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The guidance is set out in Prison Service Instruction 9/2007, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what protection is available to prison officers required to intervene to protect *(a)* a prisoner or *(b)* a member of staff in danger of immediate harm where smoke has not cleared from the prison cell in question; and if she will make a statement. [142874]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Safe systems of work will be in place to allow smoke to clear from cells before routine entry by staff. Staff will be expected to enter cells in an emergency threatening life and limb, even if tobacco smoke is present.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the impact on *(a)* security and *(b)* discipline of the terms of Prison Service Instruction 09/2007 that, where an inmate is smoking in a cell, a prison officer is not required to enter the cell until the cigarette smoke has dissipated from the location; what representations she has received in consequence of that condition; and if she will make a statement. [142875]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The arrangements set out in PSI 9/2007, which are required to comply with the Smoke Free Legislation (Health Act 2006), were operationally impact assessed by a group of senior operational managers, chaired by the deputy director general of the Prison Service, prior to implementation. Ministers have not received any representations on this matter.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what facilities will be available under Prison Service Instruction 09/2007 for *(a)* pregnant inmates and *(b)* those detained in mother and baby units across the prison estate to smoke; and if she will make a statement. [142877]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Pregnant women and prisoners in mother and baby units will be permitted to smoke in cells occupied only by smokers, in the same way as all other prisoners.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what mechanism will allow an inmate designated at reception to a prison establishment as a smoker under Prison Service Instruction 09/2007 to change to become designated as a non-smoker; what assessment she has made of the number of cells at each prison establishment to be designated as *(a)* smoking and *(b)* non-smoking; what mechanisms will ensure that sufficient accommodation for each category of demand is provided; and if she will make a statement. [142879]

Mr. Sutcliffe: A prisoner who recorded their status on reception as a smoker and wishes to change their status to non-smoker, or vice versa, may make an application to wing staff.

Under PSI 9/2007, all cells containing up to four persons will be designated as places where smoking is permissible when occupied only by smokers. Smokers must not be required to share cells with non-smokers who are actively smoking, but these arrangements enable governors to use accommodation flexibly to meet the changing needs of the prison population.

Reoffenders

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the re-offending rates were *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* over the five-year period for those issued with a (i) community rehabilitation order, (ii) supervision order, (iii) community punishment order, (iv) attendance centre order, (v) community punishment and rehabilitation order, (vi) curfew order, (vii) reparation order, (viii) action plan order, (ix) drug treatment and testing order, (x) referral order and (xi) community order; and if she will make a statement. [144100]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The following tables show the available figures for reoffending rates for adult and juvenile offenders who started their community penalty in England and Wales in the first quarter of each year. Reoffending rates for adults are calculated over a two-year period and for juveniles over a one-year period. Community orders were introduced in 2005 and therefore data are not yet available for this type of disposal.

The relationship between disposal and reoffending is complex; the disposal given depends on the characteristics of the offender, which will also affect their chances of reoffending. Further information is available in the most recent Statistical Bulletins on adult and juvenile re-offending which can be found at the following addresses:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0607.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1006.pdf

Adults

Disposal	*2000*	*2002*	*2003*	*Percentage 2004*
Community rehabilitation order	61.1	62.6	60.6	56.9
Community punishment order	40.9	38.9	39.5	37.9
Community punishment and rehabilitation order	61.3	54.4	54.7	52.2
Drug treatment and testing order	n/a	88.9	86.3	82.3

Juveniles

Disposal	*2000*	*Percentage 2004*
Community rehabilitation order	67.3	67.4
Supervision order	71.3	73.6
Community punishment order	61.5	63.8
Attendance centre order	64.6	66.4
Curfew order	78.3	76.4
Reparation order	56.3	69.2
Action plan order	69.8	66.9
Referral order	n/a	44.7

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the re-offending rates were *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* over the five-year period for those issued with intensive supervision and surveillance programme orders; and if she will make a statement. [144101]

Bridget Prentice: Information on reoffending rates from ISSP is not available in this form. ISSP tackles the most persistent offenders who are often damaged and deprived, and who suffer from mental health problems. This is, therefore an exceptionally difficult group of offenders who present a major challenge to ISSP teams. Nevertheless, despite the report showing 91 per cent. of young people given an ISSP were reconvicted at least once in the two years starting the programmes, it also showed that young offenders on ISSP committed 39 per cent. fewer crimes in the two years after starting the programme and that the seriousness of those crimes reduced by 13 per cent.

Victim Support Schemes: Expenditure

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the grant allocation was for the support of victims and witnesses in each year since 2002; what proportion of that grant allocation went to Victim Support in each year; and whether she plans to make a simila: proportional allocation in the future. [144098]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government funds a wide range of projects and organisations to support victims of crime, such as Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Independent Sexual Violence Advisors for victims of sexual violence, the POPPY scheme for victims of trafficking, and Support After Murder and Manslaughter for homicide victims.

The Government's main mechanism for delivering emotional and practical support services to victims is through the £30 million grant to Victim Support. In addition, since 2004, the Victims Fund has distributed £5.25 million in grants to support and develop specialist organisations. A further round of the Victims' Fund was opened on Friday 15 June, dedicated to organisations that support homicide and hate crime victims.

It is expected that the surcharge on fines will raise £16 million in a full year to be spent on a range of services for victims of crime and witnesses.

The main national grant allocations since 2002 and the proportion, as a percentage, which goes to Victim Support are as follows. Future funding decisions will be made in the light of available resources.

	Funding to victim support (£ million)	*Proportion as a percentage to victim support*	*Compensation paid by CICA (£)*	*Funding to the victims' fund (£ million)*
2001-02	25.1	10	233.5	—
2002-03	29.3	11	232.1	—
2003-04	30	12	227.5	—
2004-05	30	14	186.2	1
2005-06	30	14	183.9	3
2006-07	30	14	190.1	1.75

Wetherby Young Offender Institution: Smoking

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will publish the report of the review into the smoking ban at HM Young Offenders Institution Wetherby conducted in 2005. [142871]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The review into the smoking ban at Wetherby was completed in August 2005. A copy of the report is available in the House Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total budget is for the Access to Work scheme in 2007-08; what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on developing the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [140673]

Mrs. McGuire: The budget for the Access to Work programme for 2007-08 is £64 million. The Secretary of State has regular discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for the Department's priorities, including Access to Work. Over the past 10 years the programme's budget has increased four-fold and the programme now helps nearly three times as many people as in 1997.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total expenditure was on the Access to Work scheme in 2005-06; and how much of that expenditure was spent on promoting the scheme to *(a)* employers and *(b)* disabled jobseekers. [140674]

Mrs. McGuire: The total expenditure for Access to Work in 2005-06 was £59.8 million.

The promotion of Access to Work comes under the wider Jobcentre Plus marketing budget. The Department does not record specific marketing expenditure on Access to Work.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disabled people were supported by the Access to Work scheme in 2005-06. [140675]

Mrs. McGuire: In 2005-06, 28,514 people were supported by Access to Work.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with hearing impediments were supported by the Access to Work scheme in 2005-06. [140676]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Access: Disabled People

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the levels of *(a)* coverage throughout England of, *(b)* usage of and *(c)* compliance with requirements and recommendations arising from (i) disabled access statements and (ii) disabled access audits. [142421]

Mrs. McGuire: Design and access statements are required for most types of planning application. While no formal assessment has been made of their use, unless a statement accompanies a relevant application and meets the requirements as to what it includes, a local planning authority in England cannot determine that application.

Access audits are not a statutory requirement, but may be conducted as a matter of good practice. No assessment has been made of the usage of, and compliance with the recommendations of, access audits. My Department has, however, conducted a series of surveys to monitor how employers and service providers are responding to their duties to make reasonable adjustments under the Disability Discrimination Act. The findings of the most recent research[1] show that levels of physical adjustments for disabled people are increasing. Among employers, there has been a slight increase in those having made adjustments since 2003 (from 42 per cent. to 45 per cent. for adapting the work environment). There has been a larger increase in changes made to physical accessibility by those providing goods, facilities and services (from 47 per cent. to 61 per cent.). Not all disabled people will require physical adjustments to be made to the workplace, or to the premises of a service provider, nor will it always be reasonable for an employer or service provider to make a physical adjustment.

[1] 'Organisations' responses to the Disability Discrimination Act', DWP Research Report 410

Carers' Allowances: Preston

Mr. Watterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the removal of 180 posts at the Carers' Allowance Unit in Preston on services provided by the unit. [138034]

Mrs. McGuire: This is a matter for the chief executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 19 June 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the removal of 180 posts at the Carers' Allowance Unit in Preston on services provided by the unit.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

As you will be aware, as part of the Efficiency Challenge all government departments have imposed headcount targets for the period ending March 2008. The headcount target for the Disability and Carers Service for 2007/08 is 5063. The headcount allocation for the Carers Allowance Unit (CAU) for 2007/08 is 723. This represents a reduction of 180 on current headcount.

Along with all government departments, we are modernising our service delivery and we have specific targets to improve efficiency and reduce the number of people we employ. We are well on the way to meeting both these objectives and, in the CAU, we are doing so by comprehensively reviewing our organisational structure, workflow processes and our handling of customer enquiries. Additionally, we believe we can make further improvements to our productivity and the quality of the work that we do.

In support of this stretching agenda, we have employed lean' techniques. These have been used in recent years in HMRC, where they have supported a successful efficiency programme. Early trials in the CAU this year have been successful and we have decided that we will now roll out the lean' approach right across the unit. The approach includes additional checking to ensure right first time quality, thus preventing rework, and improving service to customers. Although there may be short-term disruption as staff are trained and adapt to new ways of working, we expect to standardise and improve the service, rather than allow any deterioration.

We are an agency that continues to focus on delivering improved services to disabled people and carers, and we will ensure that any such short-term disruption to service as a result of headcount reductions is kept to a minimum through constant monitoring of the situation and acting upon what our customers tell us.

I hope this is helpful.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what commitments he has made to the Public and Commercial Services Union in relation to the Disability and Carers Service for Carers' Allowance in Preston, Lancashire. [144006]

Mrs. McGuire: This is a matter for the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service, Mr. Terry Moran. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Terry Moran, dated 18 June 2007:

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what commitments he has made to the Public and Commercial Services Union in relation to the Disability and Carers Service for Carers' Allowance in Preston, Lancashire.

The Minister for Disabled People, Anne McGuire MP, promised you a substantive reply from the Chief Executive of the Disability and Carers Service.

Managers in the Disability and Carers Service (DCS) are committed to full consultation with the Public and Commercial Services (PCS) Union on all issues that affect the members of that Union.

As you will be aware, as part of the Efficiency Challenge all government departments have imposed headcount targets for the period ending March 2008. The headcount target for the Disability and Carers Service for 2007/08 is 5063. The headcount allocation for the Carers Allowance Unit (CAU) for 2007/08 is 723, which represents a reduction of 180 on current headcount.

To help achieve that target we looked to employ lean' techniques in the CAU and, following a successful trial, the 'lean' approach is now being implemented across the Unit. This approach includes additional checking to ensure right first time quality and improving services for customers.

Managers in the CAU have held a number of meetings with representatives of PCS to discuss 'lean' techniques since the work started in December 2006, and other meetings have been held to discuss the headcount reductions in the CAU. Since 1st April 2007, CAU managers have met PCS representatives on 6 occasions and a further 2 meetings are planned for later in June. In addition, following a request from PCS representatives, the CAU Manager attended a meeting of PCS members organised by the Union to discuss 'lean' and answer questions.

The CAU managers consult PCS on various other issues, and in addition to the meetings described above consultation has taken place through written communications on over 30 occasions since 1st April 2007.

I hope this is helpful.

Council Tax Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to revise the savings threshold for eligibility to council tax benefit for pensioners. [142881]

Mr. Plaskitt: There are no plans to change the savings threshold for eligibility to council tax benefit.

We keep the capital limits under review as we do for the other income-related benefits. Any changes would have to be considered alongside other priorities.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what methodology is used by his Department to account for its carbon emissions. [140793]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department reports on its carbon emissions, in line with the targets for Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate, via the Sustainable Development in Government Report and its own annual Sustainable Development Report.

The Department measures its carbon emissions based on the amount of energy required to run the buildings that it occupies, and to undertake the main elements of its business travel. DEFRA standard conversion factors are used uniformly throughout.

For energy use (that is electricity and fossil fuels), actual consumption data is submitted on an annual basis to the Buildings Research Establishment (BRE), which is then weather corrected and the appropriate conversion factor applied by BRE.

For DWP fleet vehicles, there are two methods used; fuel type, fuel consumption and engine size information is used where it is available; otherwise the appropriate DEFRA conversion factor is applied to mileage data. For business travel that staff undertake in their own vehicles, information on mileage travelled is collected and the relevant DEFRA standard conversion factor, assuming an equal split between

petrol and diesel engined vehicles is applied. Mileage for hire cars will be included within this year's calculation.

The Department participates in the Government's carbon offsetting scheme. Data are collected on the number of miles undertaken by staff on official air travel and the DEFRA conversion factor is applied.

Data are currently not available for rail travel and taxi journeys but the Department is now investigating the feasibility of collecting and including this into our carbon emission calculations.

Departments: Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143873]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP employees may work from home in two categories:

(a) Permanently, on a contractual basis; and

(b) On an ad hoc basis.

The number of employees who have contracted as permanent home workers are:

As at March each year	*Contracted home workers*
2004	4
2005	5
2006	6
2007	6

DWP does not collect statistical data about ad hoc home working arrangements.

Managers may exercise discretion and authorise ad-hoc home working for a variety of reasons.

The Department recognises the advantage of having a range of different working arrangements, which both meet business needs and enable its employees to balance work and their personal life. Home working is only one of a range of flexible working arrangements that are available to DWP employees.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date the decision was *(a)* taken and *(b)* enacted to move his Department's post opening and distribution services in Kent from Haden Building Management to the Royal Mail. [141432]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is as follows:

(a) The decision to move the Department's post opening and distribution services in Kent from Haden Building Management to the Royal Mail was a consequence of DWP's review of office services. The outcomes from this review were approved by the Department's Executive Team in January 2005.

(b) Following competition, Haden Building Management won the contract to deliver the entire Department's Office Services requirements and commenced delivery of these services under the contract from 1 March 2007. Royal Mail is a subcontractor to Haden, opening post at Royal Mail Centres, in secure mail opening units. The new contract commenced on 1 March 2007 and offices within the Kent area moved to the Royal Mail between 16 April 2007 and 7 May 2007.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139323]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested is in the following table.

The receipts shown include payments made by other Government Departments and in respect of third party service providers working from our premises.

	£ million
2002-03	56.708
2003-04	58.532
2004-05	59.518
2005-06	55.337
2006-07	64.432

Receipts for the Health and Safety Executive and the Rent Service are excluded, as Commercial and Estates Directorate does not hold this information. The Appeals Service is included in the receipts after April 2006, when, as the Tribunal Service, it became part of the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Departments: Translation Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been spent by his Department on translating *(a)* documents and *(b)* website content into other languages in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [142409]

Mrs. McGuire: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139918]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department utilises OGC Buying Solutions frameworks for the provision of these services and pays travel agencies' fees for air, rail and ferry bookings. However the information requested is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs. The Department obtains a discount from every business travel booking made through the contracted agents which would not be available should we book directly with the operators. All bookings will attract a commission for the agent from the operator which will be returned to us, the customer, by way of a discount and the discounts negotiated are in excess of the fees charged. These discounts appear on invoices having had any fees deducted, therefore, the fee element is not identifiable from invoices. To identify the fees individually would require an extensive clerical exercise involving officials and the suppliers.

Disability Living Allowance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many households there are in England and Wales where both spouses or partners claim the higher rate disability living allowance; [140679]

(2) how many households there are in England and Wales where *(a)* a child and *(b)* two or more children claim disability allowance in addition to (i) a parent and (ii) both parents or legal guardians; [140680]

(3) how many households there are in England and Wales where every member of the household claims both disability allowance and carer's allowance. [140681]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 26W, on disability living allowance, (1) in what format information relating to *(a)* the method of claim and *(b)* the time taken to process claims for disability living allowance is held; and what categories of information relating to disability living allowance claims are held centrally; [141754]

(2) in what format information is held relating to *(a)* the method of claim and *(b)* the time taken to process claims for attendance allowance; and what categories of information relating to attendance allowance claims are held centrally. [141942]

Mrs. McGuire: Information is held about disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) claims that are received on-line. The computer systems also calculate the average actual clearance times for all claims processed within the month.

Information is held centrally on the number of DLA and AA cases received that are processed and outstanding each month. Information is also held centrally on the type and/or rate of the award and the evidence used in determining the claim.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants receiving disability allowance have been diagnosed with *(a)* stress and *(b)* back pain. [144081]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance recipients whose main disabling condition is stress or back pain—November 2006

Main disabling condition	*Number in receipt*
Back pain	
D02—Spondylosis—including disc disease, cervical/lumbar etc.	106,560
D03—Back pain—not specified	108,510
D05—Disease of the muscles, bones or joints	211,870
Stress	
D45—Psychoneurosis—including anxiety, depression, phobia and hysteria	181,190
D46—Personality Disorder	8,560

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
4. Figures are compiled using the broad categories for the main disabling conditions that would include stress or back pain. These categories will therefore include people who do not suffer from stress or back pain.
5. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the Financial Assistance Scheme with the judgement of the European Court of Justice in cases where a scheme member's expected pension is greater than £52,000 per year. [136026]

James Purnell: The judgment of the European Court of Justice did not deal directly with the question of a cap for high earning pensioners. However, we do consider that the cap of £26,000 is consistent with the social purpose behind the 1980 Directive.

Incapacity Benefit: Cognitive Behavioural Therapy

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department took to implement cognitive behavioural therapy provision for incapacity benefit claimants in the UK in each year since 2005. [142215]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is a practical therapy that helps people to manage their health condition. Jobcentre Plus delivers a CBT-based approach through its condition management programmes. However, it is not designed to replace treatment available to people through the NHS. Where the programme is available, it forms an important element of the range of help available through our Pathways to Work Choices package. Condition management programmes are currently provided in collaboration with the NHS and Jobcentre Plus.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit claimants have undertaken cognitive behavioural therapy in each of the last three years. [142216]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The information is not available.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many practitioners of cognitive behavioural therapy have been recruited by his Department to work with incapacity benefit claimants in each of the last three years. [142217]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* This Department does not recruit practitioners of cognitive behavioural therapy. Condition management programmes (CMPs) are provided in collaboration with the NHS and Jobcentre Plus as part of the range of support in Pathways to Work areas. The NHS/primary care trusts are responsible for delivering on CMP contracts in those areas. The numbers of cognitive behavioural therapy-trained staff in each area varies according to local needs and how the programmes are delivered.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people claimed jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2006 in each parliamentary constituency. [143824]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information has been placed in the Library.

National Insurance Contributions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) a Minister in which Department made the decision not to implement in full the recommendations of the Government Actuary on the level of contracted-out national insurance rebates from April 2008; and if he will make a statement; [141173]

(2) on how many occasions since May 1997 his Department has not accepted recommendations from the Government Actuarial Department; and if he will make a statement. [141174]

James Purnell: Decisions on the level of contracted-out national insurance rebates are a matter for the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. The current contracted-out rebate rates were set out in the Secretary of State's report laid before each House of Parliament on 1 March 2006 and reflected in the rebate Order made on 30 March 2006. This report gave due consideration to the report of the Government Actuary and to other considerations such as the fiscal conditions which prevailed at the time. As with all decisions which have a major impact on public expenditure, including previous rebate reviews, the recommended rates were agreed with HM Treasury.

The Secretary of State has departed from the rebate rates recommended by the Government Actuary on two occasions in the period covered by the question, in addition to the one where the Government Actuary's recommendation for rebate rates from 2007 was not fully implemented. The two occasions were the application of a 9.0 per cent. cap on age-related percentages for contracted-out DC schemes for the period 1999-2000 to 2001-02 tax year, and the application of a 10.5 per cent. cap from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

Pension Credit

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what easements of pension credit procedures there were within the Pensions Service in each year from April 2001 to April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [138125]

James Purnell: Pension credit was introduced in October 2003. A number of revisions to standard operating processes were introduced between October 2003 and March 2004 to ensure applications were dealt with effectively during the initial take on period. These revisions covered the following areas:

means of verifying the uprating of second pensions;

treatment of unanswered questions on the claim form;

acceptance of photocopies of certain documents;

acceptance of claim forms signed in the wrong place;

evidence required for the backdating of a claim;

a reduction in the amount of visiting to support programme protection, allowing Local Service to concentrate on pension credit take-up and alleviating pensioner poverty;

reductions in checking. Our experience of the reduced levels of checking during this period subsequently led to the removal of seven checks and a reduction in the checking level of another six.

These revisions ended with effect from April 2004 and Pension Centres returned to standard operating procedures.

Pension Credit: Blackpool

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Blackpool North and Fleetwood constituency are in receipt of pensions credit. [143977]

James Purnell: As at February 2007, 6,670 households in Blackpool North and Fleetwood constituency were receiving pension credit.

Notes:

1. The figure provided is an early estimate. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest ten.

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory and are therefore based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS). Pension credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007.

Pension Credit: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Lancashire constituency are in receipt of pension credit. [143519]

James Purnell: As at February 2007 4,890 households in West Lancashire constituency were receiving pension credit.

Notes:

1. The figure provided is an early estimate. The preferred data source for figures supplied by DWP is the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS). However, the figure provided is the latest available figure, which is taken from the GMS scan at 2 March 2007. These are adjusted using the historical relationship between WPLS and GMS data to give an estimate of the final WPLS figure.

2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest ten.

3. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory and are therefore based on the 2005 parliamentary boundaries.

4. Households are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.

Source:

DWP 100 per cent. data from the Generalised Matching Service (GMS).

Pension Credit scan taken as at 2 March 2007.

Pension Credit: Telephone Services

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests for pension scheme tracking the Pension Tracking Service of the Pension Service received on telephone number 0845 6002 537 in each month since the service has been offered. [138041]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

The Pensions Tracing Service started to provide a telephone tracing application service from June 2006.

Number of requests to the Pensions Tracing Service telephone number each month since June 2006

	Telephone requests
2006	
June	746
July	925
August	829
September	924
October	862
November	949
December	504
2007	
January	1,142
February	1,314
March	1,301

Note:
Applications received via the telephone service typically represent around 25 per cent. of the volume of applications per month.
Source:
Information generated from the Pension Tracing IT system

Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the figures which form the basis of the charts in the two pensions White Papers published in 2006 which are on his Department's website. [141547]

James Purnell: The figures which form the basis of the charts in the two pensions White Papers have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will update and expand chart 3.11 of the Purple Book using information from additional scheme returns since it was published. [143548]

James Purnell: This is not a matter for the Secretary of State.

The Purple Book, published in December 2006, was a joint study by the Pensions Regulator and the Pension Protection Fund (PPF). The statistics were generated through analysis of information collected by the Pensions Regulator from pension scheme returns. Some of this information was further processed by the PPF in collaboration with the Government Actuaries' Department so that valuation information was as at a common date.

This will be an annual publication.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimates are of the number of individuals in contracted out *(a)* defined benefit and *(b)* defined contribution pension schemes for each year from 1996-97 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [144079]

James Purnell: The information is in the following table.

Membership of contracted-out pension schemes

Million

	Type of contracted-out scheme		
		Defined contribution	
	Defined benefit	*Occupational*	*Personal*
1996-97	7.7	0.7	3.5
1997-98	7.6	0.8	3.5
1998-99	7.7	0.8	3.5
1999-2000	7.6	0.7	3.5
2000-01	7.8	0.7	3.5
2001-02	7.7	0.7	3.5
2002-03	7.6	0.6	3.3
2003-04	7.6	0.6	2.9
2004-05	7.6	0.5	2.7
2005-06	7.6	0.4	2.3
2006-07	7.6	0.4	2.0
2007-08	7.5	0.3	1.3

Notes:
1. Figures are for UK and are shown in millions.
2. Figures for defined contribution personal pension schemes include stakeholder pension schemes.
Source:
Actual figures derived from Second Tier Pension Provision Statistics for 1996-97 to 2003-04 and DWP estimates thereafter.

Pensions: EC Countries

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the most recent Eurostat projections are of the financial costs of pension provision for member states of the EU. [143991]

James Purnell: The information requested is not available.

Pensions: Females

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women submitted forms to apply for home responsibilities protection in the last 12 months for which figures are available; how many of these women were already drawing a state pension; what proportion of such applicants in each case were successful; and if he will make a statement. [139933]

James Purnell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The information requested is not available.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies and associated pension funds are eligible for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS); on which date each company and pension fund were placed in administration; whether a pension holiday had been previously declared in each case; and which funds' members have received payments from the FAS. [141057]

James Purnell: The Information has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes which are in wind up are in the formal Financial Assistance Scheme assessment stage; and what the longest time is for which such a scheme has been under assessment. [141880]

James Purnell: The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) do not use the term "Assessment Phase".

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which piece of data is most often cited by the financial assistance scheme as the reason for delay in commencing financial assistance. [141881]

James Purnell: Non receipt of acceptable data from pension scheme trustees and administrators is the main reason for the delay in assessing pension scheme members' entitlement to the FAS. This could be because the data are incomplete, incorrect or are ambiguous, (for example containing additional information which needs to be clarified).

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of the Financial Assistance Scheme approved for assistance schemes *(a)* are not claiming the assistance which they are entitled to and *(b)* do not receive assistance because they fall under the de minimis level. [141884]

James Purnell: The information is as follows:

(a) Nine people who are entitled to FAS assistance have advised the FAS Operational Unit (FASOU) that they do not wish to receive payment. There are also 20 people who have been advised by FASOU that they are entitled, but whose reply to the FASOU to confirm the arrangements for payments has been outstanding for two months or more.

(b) 1,355 people are not receiving FAS assistance because they fell under the de minimis level. This figure includes members assessed for both initial and annual payments.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes in wind up cannot begin the financial assistance scheme assessment process because they are affiliated members of a body of pension schemes some of which are not in wind up. [141885]

James Purnell: We are not aware of any such schemes.

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the unfunded liability under the financial assistance scheme is of *(a)* Gloystarme and Co., *(b)* Hydra Tools and *(c)* United Engineering Forgings. [143268]

James Purnell: All three pension schemes have qualified for the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) and are still winding up. The unfunded liability under FAS will not be known until winding up is completed.

Pensions: Insolvency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the number of occupational pension schemes winding up with a solvent employer which did not reach compromise agreements between 1997 and 2005 which will not be eligible for help from the financial assistance scheme as proposed to be amended by the Pensions Bill; and what his latest estimate is of the number of members involved. [136017]

James Purnell: The number of pension schemes with solvent sponsoring employers which have commenced winding up during the period from 1 January 1997 to 5 April 2005 (the period of eligibility for the financial assistance scheme) is not known. As a result we have made no estimate of the number of members involved.

The review of scheme assets I announced on 28 March will be looking into the circumstances of those pension schemes (in addition to those with compromise agreements) where although the sponsoring employer did not undergo an insolvency event, it would not be reasonable to expect the employer to have a continuing responsibility for supporting an under funded scheme. The review team has also invited representation from schemes which feel they might be covered under the recently announced extension of FAS and will be reporting to the Secretary of State on these issues later this year with an interim report provided in summer and a final report before the end of the year.

Pensions: Regulation

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish regulations permitting protected rights to be held in self-invested personal pensions. [141665]

James Purnell: Draft regulations permitting protected rights to be held in self invested personal pensions will be issued for consultation later this year.

Personal Accounts Savings Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of

the impact of the changes to the upper earnings limit for national insurance contributions from 2009 on the proposed personal accounts savings scheme. [140359]

James Purnell: There is no impact. The personal accounts earnings band thresholds will be unrelated to the annual announcements made in the budget on tax and national insurance. As we announced in our response to the consultation on 'Personal Accounts: a new way to save', these will be set between around £5,000 and £33,500 (in 2006-07 terms), uprated thereafter in line with average earnings.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he intends to increase the upper earnings limit for contributions to the proposed personal accounts saving scheme in line with the proposed increase in the upper earnings limit for national insurance contributions from 2009 which was announced in the 2007 Budget. [140360]

James Purnell: The personal accounts earnings band thresholds will be set at around £5,000 and £33,500 (in 2006-07 terms), uprated thereafter annually in line with average earnings. This will establish the thresholds in their own right. The level of the thresholds will be unrelated to the annual announcements made in the budget on tax and national insurance.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the additional number of employees who would be eligible for the proposed personal accounts savings scheme if the upper earnings limit for contributions were increased to £43,000. [140361]

James Purnell: There would be no impact on the number of employees who would be eligible for the proposed personal accounts savings scheme if the upper earnings limit for contributions were increased to £43,000. This is because in companies that opt for personal accounts all employees earning above the lower limit are automatically enrolled into the scheme. Changing the upper limit only changes the earnings on which contributions would be paid not eligibility for automatic enrolment.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what date he plans to publish the Government's final proposals on the level of the annual cap on personal contributions to the new personal pension accounts; and if he will make a statement. [141837]

James Purnell: The White Paper, 'Personal accounts: a new way to save' consulted on an annual contribution limit of £5,000. The summary of responses, published on 14 June 2007, contains detail on both the level of the limit and how it is to be designed. After further analysis, the Government believe that a contribution limit of £3,600 better balances the need to focus personal accounts on the target market with the need to allow individuals to save flexibly for their retirement. The £3,600 limit will be based on 2005 earnings levels, and will be uprated with earnings from 2005 to implementation in 2012 and beyond.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save, page 25, whether the Government expects that the default fund will invest in a wide range of *(a)* classes of asset and *(b)* equities and bonds. [141535]

James Purnell: The Personal Accounts Delivery Authority will be tasked with applying its expertise to develop an investment strategy for personal accounts. In doing so, it will consider a wide range of assets classes, including a range of different equities and bonds. Once in operation, scheme trustees will be ultimately responsible for investment decisions, as they would in any other defined contribution occupational scheme.

Remploy: Land

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the present market value is of the land and property of each Remploy site. [139961]

Mrs. McGuire: The total market value of Remploy's land and property for this year has not yet been audited. The figure at 31 March 2006 after audit was £51.5 million.

We are not in a position to give the market value of each site, as this information is commercially confidential.

Smith Institute: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 249W, on the Smith Institute: finance, what the *(a)* title and *(b)* location was of the staff training course in August 2003; how many staff attended; and from what teams those staff came. [139920]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

State Retirement Pensions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the yearly value has been of the basic state pension for *(a)* couples and *(b)* single pensioners in each year since April 1997. [143539]

James Purnell: The information requested is in the following table:

£

Uprating date (April each year)	*Full rate Category A state pension*[1]	*Couples rate (full Category A + Category B(L) state pension)*[1]
1997	81.30	130.00
1998	81.30	130.00
1999	81.30	130.00
2000	81.30	130.00
2001	84.60	135.20
2002	86.60	138.40
2003	87.30	139.60
2004	87.30	139.60
2005	87.30	139.60

Uprating date (April each year)	Full rate Category A state pension[1]	£ Couples rate (full Category A + Category B(L) state pension)[1]
2006	87.30	139.60
2007	87.30	139.60

[1] 2007-08 prices.

Notes:

1. These rates are the real terms (prices) value of the Category A and Category A + Category B(L) and BSP and were calculated using the Retail Prices Index. The amounts are rounded to the nearest 10p. These are not the cash values.
2. There is no such thing as a "couples rate", though the sum of the Category A and Category B(L) pension is often referred to as such. Similarly there is no such thing as a "singles rate" though the maximum rate of the Category A pension is commonly referred to as the singles rate.
3. The couples rate is calculated as 160 per cent. of the full Category A.
4. The Category B (lower) pension is about 60 per cent. of the full-rate basic Category A Pension. It is payable by virtue of a spouse's qualifying years or earnings.

Unemployment: Carlisle

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were unemployed and claiming benefit in Carlisle on *(a)* 1 April 1997 and *(b)* 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [143216]

Mr. Jim Murphy: In April 1997 there were 3,060 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the Carlisle local authority area, and in April 2007 there were 1,240.

Notes:

1 .Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Figures are taken from the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Source:

Count of unemployment-benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).

Winter Fuel Payments: Overseas Residence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners living outside the UK received winter fuel payments in each year since such payments were introduced, broken down by country of recipients' residence. [142588]

James Purnell: Since 2002, following discussions with the European Commission about the effect of Community law, winter fuel payments have been made to eligible former UK residents living elsewhere in the European economic area or Switzerland provided they qualified for a winter fuel payment before leaving the UK. Although in some cases payments may be made for years before 2002, a separate breakdown of payments for the earlier years is not available. Information on payments made from 2002-03 is in the following table.

	Payments made				
Country	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Gibraltar	30	50	75	95	100
Republic of Ireland	660	1,395	2,370	3,475	4,375
Austria	15	25	45	85	115
Belgium	20	35	65	105	130
Denmark	10	20	30	50	50
Finland	10	10	20	30	40
France	1,780	3,795	6,470	9,440	11,505
Germany	90	225	370	550	650
Greece	65	150	270	480	655
Italy	95	200	360	595	735
Luxembourg	5	5	10	15	15
Netherlands	25	60	85	145	170
Norway	0	10	15	20	35
Portugal	105	255	450	720	910
Spain	5,165	10,390	16,215	21,380	24,695
Sweden	5	30	40	70	90
Switzerland	10	20	45	90	115
Iceland	0	0	5	5	5
Liechtenstein	0	0	0	0	0
Malta	0	0	265	420	570
Republic of Estonia	0	0	0	5	5
Republic of Latvia	0	0	0	5	10
Republic of Lithuania	0	0	0	5	5
Hungary	0	0	20	55	85
Poland	0	0	25	70	115
Cyprus	0	0	1,395	2,190	3,005
Republic of Slovenia	0	0	0	0	5
Czech Republic	0	0	0	5	10
Slovak Republic	0	0	0	0	0

Notes:

1. The figures for the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 include only automated payments. These account for the great majority of payments made. Figures for clerical payments made in these years are not available broken down by country. However clerical payments are included in the figures from 2004-05.
2. 10 countries joined the European economic area in May 2004. Winter fuel payments could be paid to eligible former UK residents living in these countries from winter 2004-05. The figures for winter 2004-05 include some payments made for earlier years where entitlement had been established but not paid prior to leaving the UK.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest five.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on making winter fuel payments to pensioners living outside the UK in the 2006-07 financial year, broken down by country of recipients' residence. [142589]

James Purnell: Total winter fuel payments paid to pensioners living outside the United Kingdom in 2006-07 is in the following table.

Country of recipients' residence	Amount (£000)
Austria	20.4
Belgium	22.5
Cyprus	470.5
The Czech Republic	1.4
Denmark	8.2
The Republic of Estonia	1.2
Finland	7.0

Country of recipients' residence	Amount (£000)
France	1,821.7
Germany	110.9
Gibraltar	15.7
Greece	111.3
Hungary	15.0
Iceland	0.8
The Republic of Ireland	736.5
Italy	121.4
The Republic of Latvia	1.9
Liechtenstein	0.2
The Republic of Lithuania	0.5
Luxembourg	3.0
Malta	92.5
Netherlands	30.5
Norway	5.9
Poland	20.2
Portugal	149.0
Spain	3,921.5
The Slovak Republic	0.4
The Republic of Slovenia	0.8
Sweden	16.0
Switzerland	19.8
Total	7,726.5

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and the late payment run data for 2006-07 are included in the figures.
2. All payments shown include the data held in the system and the clerical data for some countries.

DEFENCE

Abbey Wood Railway Station

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department made to the construction of the railway station at Abbey Wood, Bristol. [143332]

Mr. Ingram: The total MOD contribution to the construction costs of Filton Abbey Wood Railway Station (including platform and footbridge) was £400,000 inclusive of VAT.

Afghanistan: Peace Keeping Operations

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether all the Mastiff vehicles procured for use in Afghanistan will be delivered by spring 2007. [142106]

Mr. Ingram: Mastiff protected patrol vehicles have been delivered to Afghanistan and Iraq and are being used in operations.

I am withholding information on delivery schedules of numbers of vehicles on operations as it would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of armed forces.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of HM armed forces *(a)* returning from action in and *(b)* injured whilst serving in (i) Afghanistan and (ii) Iraq have been checked for post-traumatic stress disorder; and how many were in (A) the Army, (B) the Royal Navy and (C) the Royal Air Force; [142296]

(2) how many members of HM armed forces injured while serving in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq have been checked for post-traumatic stress disorder; and how many were in the (i) Army, (ii) Royal Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force. [142297]

Derek Twigg: During the operational period from January 2003 to December 2006, 2,333 mobilised British military personnel (regular and reservists) who deployed to Iraq under Operation TELIC were assessed by, and received treatment from, the Defence Medical Services for mental health conditions thought to be related to their deployment. This represents around 2 per cent. of personnel deployed to Op TELIC over the same period.

Of this number, 363 servicemen fulfilled the diagnostic criteria for post traumatic stress disorder. This represents around 0.3 per cent. of personnel deployed to Op TELIC over the same period.

Information on the Service of each individual is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since 2003 we have collated figures on the incidence of mental health diagnoses for Service personnel returning from Iraq. However, at a time when a growing number of personnel have been deployed to other operational theatres in addition to Iraq, it has become increasingly clear that it is difficult to attribute a subsequent mental health condition (which in many cases may not present itself until months or even years later) to Service on a specific deployment. We are currently, therefore, reviewing our methods of collating figures on Service personnel who are diagnosed with a mental health condition.

We aim to provide first-class medical care on deployed operations in the most challenging of circumstances and surroundings. Commanders and their medical staff can call upon mental health professionals who can provide assessment and care. Operational Theatres are regularly visited by consultant psychiatrists who audit the service provided by the in-theatre mental health professionals.

There are 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental healthcare.

The DCMH mental health teams comprise psychiatrists, mental health nurses, clinical psychologists and mental health social workers. The aim is to see referred individuals at their unit medical centre and, with the patient's permission, to engage with general practitioners and their chain of command to help manage mental health problems identified in personnel.

A wide range of psychiatric and psychological treatments are available (including psychological therapies, environmental adjustment and medication) where appropriate. The Defence Mental Health Services have particular expertise in psychological treatments for mental health problems in general, and psychological injury in particular.

The "King's Centre for Military Health Research: Ten Year Report," published by Kings College,

University of London on a decade's worth of research concerning the health of UK veterans, stated that:

Mental health screening after deployment is practised in other countries, but is not supported by evidence of benefit and is costly.

Afghanistan: Opium

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what volume of *(a)* opium and *(b)* other narcotics were (i) seized and (ii) destroyed in Afghanistan by UK forces in each of the last three years. [142992]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 493-95W, to the hon. Member for Ceredigion (Mark Williams).

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce a decision on proceeding with the construction of the two new aircraft carriers for the UK. [143443]

Des Browne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister of State with responsibility for the armed forces on 22 May 2007, *Official Report* column 1181W to the hon. Member for Brecon and Radnorshire (Mr Williams).

Ammunition: Testing

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate his Department has made of the rate of failure to detonate or self-destruct of M85 submunitions used in the L20A1 artillery shell on impact *(a)* on hard surfaces and *(b)* soft terrain. [142526]

Mr. Ingram: The Ministry of Defence does not separately test the rate of failure of M85 submunitions on hard and soft surfaces. I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 800W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith) for the detail on L20A1 testing.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 488W, on the Joint Ministry of Defence and Department of Health Partnership Board, if he will place in the Library the minutes of the last three board meetings. [142857]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 174W.

Armed Forces: Electoral Register

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timetable is for his Department to complete and publish its revaluation survey into electoral registration among members of the armed forces. [142187]

Derek Twigg: I am considering the report of the survey. I will write to the hon. Member indicating our intention to publish it in due course.

Armed Forces: Food

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* all food, *(b)* beef and *(c)* lamb supplied to forces based in (i) the UK, (ii) Germany, (iii) Iraq and (iv) Afghanistan is sourced from United Kingdom producers. [142134]

Mr. Ingram: Under the MOD's food supply contract, which commenced on 1 October 2006, approximately 68 per cent. of food items (excluding fresh produce, which is affected by seasonality) supplied to UK forces based in the UK, Germany, Iraq and Afghanistan are sourced from suppliers within the UK. Approximately 55 per cent. of beef and 13 per cent. of lamb and mutton supplied to UK forces in these locations is of British origin.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will investigate the speed and level of recovery of injured service personnel when they are treated *(a)* alongside civilian patients and *(b)* within dedicated military hospital wards. [142295]

Derek Twigg: The treatment offered to Service personnel is based on their clinical needs. This applies to operational and non-operational casualties. All patients who require admission to hospital are treated in the most appropriate clinical environment according to their clinical need.

The MOD recognises that, under certain circumstances, the recovery of injured Service personnel can be assisted if they are treated alongside Service colleagues. That is why we have established a Military Managed Ward (MMW) at Selly Oak Hospital, the main receiving hospital for our operational casualties, where military patients can be grouped together when it is clinically appropriate to do so. Equally, however, in some cases their clinical condition will dictate that they be placed in a different location.

Injured service personnel requiring rehabilitation after hospital treatment can receive this in the Defence Medical Services' (DMS) own facilities, whether at the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre (DMRC) or one of our Regional Rehabilitation Units (RRUs).

Armed Forces: Housing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of ensuring that unoccupied family accommodation at Pirbright barracks was secured against vandalism and squatters in the latest year for which figures are available; and what it is likely to be in the 2007-08 financial year. [141850]

Derek Twigg: For 2006-07 the cost of ensuring that unoccupied service families accommodation at Pirbright barracks was secured against vandalism and squatters, was approximately £30,000. This included the cost of boarding-up, changing the locks and fencing off of empty properties.

It is too early to estimate a figure for the current financial year.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans there are to replace each of the variants of Land Rover used by the armed forces; and whether replacements will be part of the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [141038]

(2) what consideration has been given to track width of vehicles fulfilling the armed forces Land Rover commitments in the future. [141040]

Mr. Ingram: It is intended that in future most of the roles currently fulfilled by Land Rover based vehicles will be undertaken by vehicles procured under the Operational Utility Vehicle System (OUVS) programme, which is separate from the FRES programme, or by vehicles such as the Panther command and liaison vehicle. The OUVS requirement will cover a range of vehicle attributes, including wheel base.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of each variant of Land Rover are available for pre-deployment training; and how many Land Rovers turned over during pre-deployment training during the last four years. [141039]

Mr. Ingram: The Army and Royal Navy have approximately 7,000 WOLF, 5,000 Defender, 5 WMIK and 100 SNATCH Land Rovers available for training, including pre-deployment training. These figures exclude items which are in deep maintenance and repair, in storage, on loan and with the design authority, used for reference, training aids and specific trials; items deployed on, deploying to or returning from operations and items taken out of use temporarily in order to be converted to Bowman or to be fitted with equipment procured under the Urgent Operational Requirement process. Information relating to the RAF is not held centrally and can only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The number of Land Rovers recorded as having 'overturned without first colliding' worldwide is shown in the following table. The figures exclude Iraq and Afghanistan but our reporting system does not record whether the accident took place during pre-deployment training and further information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	TUL TUM HS(WOLF)	*SNATCH*	*WMIK*	*All other variants*
2003	36	1	0	28
2004	48	2	0	36
2005	34	3	0	21
2006	21	1	0	26
2007	13	0	0	7
Total	147	7	0	118

Note:
'All Other Variants' includes Defender
Truck Utility Light (TUL)/ Truck Utility Medium Higher Specification (TUM HS)

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost per mile, excluding crew costs, was of operating the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle in the latest period for which figures are available; [141042]

(2) to which units the first batch of Panther Command and Liaison vehicles was delivered; and when they were delivered. [141044]

Mr. Ingram: The Panther Command and Liaison vehicle has not yet entered service. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1982W.

Cost per mile data is currently under development and is therefore not available.

Army: Official Residences

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the events held at the official residence of the Adjutant-General in each year since 1997; and what the cost was of each event. [136642]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Information regarding events held at the official residence of the Adjutant-General is available from 2002 to 2006 only. Information relating to expenditure in 2005 and 2006 has been provided previously and I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 535W. Figures for previous years are shown in the following tables:

Date	*Function*	*Event/Reason*	*Cost (£)*
17 January 2002	Dinner	ot recorded	259.80
21 January 2002	Dinner	Not recorded	221.10
23 January 2002	Dinner	Not recorded	176.75
6 February 2002	Lunch	Not available	58.08
27 March 2002	Dinner	Senior Military Officers and Representative from the media	226.52
10 April 2002	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Senior Officers and Civilians	256.96
10 June 2002	Dinner	Hosting Duke of Westminster and Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire	265.19
8 July 2002	Dinner	Official Opening of Trenchard Building by Chief of Air Staff	264.44
8 July 2002	Tea	Official Opening of Trenchard Building by Chief of Air Staff	104.03
31 July 2002	Dinner	Hosting prominent members of the local civilian community	240.00
4 September 2002	Dinner	Hosting Chief of the General Staff, General Officer Commanding 4 Division and Director of Defence Academy	244.63
9 September 2002	Dinner	AG's share of Management Board dinner	300.00
15 October 2002	Lunch	Working Lunch—senior officers and civil servants within AG Command	39.91
31 October 2002	Lunch	Defence Interest/Senior RAF—Opening of Trenchard Museum	41.54
1 November 2002	Lunch	Working lunch with ACGS	15.99
Total			2,714.94

Date	Function	Event/Reason	Cost (£)
25 February 2003	Dinner	Representatives from Army Foundation College Harrogate	166.80
15 April 2003	Lunch	Working lunch—senior RAF Officer	12.09
15 April 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Senior Officers within AG Command	187.33
18 April 2003	Lunch	Working lunch—Senior Army Officers	69.48
15 May 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	192.11
29 May 2003	Dinner	Scottish Regiment Cohesion	408.65
29 May 2003	Breakfast	Scottish Regiment Cohesion	33.20
17 June 2003	Refreshments	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	5.15
23 June 2003	Lunch	Unit Cohesion (Majors Lunch)	72.27
10 July 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	192.34
17 July 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	198.55
22 July 2003	Dinner	Church Representatives and Senior Army Officers	186.16
28 July 2003	Dinner	Overseas Army Representatives	47.36
28 July 2003	Breakfast	Overseas Army Representatives	8.30
29 July 2003	Lunch	Working lunch with Chief Constable Civil Police	7.14
19 September 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	121.27
10 October 2003	Lunch	Working Lunch—Officers and civilians within AG Command	105.92
28 October 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	211.59
20 November 2003	Dinner	Unit Cohesion—Officers within AG Command	204.73
23 November 2003	Dinner	COS and Senior Officers	65.54
Total			2,495.98

Date	Function	Event/Reason	Cost (£)
3 February 2004	Dinner	Officers within AG Command	195.59
13 February 2004	Dinner	Officers within Command and Divisional Aide de Camps	212.93
1 April 2004	Dinner	Senior Officers and Officers in AG Command	256.63
21 May 2004	Dinner	Hosting Right hon. Michael Ancram (MP)	152.10
27 May 2004	Dinner	Council of Scottish Colonels Dinner	503.84
27 May 2004	Lunch	Hosting visit United States Assistant Secretary to the Army	350.90
13 July 2004	Dinner	Senior Officers and Officers within AG Command	256.00
15 July 2004	Dinner	After Cocktail Party Dinner	224.60
6 October 2004	Dinner	Senior Officers	166.51
10 Oct 2004	Dinner	Dinner Night	183.96
3 November 2004	Lunch	Visit of HRH The Duchess of Gloucester	108.50
16 November 2004	Dinner	Church Representative and Senior Officers	162.01
28 November 2004	Lunch	Senior Officers	100.19
1 December 2004	Dinner	Senior Officers	144.41
Total			3,017.57

Bombs

Mr. Caton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which cluster munitions held by the UK are designated as *(a)* dumb and *(b)* smart; and what criteria are used to determine such designation. [142527]

Mr. Ingram: The UK's understanding of so-called 'dumb' cluster munitions, are those containing numerous sub-munitions, each with an explosive content but without either a target discrimination or self-destruct, self-neutralization or self-deactivation function. As stated in the written ministerial statement on 20 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 36WS, by my hon. Friend the Defence Secretary, the two systems that met this definition, the RBL-755 and MLRS M26, have now been withdrawn from service. We retain our other cluster munition, the 'non-dumb' ERBS L20A1 M85.

Defence Storage and Distribution Agency

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the estimated cost is of centralising the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency at Donnington and Bicester; and what the projected annual effect on costs is following the closure of eight regional distribution centres; [142011]

(2) what the estimated cost is of closing the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency site at Colchester; and what the projected annual effect on costs is following its closure. [142012]

Mr. Ingram: The estimated cost to close eight Regional Distribution Centres (RDCs) and centralise transport operations mainly at Bicester and Donnington is £512,000, plus an amount for any compulsory redundancy payments that might prove necessary where affected staff cannot be redeployed.

The projected annual cost saving of closing the eight RDC's is £2.44 million.

The costs of closure of the Colchester RDC will arise mainly from redundancy payments should they be required. There may also be some minimal costs associated with relocating vehicles and mechanical handling equipment. The annual cost saving after closing the Colchester RDC will be £260,000 per year.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff will be made redundant when the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency site at Colchester closes; and what action he is taking to provide alternative employment at the Colchester Garrison for those staff who do not seek voluntary redundancy. [142013]

Mr. Ingram: There are now 15 permanent Defence Storage and Distribution Agency (DSDA) staff based at Colchester potentially affected by the proposals to close the Regional Distribution Centre, however this is still subject to TU Consultation. The Future Defence Supply Chain initiative announcement in July 2005 stated that 12 posts would be lost.

DSDA is actively engaging with the Colchester Garrison and other local government establishments, to identify possible posts within their organisations for

DSDA staff not wishing to seek voluntary redundancy. A preference exercise will identify individuals wishing to secure early release and voluntary redundancy, with compulsory redundancy being the last option.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the Defence Storage and Distribution Agency site at Colchester to close. [142015]

Mr. Ingram: The closure of the Regional Distribution Centre at Colchester is projected to be complete by April 2008. However, the decision is still subject to TU Consultation and final ministerial endorsement.

Defence: Procurement

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military equipment was purchased off-the-shelf from non-UK suppliers in each year since 1997; and what the cost was of each purchase. [142528]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: BAE Systems

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the total cost to the public purse was of each of the contracts between BAe Systems and his Department in each of the last five years; [141313]

(2) which defence procurement contracts are in place between his Department and BAe Systems; [141314]

(3) what the value is of each defence procurement contracts in place between his Department and BAe Systems. [141315]

Mr. Ingram: Central records indicate the Ministry of Defence currently has some 785 separate direct contracts in place with BAE Systems. These are listed in an extensive table which I have placed in the Library of the House. The number excludes small-value local purchase orders, contracts placed on behalf of other nations and other Government departments and those where BAE Systems is a subcontractor or a member of an industry consortium. The approximate value of each contract is indicated in the table placed in the Library by reference to a value band.

The combined value of the 785 contracts, as at 8 June 2007, was some £24,893 million. I am withholding the precise value of individual contracts and the total cost to the public purse as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. The scale of total payments made to major BAE Systems divisions over the past five financial years on all direct contracts, as published by the Defence Analytical Services Agency, is shown in the table.

£ million

Organisation	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
BAE Systems (Defence Systems) Ltd	50-100	25-50	25-50	25-50	10-25
BAE Systems (Land and Sea Systems) Ltd	10-25	—	—	—	—
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd	>250	>500	>500	>500	>500
BAE Systems Defence Ltd	25-50	—	5-10	5-10	5-10
BAE Systems Electronics Ltd	>250	>500	>500	>500	>500
BAE Systems Integrated System Technologies Ltd	—	—	—	—	100-250
BAE Systems Land Systems (Munitions and Ordnance) Ltd	—	—	—	100-250	100-250
BAE Systems Land Systems (Weapons and Vehicles) Ltd	—	—	—	50-100	100-250
BAE Systems Marine (YSL) Ltd	100-250	50-100	100-250	50-100	50-100
BAE Systems PLC	5-10	100-250	100-250	—	—
BAE Systems /Rockwell Collins Data Link Solutions LLC	—	—	—	—	5-10
BAE Systems Avionics Ltd	100-250	—	—	100-250	—
BAE Systems (Combat and Radar Systems) Ltd	25-50	—	—	—	—

Departments: ICT

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to assess the views of those responsible for using the defence information infrastructure system on the effectiveness and operability of the design; and if he will make a statement. [141675]

Mr. Ingram: The contract for DII(F) is based upon a user requirement document (URD) which corralled users' capability requirements for DII(F) from across all MOD's top level budgets. A systems requirement's document was produced from the URD, converting the users capability and performance requirements into a systems view of the overall requirement. MOD will then measure the performance of the delivered DII(F) solution against the performance conditions laid down in the URD to ensure it meets our requirements.

User concerns are raised through the chain of command and top level budgets; those which cannot be resolved at lower levels are considered at the Joint User Working Group led at senior level by the DII programme director. There is a single point of contact which functions as the DII(F) help desk to support individual users' day-to-day operation of DII(F).

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the defence information infrastructure design system is *(a)* operational and *(b)* systems assured; and if he will make a statement. [141676]

Mr. Ingram: The operational status of DII(F) is declared on a site-by-site basis and is defined in terms of first user live. The first user of the DII(F) system went live on 31 January 2006.

The DII(F) programme is being delivered in three contractual increments covering delivery of terminals and networking capability. It also involves a number of releases, which improve functionality via software tools and associated hardware.

Each release is assured before it becomes operational. Assurance confirms that the solution satisfies functional requirements—the user's needs; key performance indicators—it runs the way it should and is reliable;

service management requirements—it is supported adequately by help desks and similar services; it meets national security requirements.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on entertainment by the *(a)* General Office Commanding Northern Ireland, *(b)* Commander in Chief Land, *(c)* General-Adjutant and *(d)* Chief of the General Staff in 2006, broken down by event. [134416]

Derek Twigg: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 535W, about how much was spent on entertainment by the Adjutant-General and the Chief of the General Staff in 2006.

The details for General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland and Commander in Chief Land are as follows:

The General Officer Commanding Northern Ireland incurred £3,758 of expenditure for official entertainment in 2006. The events were:

Date	Function	Eventreason	Cost (£)
21 January	Formal Dinner	Unit Cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	246
2 February	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	186
9 February	Formal Dinner	Visit by Brig Gibson, Dir CT and UK Ops , MOD	223
13 May	Informal Dinner/ Supper	Unit Cohesion event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	60
15-18 May	Informal Dinner/ Supper	Visit by GOC NI (designate)	76
18 May	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	163
1 August	Formal Dinner	Unit Cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	62
11 September	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	262
19 September	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	303
17 October	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	302
24 October	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	216
7 November	Formal Lunch	Unit Cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	67
13 November	Formal Dinner	Visit by Assistant Chief General Staff and Chief of Staff Land	604
21 November	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	269
23 November	Informal Dinner/ Supper	Visit by Maj Gen Mark Mans, Deputy Adjutant General	154
6 December	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to foster Relationships within the wider community	276
19 December	Reception	Unit Cohesiveness event. Civilian and military staff from throughout the Command	289
Total			3,758

The Commander in Chief Land Command incurred £3,581 of expenditure for official entertainment in 2006. The events were.

Date	Function	Eventreason	Cost (£)
25 January	Formal Dinner	Hosting visit by UK Dignitaries	287
5 March	Formal Dinner	Hosting visit by UK Dignitaries	346
6 March	Restaurant	Hosting Foreign Visitor	137
21 March	Formal Dinner	Unit Cohesiveness	343
4 April	Formal Dinner	Hosting Visit by UK Dignitaries	280
18 April	Formal Dinner	Unit Cohesiveness	237
18 May	Formal Dinner	Entertainment to Foster Relationships with Wider Community	338
23 May	Formal Dinner	Unit Cohesiveness	207
10 June	Formal Dinner	Hosting UK Officials	101
17 June	Formal Lunch	Hosting prominent members of the civilian community	609
18 July	Formal Dinner	Hosting Visit by Overseas Dignitaries	244
20 July	Formal Dinner	Hosting Visit by Overseas Dignitaries	167
14 November	Formal Dinner	Visit of Spanish Commander in Chief	263
15 November	Bed and Breakfast	Hosting Spanish Commander in Chief	13
12 December	Bed and Breakfast	2 x Senior officers stayed at CinC residence overnight to attend CGS conference	9
Total			3,581

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141970]

Derek Twigg: No Ministers in the Ministry of Defence are allocated a ministerial residence.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was received by his Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139338]

Derek Twigg: Rental income from external customers is disclosed separately in the Departmental Resource Accounts which have been laid before the House of Commons. A copy of the accounts for each year is available in the Library of the House.

In addition the Department receives income from service personnel for the occupation of both single

living and families accommodation. Although readily available only for the last three years, income in respect of Service Families Accommodation was as follows:

Financial Year	Income (£)
2003-04	170,894,000
2004-05	178,321,000
2005-06	180,779,000

With effect from 2005-06 these amounts are disclosed separately in the accounts.

Income from Single Living Accommodation was not, until 2006-07, held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The 2006-07 Departmental Resource Accounts are currently being audited by the National Audit Office and, following presentation to Parliament, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Firearms: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact on marksmanship of the cancellation of all Division Skill at Arms Meetings until further notice. [143823]

Mr. Ingram: While the cancellation of Divisional Skill at Arms Meetings will have some impact, shooting competitions will continue to run at unit and Brigade level. This complies with new army shooting policy; shooting remains a critical skill and the cancellation of Divisional Level meetings will not affect TA operational capability.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* suicides and *(b)* attempted suicides there have been of members of HM armed forces (i) while serving in and (ii) after returning from service in (A) Iraq and (B) Afghanistan. [142293]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence has centrally compiled and verified records of coroner-confirmed suicides or open verdict deaths among UK regular Service personnel up to 31 December 2006.

Table: Number of suicides of UK armed forces

Theatre of operation	Dates	On deployment	Post-deployment
Iraq	18 January 2003 to 31 December 2006	[1]5	16
Afghanistan	7 October 2001 to 31 December 2006	1	—
Afghanistan	15 October 2005 to 31 December 2006	—	[2]1

[1] One suicide in 2005 involved a reservist serving in Iraq.
[2] Follow-up records of personnel who were deployed to Afghanistan are not currently available for the period before 15 October 2005.

The figures provided do not include any violent or unnatural deaths that have not yet been fully investigated by the coroner.

Centralised records for acts of deliberate self-harm (including attempted suicide) for the UK armed forces are not available.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of medical supplies and resources to armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. [142967]

Derek Twigg: There are presently no known shortfalls in the provision of medical equipment or materiel to deployed UK forces in Iraq or Afghanistan. Medical equipment and supplies are deployed in the quantities requested by operational commanders to support their deployed requirement. Medical capability is continually reviewed by Defence Consultant Advisers to ensure medical equipment and capability delivers optimal clinical care, embracing best practice, wherever possible.

Lynx Helicopters

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy not to use Lynx helicopters which have not been fitted with *(a)* the latest generation defensive aids suite and *(b)* infra red jamming device in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [137384]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 840-45W.

Marines: Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* strength is of the Royal Marine Reserve, broken down by (i) trained and (ii) untrained strength. [140240]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The Royal Marine Reserve (RMR) Establishment total is 990, including trained strength (594) and untrained strength (396).

RMR current strengths (May 2007) is 792 in total, with a trained strength of 491 and 301 untrained strength (this does not include 42 ranks on Full Time Reserve Service).

Military Aircraft: Collections

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many former military *(a)* fixed wing aircraft and *(b)* helicopters were (i) given and (ii) sold to military museums and collections (A) in the UK and (B) overseas in the last three years for which figures are available; [142130]

(2) how many former military *(a)* fixed wing aircraft and *(b)* helicopters were sold to (i) private individuals and (ii) companies (A) in the UK and (B) overseas in the last three years for which figures are available. [142131]

Mr. Ingram: 11 fixed wing and one rotary wing aircraft have been gifted to UK museums and collections in the last three years. One fixed wing aircraft has been gifted to an overseas museum in the same period.

Over the last three years, 97 fixed wing, and 19 rotary wing aircraft have been sold in the UK, and one fixed wing aircraft has been sold overseas. It is not possible to provide a complete breakdown of the sales

to private individuals, companies, museums and collections, as the records do not include this detail. These sales figures do not include aircraft sold as scrap.

Military Aircraft: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the new MRA4 plane will be in service; how much it will cost; and whether it will be equipped to undertake the function that MR2 Nimrods are performing in the Gulf and Afghanistan. [142819]

Mr. Ingram: The planned in service date for the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft is currently 2010 and the total forecast procurement cost is £3.5 billion. The aircraft will be capable of being equipped to undertake the function that the Nimrod MR2 is currently performing in the Gulf and Afghanistan, if required, when it enters service.

Navy: Reserve Forces

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the Royal Navy Reserves has been deployed in the last five years. [140238]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* Some 26 per cent. of the Trained Strength of the Royal Navy Reserves (RNR) has seen mobilised deployed service in the last five years.

This figure refers to RNR only and does not include any Royal Marines Reserve.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the strength is of *(a)* officers and *(b)* ratings of the Royal Navy Reserve, broken down by branch. [140239]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The Royal Navy Reserve (RNR) Officers Total strength (including Untrained strength (UTS)) is 935. The Branch breakdown is as follows:

Branch/Specialisation	*Total*
Maritime Operations	
Logistics	47
Submariner	54
Command Support (Officers)	100
Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR)	13
Information Ops	38
Operational Intelligence	40
Computers and Information Systems	17
Amphibious Warfare	80
Mine Warfare	70
Mine Warfare and Clearance Divers	5
Media Operations	64
Medical[8]	
Medical Officers	48
Medical Support Officers	0
QARNNS (Queen Alexandra Royal Naval Nursing Service) Officers	22
Air	170
Defence Intelligence	39
Human Intelligence	28
Chaplains	2
Junior Officers	95
General Appointments	3
Total	935

The RNR Ratings total strength (including UTS) is 1,273. The Branch breakdown is as follows.

Branch/Specialisation	*Total*
Maritime Operations	
Logistics	147
Command Support	132
Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C4ISR)	1
Communications (Submarine)	48
Communications Technician	3
Computers and Information Systems	96
General Service Seaman Rating	448
Clearance Divers	9
Operational Communications	0
Medical	
Naval Nurse	18
Medical Support Assistant	13
Air	182
Human Intelligence	1
Initial Training	175
Total	1,273

These figures refer to RNR only and do not include any Royal Marines Reserve.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* strength is of the Royal Navy Reserve, broken down by (i) trained strength, (ii) untrained strength and (iii) University Royal Navy units. [140241]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The Royal Navy Reserve (RNR) Establishment total including the Establishment Trained Requirement (1,720) and the Establishment Untrained Requirement (474) is 2,194

The RNR current strengths, as of April 2007, is 2,208 with 1,736 trained and 476 untrained.

The University Royal Navy units currently consist of 14 Units, 14 Ships and 714 personnel.

These figures refer to RNR only and do not include any Royal Marines Reserve personnel.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Royal Navy reservists were deployed in each year since 2000-01, broken down by location. [140242]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The number of Royal Navy reservists deployed in each year since 2000-01, broken down by location, is as follows:

Location	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	Total
Iraq	320	125	9	3	30	11	498
Afghanistan	—	—	—	—	26	5	31
Bosnia	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
North East Africa	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Balkans	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other	—	—	3	6	—	1	10
Total	320	125	14	10	58	18	545

The figures are for trained strength and not total, and do not include Royal Marines Reserve or those on full-time reserve service.

Official Residences: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what costs were incurred for maintenance at the official residence of the Chief of the General Staff in each year since 1997; [136609]

(2) what costs were incurred for maintenance at the official residence of the Adjutant General in each year since 1997; [136610]

(3) what costs were incurred for maintenance at the official residence of the Commander in Chief Land in each year since 1997. [136612]

Derek Twigg: Financial information relating to official service residences is retained for a period of seven years. The following table provides maintenance costs for the Chief of the General Staff (CGS), Commander-in-Chief Land (CinC) and the Adjutant-General's (AG) Official Service Residences from the financial year 1999-2000 to 2005-06:

	CGS	CinC	£ AG
1999-2000	5,652	18,717	1,616
2000-01	11,760	131,268	13,355
2001-02	17,668	31,920	2,889
2002-03	18,995	17,008	46,719
2003-04	4,381	9,149	44,840
2004-05	290	1,972	15,793
2005-06	453	7,476	13,284

RAF Aldergrove

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of RAF Aldergrove in County Antrim. [143293]

Mr. Ingram: I refer the hon. Member to my written ministerial statement on 10 May 2006, *Official Report*, columns 19-20WS, which outlined the future requirement for the defence estate in Northern Ireland once security normalisation is complete. This requirement includes RAF Aldergrove which currently houses the Joint Helicopter Force (Northern Ireland).

RAF News

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of the publication RAF News. [142619]

Derek Twigg: There are no planned changes to the publication RAF News. However, the team is planned to relocate from RAF Innsworth to RAF High Wycombe later this year as part of the formation of Air Command. As with all publications, RAF News is routinely reviewed for relevance, style and content.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers have had with the employees of the publication RAF News; and what the outcomes were. [142620]

Derek Twigg: There have been no discussions between Ministers and the employees of the publication RAF News.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were employed by the publication RAF News in each of the last five years; and what the job title was of each. [142621]

Derek Twigg: Over the last five years the publication RAF News has had an establishment of six posts. The job titles are Editor, Deputy Editor/Chief Sub Editor, Sub Editor, Reporter, Business Manager, and Office Manager.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has allocated to spend on the publication RAF News in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* each of the last five years. [142622]

Derek Twigg: The publication RAF News was allocated £153,000 for financial year 2007-08. In previous years, the allocation was £149,000 in FY 2006-07, and £144,000 in FY 2005-06. These allocations are net of target income from sales of the publication.

I will write to the hon. Member with any available information prior to 2005-06 and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Reserve Forces

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision to cancel one exercise executive stretch in financial year 2007-08 and one in financial year 2008-09 on employer support for the Territorial Army. [143820]

Mr. Ingram: The decision to postpone a number of executive stretch exercises is not judged likely to have a significant effect on employer support for the Army, although we recognise that this has caused some inconvenience and adverse reaction in those regions affected. Those affected by these postponements may be able to participate in other executive stretch exercises being run in adjoining regions, should there be spare capacity.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of *(a)* the decision to delay until 1 April 2009 the establishment of the Territorial Army units (i) 2nd Sqn, 6 AAC (V), (ii) 24 Sqn, 71 Regt RE (V), (iii) 129 Sqn, 73 Regt RE (V) and (iv) 280 Sqn, 162 MC Regt RLC

(V) and *(b)* the delay in the development of further capability before 1 April 2009 of (A) 155 Tpt Regt RLC (V) and (B) 381 Med Sp Sqn, 166 Sup Regt RLC (V). [143821]

Mr. Ingram: The decision to delay the establishment and development of further capability of those TA units listed is not expected to have an effect on the TA's ability to reach Full Operational Capability under Future Army Structures in line with my statement on TA rebalancing on 23 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 427-28.

Reserve Forces: Recruitment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact of the decision to stop recruiting in Territorial Army units that are not making a significant contribution to operations in financial year 2007-08 on *(a)* unit manning levels and *(b)* unit effectiveness. [143819]

Mr. Ingram: It is fully recognised that ceasing recruitment in selected TA units for one year will have an effect on the TA's ability to develop operational capability in the short term; both in term of manning levels and unit effectiveness. Work is continuing to ensure that mitigating strategies can be put in place if required.

Reserve Forces: Training

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the impact on training of Territorial Army personnel of *(a)* the cancellation of the Nijmegan marches and *(b)* the removal of any Territorial Army participation in the Cambrian Patrol in financial year 2008-09. [143822]

Mr. Ingram: We recognise that participation in both these events is important to members of the TA. Competitions that make a more direct contribution to the development of operational capability will continue to run.

Submarines: Manpower

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Royal Navy are currently serving on board a submarine, broken down by rank. [143609]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* At 1 October 2006, the total number of naval personnel assigned to submarines was 2,450. The following table shows the split by rank.

Paid rank	*Total*
Officer	
OF-5-Captain	[1] —
OF-4-Commander	20
OF-3-Lieutenant Commander	80
OF-2-Lieutenant	180
OF-1-Sub Lieutenant	[1] —
Officer total	280
Rank	
OR-9-Warrant Officer Class 1	10
OR-8-Warrant Officer Class 2	110
OR-7-Chief Petty Officer	430
OR-6-Petty Officer	370
OR-4-Leading Hand	410
OR-2-Able Seaman	850
Rank total	2,170
Total	2,450

[1] Denotes rounded to zero.

Due to the introduction of a new Personnel Administration System (JPA) in October 2006, Navy location data from October 2006 are not yet available for publication. However initial investigations into JPA data suggest the total figure for April 2007 to be similar to the total figure provided.

Submarines: Pay

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rate of submarine pay is for each rank. [143608]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* Daily rates of submarine pay effective from 1 April 2007 are:

		£
Level 1	Payable on qualification	11.27
Level 2	Payable after five years on level 1	14.64
Level 3	Payable after five years on level 2	17.46
Level 4	Payable after five years on level 3	19.72
Level 5	Payable to officers qualifying advanced warfare course or in charge qualified positions	24.79

Note:
Levels 1 to 4 are paid to officers and other ranks and level 5 to officers only.

Further details are contained in the 2007 Armed Forces' Pay Review Body report, a copy of which is held in the Library of the House.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the Royal Navy are in receipt of submarine pay, broken down by rank. [143610]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* As at 15 June 2007 the number of Royal Navy personnel in receipt of submarine pay by rank is:

	Number
Captain	30
Commander	166
Lieutenant Commander	342
Lieutenant	385
Sub Lieutenant	9
Warrant Officer 1	134
Warrant Officer 2	202
Chief Petty Officer	831
Petty Officer	664
Leading Hand	623
Able Seaman	884
Total	4,270

Territorial Army

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what *(a)* recruiting, *(b)* training, *(c)* capability and *(d)* other activities are expected to be reduced to deliver the planned reduction in funding for the Territorial Army in financial years (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; [142676]

(2) what representations he has received regarding the planned reduction in funding of the Territorial Army in years 2007-08 and 2008-09. [142677]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 15 June 2007]:* A number of measures will be implemented in order to deliver the reduction in funding for the Territorial Army (TA) over the next two financial years. Recruiting for those TA units that are not contributing to, or have not contributed significantly to current overseas operations will cease for one year. Work is still ongoing to determine which units will be affected by this measure. The creation of a small number of the new units that have been planned under future army structures (Territorial Army) and the recruitment of a small number of non-regular permanent staff for new support roles within TA units will be delayed. There will also be a number of reductions in TA activities not directly related to the delivery of operational capability, including a reduction in the number and frequency of TA competitions, a reduction in TA support to employers' events and the cancellation of annual TA conferences.

Ministers have received no representations regarding the planned reduction in funding of the Territorial Army in years 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Terry Lloyd

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* correspondence and *(b)* discussions his Department has had in response to the finding of the coroner in October 2006 that ITN correspondent Terry Lloyd was killed unlawfully; and if he will make a statement. [140909]

Des Browne: As a UK civilian killed abroad, the responsibility for progressing Mr. Lloyd's case was taken up by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Attorney-General's Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the activity of extremist imams and radical islamists on the incidence of anti-Semitic attacks in the UK. [142127]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Communities and Local Government does not carry out assessments on the effect of the activity of extremist imams and radical islamists on the incidence of anti-semitic attacks in the UK. However, these issues are a matter for the police both in their assessment of risk in communities and in tackling individuals that break the law.

Biometrics: Databases

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many records are held on the National DNA database, broken down by reason for their inclusion; and how many of those records are of individuals who (i) were not charged and (ii) were charged and found not guilty of an offence. [143118]

Joan Ryan: As of 10 June 2007, there were an estimated 3,976,090 individuals on the National DNA Database (NDNAD).

The purpose of the National DNA Database is to hold a record of a person's DNA which can be matched against DNA taken from crime scenes. It does not hold data on arrests, charges and convictions—that is held on the police national computer (PNC). Current information on the number of individuals who were not charged, or charged and not found guilty, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by cross-searching the NDNAD profiles against records held on PNC.

However, information is available from a cross-searching exercise carried out on the police national computer on 14 July 2006. This showed that at that date, 79.3 per cent. of those on the NDNAD who also had an entry on PNC had a conviction or a caution (ie a criminal record). The remaining 20.7 per cent. are persons who have been arrested for a recordable offence where no further action was taken; persons who have been charged with a recordable offence where proceedings are ongoing; and persons under 18 who have a formal warning or reprimand recorded on PNC.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on progress since his meeting with the hon. Member for Nottingham North and George Hosking of Wave Research on 6 December 2006 regarding crime prevention and early intervention. [139874]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office is supportive of the early intervention work my hon. Friend and others are taking forward in Nottingham. However, regretfully we are unable to provide direct funding for his proposals at this time.

The Government are already doing a great deal to support similar activity through the Respect and the Social Exclusion Action Plans, including strands led by the DfES and the YJB. Nottingham has benefited significantly from this, and it is likely that there will also be further opportunities to bid for other funding to support this work in Nottingham in due course.

Crimes of Violence: Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce levels of violent crime in Sussex police authority area. [141828]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are currently taking forward a wide range of work which will continue to reduce violent crime. We have, for example, recently

passed the Violent Crime Reduction Act, which gives the police and local communities the powers they need to tackle guns, knives and alcohol-related violence.

There are currently a number of violent crime operations being taken forward in Sussex, including: Operation Jardon, tackling football-related crime, and based on experience from the 2004 Euro Championship—penalties are used for anyone drunk and behaving in an antisocial manner, and for licensees serving alcohol to drunk and underage customers; and Operation Columbus, designed to ensure the safety and wellbeing of visiting international language students. Across East and West Sussex, a range of activities have been implemented in support of District Plans, such as CCTV in taxis in Eastbourne. Specifically in Brighton, a number of successful projects, including the Safe Haven project, have been taken forward in conjunction with the Centre for Public Innovation. Brighton hopes to repeat this particular experience this summer.

Domestic violence is also a priority. The WORTH project provides immediate support to people experiencing domestic violence. Hospital staff in A&E and midwifery are fully trained, and a team of fully trained caseworkers respond immediately to victims needing help. An Individual Support Programme for children (WISP) has also been successfully introduced. A pilot project is also under way, introducing a "routine enquiry" process about DV to GP surgeries and sexual health clinics. Work to introduce specialist domestic violence courts in Sussex continues. And Sussex police are currently seeking to bring the National Centre for Domestic Violence charity to Sussex. This charity works to deliver, on a next-day basis, the protection of civil orders to victims of domestic violence without any charge to the service or the victim.

Sussex police have been engaging with other partner agencies in introducing updated child protection and safeguarding procedures for Sussex. They are working with the East Sussex, West Sussex and Brighton and Hove city council local Safeguarding Children Boards, which provide information, advice and guidance for all professionals working in child protection. East Sussex is also one of the eight pilot counties for the development of Child Death Review Panels.

Neighbourhood policing across Sussex is continuing to develop, and practitioners are working up increasingly sophisticated strategies to engage with, and meet the needs of, local communities. Problem-solving with partners is becoming further established, with good use being made of analytical products to identify crime and incident hotspots. And improving community consultation is enabling neighbourhood specialist teams to tackle the problems of most concern to communities.

Crimes of Violence: West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to reduce levels of violent crime in the West Midlands police authority area. [138779]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 May 2007]:* The Government are currently taking forward a wide range of work which will continue to reduce violent crime. We have, for example, recently passed the Violent Crime Reduction Act, which gives the police and local communities the powers they need to tackle guns, knives and alcohol-related violence.

Domestic violence is a particular priority. In December 2006, it was announced that Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell (Warley and West Bromwich magistrates courts), Solihull and Walsall (Walsall and Aldridge magistrates courts) had been selected as Specialist Domestic Violence Court areas. These specialist courts promote a joint approach to tackling domestic violence, with the police, crown prosecutors, magistrates, courts and the probation service working together with specialist support services for victims. Agencies collectively identify, track and risk assess domestic violence cases, and better share information so that more offenders are brought to justice, victims are protected and better supported, and further violence is prevented.

The Government, through the Government office for the west midlands, supports key partners in the statutory and voluntary sector in tackling gun crime and gang-related violence. For example, Birmingham Reducing Gang Violence has continued to be a focal point for activities and partnership work to reduce gun crime. It is chaired by the West Midlands police, and supported by a range of agencies and voluntary sector groups, including Birmingham city council, West Midlands Probation, Victim Support, Increase the Peace UK, Mothers in Pain and Street Pastors.

The West Midlands is also well represented in the Tackling Violent Crime Programme, through which the Home Office works intensively with practitioners in local areas with high levels of more serious violent crime, to support their efforts to reduce, in particular, alcohol-related crime and domestic violence, to improve police and other agencies' performance and partnership working, and to improve local strategies. Currently four West Midlands police basic command units are funded to utilise a variety of interventions, including the greater use of fixed penalty notices for alcohol-related offences, routine visits to "hotspot" licensed premises, and the use of bus and taxi marshals at peak times.

West Midlands police have also been particularly active over the past 12 months in addressing robbery. Three of the 28 areas nationally which became subject to special focus during the recent Robbery Initiative are in the West Midlands (Solihull, Wolverhampton and Coventry). These areas were required to produce an action plan, which would produce long-term, sustainable interventions and not rely purely on short-term police activity to yield short-term results.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many orders under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 were made in London in each of the last five years; which officer signed each order; what locality was specified by each order; and for what duration the order was enforced. [143066]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not hold the information requested about authorisations of the use of powers under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. An authorisation is an operational matter for the police and I have therefore asked the Metropolitan Police Service to collate the information for me. I shall write to the hon. Member when that information is available.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what discussions he has had with the police on the trend in incidences of staged and induced motor accident fraud along the M1 corridor; [144003]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Insurance Fraud Bureau on the subject of staged and induced motor accident fraud; [144004]

(3) what discussions he has had with the insurance industry on the subject of a national strategy to tackle staged and induced motor accidents. [144005]

Mr. Coaker: I have recently met with both Commissioner Bowron (City of London police) who is the ACPO lead for Economic Crime, and with representatives of the Association of British Insurers. At both of these meetings the issue of staged motor accident fraud was among the issues discussed.

The recent cross-Whitehall review of fraud recommended in favour of a national strategy on fraud, overseen by a National Fraud Strategic Authority. The review and its recommendations was not specific to insurance fraud but a national strategy would cover this type of fraud. Work on the fraud review recommendations is being taken forward through an overall Programme Board and a number of working groups which will produce detailed business cases and costings for the various groups of recommendations. The Home Office and the Association of British Insurers are both involved in this process.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink driving tests were carried out by each police force in 2005. [143514]

Mr. Coaker: The information available relates to screening breath tests and is contained in the annual publication, Mooring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales, available in the Library and at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pubsstatistical.html. The latest figures are for 2004; figures for 2005 will be available later in 2007.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* drivers, *(b)* other road users and *(c)* pedestrians were killed in crashes involving drivers who had exceeded the alcohol limit in each of the last 10 years. [143566]

Dr. Ladyman: I have been asked to reply.

The available information is shown in the table.

Estimated number of fatalities from accidents involving illegal alcohol levels, by road user type: GB 1995 - 2004

	Estimated number of fatalities[1]				
	Car drivers over limit	*Other car users*[2]	*Pedestrians*	*Other road users*[3]	*Total*
1995	230	180	30	100	540
1996	270	180	40	90	580
1997	240	160	30	120	550
1998	200	130	40	90	460
1999	230	130	20	80	460
2000	250	150	30	100	530
2001	260	130	40	100	530
2002	290	130	20	100	550
2003	260	160	30	120	580
2004	280	140	30	120	580

[1] Estimated figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] Includes all car passengers, and car drivers who were not over the limit.
[3] Includes all road users except car occupants and pedestrians, including other motor vehicle drivers who were over the legal alcohol limit.

Drugs: Afghanistan

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what quantities of narcotics originating from Afghanistan were seized in transit by UK enforcement agencies in each of the last three years. [142993]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* Since 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007, the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has, with other partner law enforcement agencies, been involved in the seizure of 1.5 tonnes of heroin. While the source country has not been established, we believe that 90 per cent. of all heroin reaching the UK originates from Afghanistan.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Operation Pentameter. [143212]

Mr. Coaker: The Government are currently conducting a research study into Operation Pentameter. The lessons learnt will inform future human trafficking operations.

Identity Cards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on *(a)* the identity cards project in the 2006-07 financial year and *(b)* external consultants working on the identity cards project. [105584]

Joan Ryan: Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity

cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects.

In the 2006-07 financial year, the cost of such development projects was £32.7 million. The cost of external consultancy and contracted staff, attributed to these projects for that year was £21.4 million.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made an estimate of the cost to date of researching and developing the identity cards scheme. [123939]

Joan Ryan: Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Identity Cards Programme in total.

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects. In the 2006-07 financial year, the cost of such development projects was £32.7 million.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the second report on the cost of the identity cards scheme, how much his Department has spent in total on the scheme from its inception until 10 May 2007, broken down by *(a)* consultancy fees, *(b)* IT costs, *(c)* polling or opinion research and *(d)* other costs. [140019]

Joan Ryan *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Identity Cards Programme in total.

Of this expenditure, £31.6 million was spent on consulting and contracting services and £180,000 was spent on polling and opinion research. A further £180,000 was spent on specific IT software packages, although this figure excludes the cost of running standard hardware and software applications for desktop computers.

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well as the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects. In the 2006-07 financial year, the cost of such development projects was £32.7 million.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

The cost of external consultancy and contracted staff allocated to these projects for that year was £21.4 million, while IT costs allocated to these projects for that year total £1 million.

As contracts relating to opinion polling and research are based around providing services to projects or activities which can apply to both existing passport operational business as well as the future development of biometric passports, identity cards and future improvements, it is not possible to disaggregate the specific cost of opinion polling and research for the ID cards scheme. However, the total expenditure on all communications activities attributed to the budgets of projects for the future development of biometric passports, identity cards and associated initiatives was £145,000.

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what range of services *(a)* non-EU nationals and *(b)* UK residents will be able only to access by carrying their identity card with them. [140526]

Joan Ryan: Producing an identity card is likely to be the most convenient method of proving identity when accessing any public or private sector services. However, unless and until the specific requirements in section 16 of the Identity Cards Act are met, it will continue to be possible for individuals to use reasonable alternative methods of establishing their identity.

Identity Cards: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the identity cards scheme; what projections he has made of future costs; and if he will make a statement. [124194]

Joan Ryan: Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the Identity Cards Programme in total.

Since the merger of the Home Office Identity Cards Programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects. In the 2006-07 financial year, the cost of such development projects was £32.7 million.

With regard to future costs, the Identity and Passport Service Business Plan, published in April 2007, indicates that the organisation plans to spend £473 million in the coming year. The estimate of expenditure relating to resource and capital expenditure for the introduction of second biometric passports incorporating fingerprint biometrics, identity cards and associated developments is £80 million.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

In addition, section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to lay a report before Parliament every six months which details an updated figure for the cost of the National Identity Scheme over the following ten years. The latest cost report was laid before Parliament on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 24WS and can be found at:

http://www.identitycards.gov.uk/downloads/2007-05-10CostReport.pdf

Immigrants: Detention Centres

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* attempted suicide and *(b)* self-harm have been recorded in immigration detention centres in each of the last 12 months. [129793]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 March 2007]:* We keep records of self-harm incidents which require some form of medical treatment but we are unable to determine whether any of these incidents are actual incidents of attempted suicide. Cases reported each month for the period May 2006 to April 2007 are reproduced in the following table.

Self-harm statistics: Number of individuals on formal self-harm at risk

	2006							
Removal centre	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*
Campsfield	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	1
Colnbrook	10	9	7	5	4	5	7	12
Dover	4	3	5	0	2	2	11	6
Dungavel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harmondsworth	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
Haslar	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Lindholme	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Oakington	1	0	0	2	2	2	0	0
Tinsley House	0	2	n/a	2	0	0	0	0
Yarl's Wood	0	5	4	2	0	0	0	2
Total	16	24	18	11	12	10	19	22

	2007			
Removal centre	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*
Campsfield	1	1	0	0
Colnbrook	12	3	6	7
Dover	4	2	3	5

	2007			
Removal centre	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*
Dungavel	0	0	0	0
Harmondsworth	1	0	0	0
Haslar	0	0	0	0

	2007			
Removal centre	*January*	*February*	*March*	*April*
Lindholme	0	0	0	0
Oakington	1	1	1	1
Tinsley House	0	0	0	0
Yarl's Wood	1	1	5	1
Total	20	8	15	14

Offenders: Deportation

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors are taken into account in making decisions on whether to return Algerian national prisoners held in UK prisons to Algeria. [143376]

Mr. Byrne: Algerian nationals are treated in the same way as other non-EEA foreign nationals who have committed crimes within the United Kingdom and received custodial sentences or been court recommended for deportation.

Current guidance on consideration of deportation is publicly available and may be found on the Border and Immigration Agency website.

Security: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1455W, on security: Heathrow airport, when the summary of the evaluation of the miSense schemes was placed in the Library. [137117]

Mr. Byrne: Further to the answer of 27 March, the summary of the evaluation of the miSense schemes is being written by BAA and is scheduled for completion in mid June. This will be placed in the House Library on completion.

Sexual Offences

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he has taken to ensure that there are adequate checks in place on sex offenders coming into the UK from the European Union. [141424]

Joan Ryan: The United Kingdom is actively involved in negotiations in the European Union to improve information sharing on sex offenders.

Last November, we established a formal arrangement with the Republic of Ireland which means that information on sex offenders travelling between the two countries is exchanged between UK and Irish police. This arrangement is the first of its kind and we hope it will be used as an example to encourage similar arrangements with other countries.

The UK has also played an active role in progressing work on the EU draft framework decision on the mutual recognition of disqualifications imposed on sex offenders. This work is still ongoing. Negotiations are also under way on a framework decision to allow for quicker and better exchange of information on criminal convictions, including disqualifications arising from convictions.

Arriving passengers are also routinely checked against the immigration watch list and the Police National Computer (PNC) database as necessary.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* reliability and *(b)* effectiveness of the LTI 2020 speed camera. [144008]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State has type approved the LTI 20.20 for use by the police in the enforcement of speeding offences. Before approval is granted, a device is subjected to operational testing in the field and to tests by the HO Scientific Development Branch and independent test houses to ensure that it complies with the type approval requirements. I am satisfied that if used in accordance with the manufacturer's operating instructions and the code of practice drawn up by the Association of Chief Police Officers the LTI 20.20 will produce evidence that can safely be relied on in court.

Written Questions

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will answer question *(a)* 129923 and *(b)* 129924, on illegal firearms, tabled on 21 March 2007 by the hon. Member for Taunton; when he will answer question 134389 following up answers to these questions, tabled on 24 April 2007; and what the reasons are for the time taken to answer each question. [139506]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* For parliamentary questions 129923 and 129924, I replied to the hon. Member on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 891W.

For parliamentary question 134389, I replied to the hon. Member on 15 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1401W.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he will reply to question number 134214 on Home Office Reviews, tabled by the hon. Member for North West Cambridgeshire on 23 April 2007. [143681]

John Reid: I replied to the hon. Member on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1507W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 20 June 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

National Lottery

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are used to decide whether to grant funds to organisations or projects which apply to the National Lottery Fund; what weight is given to each criterion; and if she will make a statement. [144163]

Mr. Caborn: Lottery distributors are required to take into account National Lottery legislation and policy directions issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Policy Directions set out the framework for the wider aims of lottery funding and do not specify detailed criteria. Distributors are required to publish policy directions in their annual reports and accounts (copies are available in the Library of the House).

Distributors also determine their own published criteria for funding programmes. These will be informed by consultation and take into account regional funding priorities and the need to promote access for people from all sections of society. Any weighting is a matter for the distributor.

Olympic Games: Greater London 2012

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the brain-storming session scheduled by KPMG, referred to in note 3 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 28 November 2005. [133641]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, in which I provided full details of the budget for the Olympic Delivery Authority and a number of issues including wider security, tax and contingency provision.

The specific advice relating to the brainstorming session remains pertinent to the formulation of government policy, and I cannot therefore place the minutes in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will place in the Library a copy of the assessment of total costs made by KPMG, referred to in note 2 of the minutes of the Olympic cost review steering group of 28 November 2005. [133642]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave to him on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1588W, and to that of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 533W. In addition I gave Parliament a full explanation of the Olympic costs and funding in my statement of 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450. KPMG's role was changed to one of providing ongoing advice on Olympic costs, and the report referred to in note 2 of the minutes of the Olympic cost steering group was therefore not produced.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when and for what reason KPMG was commissioned to provide ongoing advice on the cost of the Olympic Games in 2012; when the final report on the cost of the Olympics commissioned from KPMG for delivery by the end of November 2005 was provided to her Department; and if she will make a statement. [141375]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the response I gave to him on 18 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 1588W, and to that of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 533W.

KPMG were commissioned in October 2005 in order to provide advice to inform the development of cost plans and budgets for the Games. No report was produced, as KPMG's role was changed at the time to one of providing ongoing advice to the Department, as part of the more detailed cost review that we were undertaking.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* reports, *(b)* other documents and *(c)* electronic presentations KPMG has produced for her Department in connection with that company's role in providing advice on the Olympics cost review; and on what date each was (i) submitted or presented and (ii) produced. [141382]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 15 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 450, in which I provided full details of the budget for the Olympic Delivery Authority and a number of issues including wider security, tax and contingency provision. This was informed by the thorough cost review I instituted after the bid win, for which KPMG provided advice on an ongoing basis. KPMG's advice will also inform the development of the Olympic Delivery Authority's Corporate Plan, which is due to be published later this year.

Advice provided by KPMG on the cost of the Olympic Games is being used on an ongoing basis in the management of the Olympic budget. This is pertinent to and informs the current formulation of government policy, and cannot therefore be provided.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what proportion of the land acquired for the Olympics 2012 Park has been decontaminated in situ; where the contaminated soils unsuitable for in situ treatment have been removed to; what quantities of contaminated soils have been removed; and whether the removal of Japanese knotweed from the site has been completed. [143309]

Mr. Caborn: Site investigation work on the Olympic Park has been focusing on the level of contamination and the required treatment. Initial on-site decontamination work will commence in late July 2007.

Treatment of Japanese knotweed has commenced and the range of treatments will take approximately three years to complete.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if she will hold a London 2012: Your Games, Your Say question and answer session in Wales. [143782]

Mr. Caborn: In partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), we have committed to conducting regular public meetings to give local people across the United Kingdom the opportunity to question those responsible for delivering the games about all aspects of preparations for 2012. I will be talking to Welsh Assembly Ministers about holding such an event in Wales.

Additionally, Lord Coe, as the Chairman of the London Organising Committee, visited Wales on 8 June and met with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and spoke at the Welsh Local Government Association conference. This is part of regular engagement through the Nations and Regions Group.

Slavery Abolition: Bicentenary

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support her Department has allocated to events marking the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade; and if she will make a statement. [144545]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, together with the Department for Education and Skills, has given £925,000 to the Understanding Slavery Initiative, a partnership between the National Maritime Museum and a number of other cultural institutions which has been running since 2003-04, helping teachers to deal with the sensitive issue of slavery in the classroom.

The Department has also announced a £500,000 capital grant for the new International Slavery Museum (ISM) in Liverpool being developed by National Museums Liverpool. This funding builds on the £250,000 annual contribution to the ISM's running costs which the DCMS has already pledged. The ISM will replace the groundbreaking Transatlantic Slavery Gallery in the Merseyside Maritime Museum and will prove to be a magnificent new national institution and a worthy legacy of 2007.

The Department is principally working through the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) to promote sector engagement in activities happening in 2007 and beyond.

MLA's Strategic Commissioning programme has supported a number of regional projects in 2007 between schools and museums and archives across the country. Organisations have worked with the MLA regional agencies to produce new learning resources' including exhibitions and websites that draw on local stories about the impact of slavery.

All 41 Renaissance Hub museums have engaged in events and exhibitions to mark the bicentenary. For example, in October 2007 the museum in Docklands will open the only permanent gallery in London that examines the city's involvement in transatlantic slavery and its legacy in the capital.

The MLA Partnership will also be supporting sector and community engagement with the visit of the Amistad replica to England: London (1-12 August 2007), Liverpool (20-26 August 2007) and Bristol (29 August to 6 September 2007).

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded over £13 million to more than 140 projects related to the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade and the slave trade generally. In addition, HLF have given a grant of £10 million to Bristol city council for the Museum of Bristol: The People's Story, which will include a new gallery on Bristol and the slave trade.

Arts Council England has funded 44 projects related to the bicentenary, making grants totalling £1,234,549 so far this year.

The Big Lottery Fund (BLF) has so far committed £647,945 to projects looking at the bicentenary and modern forms of slavery. BLF has also set up the Abolition 200 website designed to let communities know about what is going on around the bicentenary, to develop project ideas, and to make links and look for funding.

The Department is also committed to ensuring a legacy from the bicentenary commemorations. We are working with MLA, ACE, HLF and the rest of the sector to improve the diversity of the staff employed by our museums and galleries, along with the audiences they reach.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: Radioactive Wastes

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what consideration is given to the potential vulnerability to sea ingress from sea level rise or flooding inundation due to climate change of a site being considered for the suitability of its geology for a subterranean repository for long-lived radioactive waste; [143768]

(2) what progress has been made in deciding the scientific criteria for the initial screening out of areas unsuitable for a geological repository for long-lived radioactive waste. [143772]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Criteria Proposals Group (CPG) and the Criteria Review Panel (CRP) were established to develop draft criteria for the initial screening out of areas unsuitable for geological disposal of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste. These criteria will be included in the forthcoming Managing Radioactive Waste Safely consultation document. CPG and CRP have now completed their work. A joint report will be published on the DEFRA website later in summer 2007.

The potential impact of rising sea levels on coastal areas as a result of climate change was considered by CPG and CRP. Sea level rise could affect the location of repository access points and of surface facilities sited in coastal areas during the repository construction, operational and pre-closure phases. CPG and CRP concluded that, because of the potential to protect surface facilities from coastal flooding, for example by engineered means or, where possible, by

relocating facilities to higher ground, risk of coastal flooding was not a general exclusion criterion. However, it would need to form part of the future process of site specific consideration.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Africa: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations she is making to members of the African Union to send troops to join the joint African Union and United Nations peacekeeping force. [143233]

Mr. McCartney: The UK is a strong supporter of the proposed UN/African Union (AU) hybrid force and of AMIS, the current AU force in Sudan. We have been encouraging key troop contributing countries in Africa to contribute to peacekeeping in general and to AMIS in particular. Although the AU and UN have not yet issued any formal requests for troop generation for the hybrid force, we will urge them to contribute forces. The UK also helps several African nations—through provision of military training—to allow them to send forces to join UN and AU peacekeeping missions.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions she has had with China on its human rights record. [143447]

Mr. McCartney: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Dunfermline and West Fife (Willie Rennie) on 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 450W.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in her Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144475]

Dr. Howells: Records of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are not held centrally. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has only maintained a collection of MoUs since 1997. The FCO database contains records of 352 MoUs, including both MoUs originating with the FCO and MoUs concluded by other Government Departments. However this record is not complete; although there is a widespread practice of other Departments depositing copies of MoUs with the FCO, it is not possible to confirm whether they have done so in every case. To produce a complete record of the MoUs entered into by the FCO and other Government Departments would require lengthy research and would be disproportionally costly. In some circumstances MoUs are deposited in the Library of the House, where hon. Members can consult them. This is a matter for the Department concerned.

Moldova: EU Enlargement

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions she has held with the Government of Moldova on the possibility of accession to the European Union. [144086]

Mr. Hoon: During my visit to Moldova in February, I made clear that the UK will continue to support Moldova's European aspirations and encouraged them to fully implement the measures set out in the jointly agreed EU-Moldova Action Plan, launched in February 2005. The European Neighbourhood Policy offers many opportunities for Moldova to move closer to the EU. We do not see the European Neighbourhood Policy as an alternative to full EU membership, but as a path towards accession. We will continue to work closely with Moldova and help focus their efforts on implementing the Action Plan and its successor. Successful implementation will be important for Moldova in pressing their case for a closer relationship with the EU.

The Government welcome Moldova's European aspirations and strongly support efforts to promote economic and political reforms, aimed at bringing Moldova closer in line with EU standards. The Re-uniting Europe Programme of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund supports a number of capacity building projects to support these reforms, as do the Department for International Development through a £2.6 million assistance programme.

Palestinians Security Forces

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK will be taking additional steps to strengthen the Palestinian Security Forces following the formation of a new government in the West Bank; and if she will make a statement. [144327]

Dr. Howells: We remain committed to security sector reform and will continue to work with Palestinian President Abbas and Palestinian Prime Minister Fayyad to strengthen the Palestinian security forces. We are currently considering how best to do this, given recent events.

Somalia

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the humanitarian situation in Somalia of the continued presence of Ethiopian troops. [143516]

Mr. McCartney: The humanitarian situation in Somalia is primarily the product of 16 years of failed governance and is the prime responsibility of individuals in Somalia.

We are very concerned that, as the UN has reported, about 400,000 people have been displaced and more than 1,000 may have been killed. The UK is particularly concerned about obstacles to access for humanitarian workers wanting to give help to those

who most need it. We have raised this in international forums such as the EU, the UN and the International Contact Group on Somalia, which met most recently in London on 5 and 6 June, and we have made our views very clear.

The UK was the Second largest humanitarian donor in Somalia in 2006. Since January, we have committed a further £6.3 million over and above our pre-budgeted funding to seek to help those worst affected by the fighting and the ongoing humanitarian needs.

The UK condemns the recent violence from whichever quarter it comes. We believe the Ethiopians should leave as soon as is practicable. They have told us they want to do so. But for them to leave before an effective alternative security force is in place would risk leaving a dangerous security vacuum and worsening the humanitarian situation still further.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the UK is giving to the process of national reconciliation in Somalia. [143685]

Mr. McCartney: The UK strongly supports the process of national reconciliation in Somalia. This process is a pre-requisite for lasting security in Somalia. We believe that the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) is the only body that can bring stability across Somalia, as envisaged by the Transitional Federal Charter, but it must be more inclusive and develop a broad base of clan acceptance if it is to succeed in this.

We believe the TFG should reach out to all Somalis who reject violence, regardless of clan, and that the National Reconciliation Congress (NRC), now scheduled to start in mid July, represents an excellent opportunity to do this. My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, made this point in person to President Yusuf when he visited the UK in February and to the Somali Foreign Minister in London on 7 June. The meeting of the International Contact Group in London on 6 June sent the same strong message to the TFG through the Somali Foreign Minister. We will continue to work for this and are calling on all groups in Somali society to reject violence and to work together for national reconciliation.

The UK is providing financial support for the NRC, both bilaterally (over £250,000 for the initial stage) and through the EU.

Ms Butler: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations her Department has made to *(a)* the Government of Ethiopia and *(b)* the Somali Transitional Federal Government on the situation in Somalia. [143686]

Mr. McCartney: The UK has had frequent contact with both the Government of Ethiopia and the Transitional Federal Government on the situation in Somalia, particularly on security and on humanitarian issues.

Sudan: Darfur

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who will represent the UK at the forthcoming international conference in France on Darfur; and what representations she is making to further the attendance of a representative of the Sudanese Government at the conference. [143230]

Mr. Hoon: My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, will represent the UK at the international conference on Darfur to be held in Paris on 25 June. Our ambassador in Khartoum has raised with the Sudanese Government their attendance at the meeting. However, the Sudanese Foreign Minister has made it clear that the Sudanese Government will not attend.

Suharto

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will recommend to Her Majesty the Queen that the honorary knighthood (GCB) conferred on the former Indonesian dictator Suharto in 1974 be withdrawn. [143267]

Mr. McCartney: We have no plans to do so.

Venezuela: Press Freedom

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the freedom of the press in Venezuela. [143220]

Mr. Hoon: Along with EU partners, the UK has been closely monitoring recent events in Venezuela. We are concerned at the Venezuelan Government's decision not to renew the broadcasting licence for the private media organisation RCTV. The UK strongly supported the EU presidency's robust statement, which noted with concern the Venezuelan Government's decision, and recalled undertakings made by the Venezuelan authorities to hold an open competition for the successor licence.

My noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, raised our concerns on freedom of expression and freedom of the press with the Venezuelan Vice-Minister for European Affairs on 14 June, noting the non-renewal of RCTV's licence. My noble Friend Lord Triesman stressed that the UK wanted to see as many broadcasters operating in Venezuela as possible, with as few restrictions as possible.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely, in consultation with our EU partners.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions officials from his Department have had with Peterborough City Council on the *(a)* establishment and *(b)* cancellation of bus routes in Peterborough; and if he will make a statement. [144252]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport does not meet with local authorities on a regular basis to discuss the establishment or cancellation of particular commercial bus routes. However, the Government Office for the East of England regularly meets with Peterborough city council to discuss local transport performance and monitoring in relation to the Local Transport Plan, including bus patronage and bus punctuality targets.

Cycling

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on cycling infrastructure in each of the last 10 years. [144303]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have no data prior to 2001-02. I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1688-9W given to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) where the amount provided by the Department on cycling infrastructure for subsequent years can be found.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of people in each region for which his Department holds records who *(a)* owned a bicycle and *(b)* cycled regularly in each of the last 10 years. [144304]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is in the following tables. These are based on data available from the National Travel Survey.

Table 1 shows data for 2000-01 to 2005 on the percentage of individuals aged five and over in each Government office region and country of Great Britain who own a bicycle. Data on bicycle ownership were not collected before 2000.

Table 2 shows data for 1999 to 2001, 2003 and 2005 on the frequency with which people in each Government office region and country of Great Britain use a bicycle. No data are held for other years in the specified time period.

Table 1: Percentage of individuals aged 5 and over who have their own bicycle, by region: 2000-01 to 2005

Percentages/number

	2000-01	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
North East	33	37	32	34	29
North West	38	36	37	37	41
Yorkshire & the Humber	36	37	40	37	42
East Midlands	40	48	46	46	46
West Midlands	36	38	41	39	39
East of England	48	51	50	49	51
London	28	26	29	28	32
South East	42	51	49	48	50
South West	49	48	48	47	51
England	39	41	42	41	43
Wales	36	41	37	39	40
Scotland	39	36	39	37	40
Great Britain	39	41	41	40	43
GB sample size (individuals)	17,560	19,584	20,602	20,250	21,281

Source:
DfT National Travel Survey

Table 2: Frequency of bicycle use by region: 1999 to 2001, 2003 and 2005

Percentages/number

	At least once a week	*Less than once a week, at least once a month*	*Less than once a month, at least once a year*	*Less than once a year or never*	*All*	*Sample size (individuals)*
1999 to 2001						
North East	15	7	7	72	100	1,190
North West	15	6	8	71	100	3,128
Yorkshire & the Humber	13	7	7	73	100	2,197
East Midlands	16	9	9	67	100	1,776
West Midlands	14	7	7	72	100	2,262
East of England	16	10	10	64	100	2,404
London	10	6	5	78	100	3,177
South East	15	10	9	66	100	3,730
South West	17	11	9	63	100	2,332
England	14	8	8	70	100	22,196
Wales	10	9	8	73	100	1,398
Scotland	16	8	7	70	100	2,278
Great Britain	14	8	8	70	100	25,872
2003[1]						
North East	12	7	5	75	100	902
North West	15	6	7	71	100	2,417
Yorkshire & the Humber	15	9	7	69	100	1,808
East Midlands	17	10	10	63	100	1,490

Table 2: Frequency of bicycle use by region: 1999 to 2001, 2003 and 2005

Percentages/number

	At least once a week	*Less than once a week, at least once a month*	*Less than once a month, at least once a year*	*Less than once a year or never*	*All*	*Sample size (individuals)*
West Midlands	13	7	8	72	100	1,905
East of England	17	10	10	63	100	1,959
London	11	5	5	79	100	2,680
South East	15	11	10	64	100	2,708
South West	15	10	10	65	100	1,789
England	14	8	8	69	100	17,658
Wales	13	7	8	72	100	1,015
Scotland	14	9	7	70	100	1,927
Great Britain	14	8	8	69	100	20,600
2005[1]						
North East	10	6	4	80	100	934
North West	16	7	7	70	100	2,545
Yorkshire & the Humber	16	6	8	70	100	1,890
East Midlands	16	7	10	67	100	1,538
West Midlands	13	7	7	73	100	1,961
East of England	18	9	11	62	100	2,083
London	13	7	6	75	100	2,649
South East	16	10	10	63	100	2,763
South West	18	8	10	64	100	1,813
England	15	8	8	69	100	18,176
Wales	14	7	7	73	100	1,103
Scotland	13	6	7	74	100	2,002
Great Britain	15	8	8	69	100	21,281

[1] Excludes children aged under 5 from 2003 onwards.
Source:
DfT National Travel Survey

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* male and *(b)* female cyclists aged (i) under 16 years and (ii) 16 years and over who wore helmets while cycling in each of the last 10 years. [144301]

Dr. Ladyman: Surveys of cycle helmet wearing rates have been carried out for the Department in 1994, 1996, 1999, 2002, 2004 and 2006. The findings from surveys from 1994 to 2004 are shown in the table. This shows that in 2004 cycle helmets were worn by:

10.8 per cent. of male cyclists under 16

28.7 per cent. of male cyclists 16 years and over

26.3 per cent. of female cyclists under 16

29.7 per cent. of female cyclists 16 years and over

The 2006 survey of cycle helmet wearing rates will be published in the autumn.

Table 1: cycle helmet wearing rates 1994-2004

Percentage

	1994	*1996*	*1999*	*2002*	*2004*
Male					
Under 16	16.0	13.3	12.7	12.3	10.8
16 years and over	15.5	16.7	22.2	25.2	28.7
Female					
Under 16	21.9	17.6	20.9	24.4	26.3
16 years and over	17.0	17.5	22.2	27.0	29.7
All					
Under 16	17.6	14.4	15.0	15.3	14.1
16 years and over	15.9	17.0	22.2	25.7	29.0

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on encouraging cyclists to wear helmets in each of the last 10 years. [144302]

Dr. Ladyman: Most spending on cycle safety in England is undertaken by local highway authorities. It includes revenue spending on cycle training, other educational initiatives and local cycle safety publicity. Revenue spending on road safety is not recorded centrally.

The Department for Transport produces cycle safety publicity and resources at national level, which may include the promotion of helmet wearing. Figures for annual spending are only available as far back as 2002-03. Our road safety challenge grant scheme, which has been running since 2002-03, has funded a number of projects that are wholly or partly to improve cycle safety and may also include the promotion of helmet wearing. Figures for spending on cycle safety projects under previous grant schemes are not available.

DfT spending on grants for cycle safety schemes and on cycle safety publicity

	Amount (£ million)
2002-03	0.06
2003-04	0.18
200-05	0.07
200-06	0.27
200-07	0.02

Departmental Projects

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which projects valued at more than £100 million are under consideration by his Department. [104404]

Gillian Merron: Schemes that have received an initial approval to proceed to the preferred option stage, which is equivalent to the Office of Government Commerce's Gateway Review 1, are listed as follows, apart from the local authority schemes stated that are being assessed for this approval. Schemes that have passed the approvals stage equivalent to Gateway Review 3, which gives approval for contracts to be signed and construction to begin, are also omitted, as they are no longer under consideration.

The following projects have received initial funding approval, but have yet to start construction, and cost in excess of £100 million. They are in development or procurement, but are not all under active consideration by the Department at this stage. The first four are referred to in the 6 July 2006 letter from the Secretary of State to the relevant Regional Assembly and Regional Development Agency on regional funding allocations.

Mersey Gateway Bridge

Carlisle Northern Development Route

Manchester Metrolink Phase IIIA

Manchester Metrolink Renewals on Phases 1 and 2

Nottingham Light Rail Phase II—referred to in a statement to the House of Commons by the Secretary of State on 25 October 2006.

Thames Gateway Bridge—referred to on the TfL website

Birmingham Highway Maintenance—referred to in the West Midlands Local Transport Plan 2006

The Department is currently assessing the following local authority schemes for an initial Government approval to proceed to the preferred option stage.

South East Manchester Relief Road

Finningley and Rossington Relief Road (Doncaster)

Birmingham Gateway (New Street Station improvements)

Blackpool and Fleetwood Tramway Upgrade

Heysham to M6 Link Road (Lancashire)

Tyne and Wear Metro Reinvigoration

All six of the schemes listed above are referred to in the 6 July 2006 letter from the Secretary of State to the relevant Regional Assembly and Regional Development Agency on regional funding allocations.

The Department is currently preparing the high level output specification for the safety, reliability and capacity it expects on the rail network for the years 2009-10 to 2013-14. This document will be published in July 2007, and is likely to contain many rail projects that cost in excess of £100 million. In particular, the Department continues to take forward the Thameslink programme, and has stated that it is considering when and how to proceed with it in conjunction with the high level output specification and the Spending Review. The Department is also continuing to take forward Crossrail, a Bill for which is currently being considered by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. In addition, the Department has given initial funding approval to proceed to the preferred option stage of the Intercity Express programme.

The following projects appear in the Highways Agency's programme, and have yet to start construction. All of these are referred to in the Highways Agency's Business Plan 2007-08.

M25 J5-7 Widening

M25J16-23

M25J23-27

M25J27-30

M1 J10-13 Widening

M1J19

M1 J21-30

M1 J30 to J31

M1J32 to J34

M1J34 to J37

M1 J37 to J39

M1 J39 to J42

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement

A505 Dunstable Northern Bypass (A5 to M1 link)

A1 Dishforth to Barton

A46 Newark to Widemerpool Improvement

M62 J25 to J27

National Road Telecommunication Services

A57/A628 Mottram in Longdendale, Hollingworth and Tintwistle Bypass

A421 Bedford to M1 Junction 13

In addition to these, the Highways Agency's programme includes the A30 Garland Cross to Chiverton Cross scheme, which is not currently expected to be funded in the next ten years, following advice received from the South West region. The A303 Stonehenge scheme is under review.

A further project is being led by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, which issued a press release in May on the Search and Rescue Helicopters scheme being undertaken jointly with the Ministry of Defence.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on its *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142338]

Gillian Merron: We have not generated any revenue from third parties as the Department does not sell advertising space on its websites or public information leaflets.

Department for Transport's Executive Agencies do receive income for the services they provide, such as booking a driving test, selling vehicle registration numbers or promoting the UK ship register, and there are websites and literature that explain these services, but again, third party advertising is not permitted.

Departments: Institute for Public Policy Research

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department and its predecessors provided to *(a)* the IPPR and *(b)* IPPR Trading Ltd in each year since 1997; and for what purposes. [142392]

Gillian Merron: The Department was formed in May 2002. A search of the Department's accounting systems has identified five payments made to the IPPR since this date.

		£
2003-04	November 2003	399.50
2003-04	December 2003	399.50
2005-06	October 2005	176.25 and 176.25
2005-06	November 2005	176.25

All these payments were for conferences/seminars.

No payments have been made to IPPR Trading Ltd during this period.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144620]

Gillian Merron: I refer the right hon. Member to my answers of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1023W and 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 699W.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140043]

Gillian Merron: The Department for Transport and its agencies have spent the following amount on recruitment consultancies.

	£
2002-03	1,198,693
2003-04	4,021,132
2004-05	4,220,768
2005-06	8,272,596
2006-07	4,791,412

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143787]

Gillian Merron: During the period 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2007 the Department has purchased the following services from Remploy:

	£
Disability training for staff	1,249.03
Access audit of the main DVLA site	14,100.00
Printing and Distribution for Search and Rescue	17,322.63

The Department has not purchased any products from Remploy during this period.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* deaths, *(b)* serious incidents and *(c)* other accidents caused by persons driving while using hand-held mobile telephones in each police force area in 2006. [144305]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested for 2006 will be available on 28 June 2007. Details of forthcoming Department for Transport statistical publications' including "Road Casualties in Great Britain—Main Results" and "Road Casualties in Great Britain—Annual Report", can be found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/recentforthcoming publications/forthcomingstatisticalpublic5470.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will discuss the East Coast Main Line franchise with *(a)* Peterborough City Council and *(b)* Opportunity Peterborough prior to its award; and if he will make a statement. [144291]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department for Transport published a Consultation Document for the new East Coast Main Line franchise in December 2006. Peterborough city council was consulted, and submitted a response that was incorporated within a Stakeholder Briefing Document that was issued in March 2007.

Bids for the new franchise are currently under evaluation, and the Department does not intend to undertake further discussions in addition to opportunities that have already been available to stakeholders prior to the announcement of the award, expected later in the summer.

East Coast Railway Line: Franchise

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to announce the new franchise arrangements for the East Coast Mainline. [143727]

Mr. Tom Harris: The bids for the new franchise were received on 6 June and I expect to be able to make an announcement on the winning bidder later in the summer with the intention that the new franchise commences by the end of this year.

European Geo-Stationary Navigation Overlay System

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the European Geo-Stationary Navigation Overlay System to be fully operational. [141586]

Dr. Ladyman *[holding answer 11 June 2007]:* The European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) is a joint project of the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Commission and Eurocontrol, the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation. ESA has overall responsibility for the design and development of the EGNOS system.

The integration of EGNOS into the Galileo programme was decided by the Transport Council in its conclusions of June 2003. The failure of the current concession negotiations for Galileo has also affected the EGNOS augmentation programme since the concessionaire was to provide the long-term management and funding structure necessary for the certification of EGNOS.

At 8 June Transport Council, Ministers agreed a Council resolution which invited the Commission to continue with the implementation of a certifiable EGNOS, with initial service availability by 2008. This is to be distinguished from a service agreed for aviation use. There is not yet a timetable for certification of EGNOS for aviation use because it will first be necessary to identify clearly the funding and management structure that will guarantee an operational system in the long-term. These guarantees are dependent on the decisions to be taken in the autumn on the future of the European GNSS Programme.

Galileo Project

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have attended to discuss the Galileo project since its inception; which Ministers attended; on what dates the meetings were held; what the grade was of the civil servants attending meetings to discuss the Galileo project alone and jointly with Ministers; and if he will place in the Library a paper on the proposed future financing, governance and exploitation of Galileo. [141021]

Dr. Ladyman: Ministers have attended all transport councils since 1999, when it was agreed at the Cologne European Council that Galileo 'should be given careful scrutiny'.

Departmental officials have attended all meetings of the Galileo Joint Undertaking (GJU) Supervisory Board, since November 2002, and all meetings of the European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA), since January 2005. Departmental officials usually attend council working groups where Galileo is discussed, in support of the UK representation. Transport officials have been involved with the meetings of the ESA programme board that deals with EGNOS and Galileo since its inception in July 1999 and have attended many of them. The British National Space Centre takes the lead on ESA.

Information could be provided at disproportionate cost only on the dates of all the meetings that Transport Ministers and officials have held or attended on Galileo, within the Department, with Government colleagues, or with the GJU, GSA, Commission, ESA, and EU or ESA member states. The grade of the civil servants attending meetings has varied as appropriate. Senior officials, including the permanent secretary, have been involved.

An explanatory memorandum on the Commission's Communication of 16 May 2007 has been submitted to the European Scrutiny Select Committee. The Communication is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/galileo/doc/com Galileo en_final_16may2007.pdf

Lorries: Tolls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which companies undertook work on the lorry road user charging scheme for his Department. [141856]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The following companies undertook preliminary development work on the principal elements of the lorry road user charge project, as part of the bidding stage of the procurement process:

T Systems International
Serco plc
Siemens plc
Capita Group plc
IBM
Autostrade SPA
Tracs Consortium

A number of other companies also provided ancillary consultancy, technical and administrative support to HMRC policy officials, as part of the day-to-day running of the lorry road user charge project.

Motorcycles: Rural Areas

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of quad bikes used in the agricultural and rural sectors. [144341]

Dr. Ladyman: No estimate has been made of the number of quad bikes used in these circumstances.

Motorways: Driving Offences

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what circumstances and to what extent highways officers who patrol motorways are expected or encouraged to report the commission of traffic offences; what guidance and training they get on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [144137]

Dr. Ladyman: Traffic Officers have the power to:

Stop and direct traffic and pedestrians
Place temporary traffic signs

They do not have an enforcement role. This responsibility remains with the police. Both the Highways Agency and the police support this position.

Traffic Officers support the police where there are fatalities or suspected criminality at an incident. The Traffic Officers' role is to manage traffic in the vicinity of an incident, and in doing this they may liaise with the police on matters of compliance with road-traffic law.

Highways Agency Traffic Officers have a general instruction to report acts of a criminal nature to their control office for reporting to the Police for possible prosecution. This is fully covered in our procedures and in the initial training that Traffic Officers receive.

Railways: Death

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatalities there were on railway lines in the UK in each of the last 20 years, broken down by rail line. [144174]

Mr. Tom Harris: This information is not held by the Department for Transport but by the British Transport Police, who can be contacted at: British Transport Police, 25 Camden Road, London NW1 9LN, E-mail: general.enquiries@btp.pnn.police.uk.

Railways: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research has been carried out by his Department on *(a)* the health and safety of passengers and *(b)* the medical effects of using the class 450 carriages for journeys on the Portsmouth line; and if he will make a statement. [144608]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department has not undertaken any such research.

Roads: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which roads in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire and *(b)* Cambridgeshire have received funding for improvements from his Department in each year since 1997; and what the value of such funding was in each case. [143508]

Gillian Merron: Cambridgeshire county council, which includes North West Cambridgeshire, is the local highway authority for local road schemes. Since 1997 Cambridgeshire county council has been allocated funding via the Local Transport Plan programme for the following major road schemes that cost over £5 million:

	£ million
A142 Fordham Bypass[1]	
2003-04	0.750
2004-05	6.921
2005-06	4.926
2006-07	0.114
Total	12.711
A1198 Papworth Everard Bypass[2]	
2005-06	0.500
2006-07	4.110
2007-08	0.550
2008-09	[3]0.300
Total	5.460

[1] Completed 2005
[2] Completed 2007
[3] Not yet received.

In Cambridgeshire the Highways Agency have recently completed the following major scheme:

A428 Caxton Common to Hardwick Improvement scheme

	£ million
2002-03	1.0
2003-04	0.00
2004-05	0.99
2005-06	11.42
2006-07	33.27
2007-08	6.24
Total	52.92

In addition, the following major road scheme on the trunk road network in North West Cambridgeshire is currently under preparation by the highways agency for future delivery:

A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Improvement

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on road improvements in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire, *(b)* Cambridgeshire, *(c)* the East of England and *(d)* England in each year since 1997. [143513]

Gillian Merron: For the strategic road network information on expenditure on improvement schemes is only available from 2000-01 and is as follows:

(a) North West Cambridge

	Expenditure (£ million)
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	0
2003-04	2
2004-05	2
2005-06	1
2006-07	1

(b) Cambridgeshire

	Expenditure (£ million)
2000-01	0
2001-02	0
2002-03	1
2003-04	2
2004-05	3
2005-06	13
2006-07	33

For improvements on the local road network, tables providing a summary of actual, estimated and projected capital expenditure in *(a)* North West Cambridgeshire and *(b)* Cambridgeshire county council are set out in the finance forms produced by

Cambridgeshire county council. These are available from the local transport section of their website:

http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/local/

Data on expenditure on roads in *(c)* East of England and *(d)* England can be found in the following tables from the publication "Transport Statistics Great Britain (TSGB) 2006", which is available from the House Library:

1997: Table 1.20

1998: 2003 Table 1.19

2004: 2006 Table 7.13

Roads: Noise

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used by the Highways Agency in deciding whether to utilise whisper quiet road surface technology on trunk roads as part of a planned maintenance programme; and if he will make a statement. [144102]

Dr. Ladyman: It is current Highways Agency policy to use quieter surfacing materials during all planned maintenance works on the network and when constructing new roads.

Skips

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discretion local authorities have in imposing the provisions of the Highways Act 1980; and whether he plans to make the conditions imposed on skips placed on highways the national standard. [143336]

Gillian Merron: There is no restriction on the discretion used by local authorities when imposing the provisions of the Highways Act 1980 on skips.

There are no powers under the Highways Act to set a national standard for the conditions imposed on skips placed on the highway.

South East Manchester Relief Road

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, if he will consider the option of building the South East Manchester Relief Road as a toll road; and if he will make a statement [144782]

Gillian Merron: We are committed to working in collaboration with Stockport, Manchester and Cheshire local authorities on considering all possible options for securing funding, including phasing of works, for the South East Manchester Relief Road. Officials will take stock of all the available options following the completion of the current Comprehensive Spending Review.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* reviewed on the effectiveness of speed cameras in 20 mph zones. [144105]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department has not commissioned or reviewed any research into the effectiveness of speed cameras for 20 mph zones. The Department considers that, and have advised local authorities that, 20 mph zones should be self enforcing through proven traffic calming measures.

West Coast Main Line

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the suitability of the Cumbrian section of the West Coast Main Line to accommodate Virgin high speed trains. [144376]

Mr. Tom Harris: The West Coast Main Line between London and Glasgow, including the Cumbrian section, has been made suitable for the Virgin Pendolino high speed trains that currently operate along the route. Network Rail is responsible for the renewal, upgrade and maintenance of the rail infrastructure along the entire route.

WALES

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 4W, on council tax: valuation, what the cost has been of the council tax revaluation since 31 March 2005. [143504]

Mr. Hain: Since publication of the compiled council tax lists on 1 April 2005, no further costs have been incurred in relation to the revaluation process.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 17 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1115W, on council tax revaluation, how many formal appeals have been made to the Valuation Tribunal Service in relation to the council tax revaluation. [143653]

Mr. Hain: Details are published on the Valuation Office Agency's website (www.voa.gov.uk).

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 4W, on council tax: valuation, what the net yield was in council tax in Wales in each year from 2004-05. [143687]

Mr. Hain: The information requested is as follows:

	£
2004-05	924,125
2005-06	1,011,999
2006-07	1,071,188
2007-08	1,130,830

Severn Barrage

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales who will be responsible for the decision on whether to go ahead with a Severn tidal barrage; and whether this project would be subject to decision by the proposed planning infrastructure commission. [142446]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

There is no specific proposal at present to build a Severn Barrage. The Sustainable Development Commission is however producing a report, with financial support from various parties including my Department, looking at various options for harnessing the potential tidal energy resource that exists around the UK, including within the Severn estuary. The SDC will, of course, be looking at the Severn Barrage proposal in detail as part of their report.

It is too early to speculate in detail about what might happen after the SDC have issued their report, expected in the autumn, or what role the Infrastructure Planning Commission might have. Clearly it would be for the private sector rather than the Government to lead in developing the concept into a specific proposal.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

ICT

Susan Kramer: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission (1) how many *(a)* desktop computers and *(b)* laptops provided by the House authorities are in use in the House of Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate; and what the estimated daily energy usage is of these computers; [143759]

(2) how many *(a)* servers, *(b)* printers and *(c)* computer display screens are in use in the House of Commons part of the Parliamentary Estate; and what the estimated daily energy usage is of these devices. [143760]

Nick Harvey: Records show that there are 250 servers in use within the House of Commons. Estimated energy consumption for the servers is 75k per day, based on an average server. There are approximately 1,300 printers and approximately 2,670 desktop computers in use in the House of Commons, most of which will have an attached display screen. It is not possible to provide a reliable estimate of the energy consumption for printers and computer display screens due to their varying use.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Orange Halls

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many attacks were made upon Orange halls in each of the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the cost of repairing the damage. [142641]

Paul Goggins: Attacks on Orange halls are included as criminal damage offences. The following table provides details of the number of offences recorded and the approximate value of property damaged.

Criminal damage[1] offences recorded where the location is an Orange hall

Calendar year	*Number of crimes*	*Value of property damaged[2] (£)*
2002	35	14,510
2003	38	30,030
2004	29	3,617
2005	47	81,645
2006	51	276,781

[1] Criminal damage includes criminal damage, malicious damage and arson offences.
[2] These values are an approximation of the damage caused. Please note that some crimes did not have a value recorded, thus caution should be used when drawing conclusions from this data.
Note:
Please note that this information is provisional and may be subject to revision.
Source:
Central Statistics Unit, PSNI

Electoral Registration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment the Government has made of the effectiveness of individual electoral registration in reducing the scope for fraud in Northern Ireland. [141710]

Maria Eagle: The Electoral Commission commented on individual registration and other administrative matters to do with the March Assembly election in its statutory report which has just been published. The report comments that their findings

'reflect an increasing understanding of the electoral process in Northern Ireland, with individual registration and the requirement for photographic identification resulting in elections that are now largely free from allegations of electoral fraud'.

The detail of the report can be accessed online at www.electoralcommission.org.uk and I have placed a copy of it in the Library.

Juvenile Justice Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many chaplains of each religious affiliation are linked to the Juvenile Justice Centre; and how many visits chaplains made to the centre in each of the last 12 months. [143295]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

	Number of chaplains	*Number of visits*
Church of Ireland	[1]0	0
Methodist	1	10
Presbyterian	1	38
Roman Catholic	1	29

[1] Church of Ireland chaplaincy post is currently vacant.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many members of the Juvenile Justice Centre staff were *(a)* disciplined, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for supplying drugs or other prohibited items to those detained at the centre in each of the last five years. [143296]

Maria Eagle: None.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many healthcare workers were employed at the Juvenile Justice Centre in each of the last six years, broken down by grade. [143297]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:-

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Nurse (grades H, G, F)	2.5	2.5	2.5	4.5	4.5	[1]3.5
Psychologist	1	1	1	1	1	1
Attending medical Doctor (weekly)	1	1	1	1	1	1
Psychiatrist (sessional)	1	1	1	1	1	1

[1] One nurse post is currently vacant.

The nurses and psychologist are employed directly by the Youth Justice Agency. The attending medical doctor and psychiatrist are contracted-in services.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on how many occasions a passive drugs dog has been used in drug searches at the Juvenile Justice Centre in the last 12 months. [143298]

Maria Eagle: None. The Juvenile Justice Centre does not have a passive drugs dog.

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many drug searches were carried out at the Juvenile Justice Centre in the last 12 months; and what the result was of each search. [143299]

Maria Eagle: Regular searches are undertaken at the Juvenile Justice Centre for all types of contraband including drugs. Specific drugs detection equipment has been used on occasions in the last 12 months when drugs misuse has been suspected. Results were negative on both occasions.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Hospitals

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 139W, on the armed forces: Selly Oak hospital, what recent assessment he has made of the views of military patients treated at hospitals of the University of Birmingham Foundation Trust. [143756]

Derek Twigg: The latest analysis of the pilot patient survey (now covering the period from late December 2006 to 31 May 2007) confirms earlier findings that the overwhelming majority of military in-patients treated at the trust's hospitals who responded to the survey consider their overall care to have been "excellent", "very good" or "good". Questionnaires were returned by around three-quarters of in-patients surveyed over the period. Participation in the anonymous survey is voluntary.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of infestation by vermin in forces' accommodation were reported in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142102]

Derek Twigg: Recording of pest infestation information is the responsibility of the individual Heads of Establishments and Records only have to be retained for three years. Given the large number of establishments it will take a little time to ascertain what information can be collected and collated.

I will write to the hon. Member as soon as inquiries are complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Defence Housing Executive

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Defence Housing Executive's Annual Report and Accounts for each year since 1999. [142524]

Derek Twigg: Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts are available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Advertising

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's total spending was on advertising and promotional campaigns in each year since 1997; and what the cost of each campaign was, broken down by costs relating to *(a)* television, *(b)* radio and *(c)* print media. [128077]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence engages in a range of recruitment and public relations campaigns in order that the work of the MOD and armed forces is communicated to the general public. The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gurkhas: Medical Treatment

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what access Gurkha soldiers have to medical treatment in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [143689]

Derek Twigg: Medical treatment for the individual Gurkha soldier is the same as that provided to his serving British counterpart.

Iraq and Afghanistan: Medical Suppliers

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place to monitor the provision of medicine and medical supplies to armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. [142968]

Derek Twigg: Highly effective procedures are in place, at all levels of the Ministry of Defence, to monitor the provision of medicine and medical supplies to deployed forces.

Specialist medical supply staff are deployed in both theatres to monitor usage on the ground and ensure timely and accurate re-supply demands to the UK base.

There are also specialist medical officers in the headquarters in both Iraq and Afghanistan and part of their role is to oversee the provision of medical supplies. Similarly, there are medical personnel within the permanent joint headquarters to advise senior commanders on medical matters, including if necessary, the provision of supplies.

Medical supplies are given a high priority and, in the case of medicines, are always transported by the fastest means.

Maritime Role Three Medical Capability

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capabilities, infrastructure and equipment will be provided under the Maritime Role Three Medical Capability. [140996]

Derek Twigg: The Maritime Role Three Medical Capability will contribute to the medical care of UK personnel deployed on operations. The project is currently undertaking research to confirm the overall defence requirement. Accordingly, the precise nature of the capabilities, infrastructure and equipment to be provided have not yet been determined.

Princess Royal Barracks

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the parents of Army recruits who died at Deepcut Army Barracks were not informed that Devon and Cornwall police had recommended a murder inquiry into the deaths; and if he will make a statement. [143402]

Mr. Ingram: The outcome and reporting of the review by the Devon and Cornwall police on the Surrey police investigation into the deaths of four recruits at Deepcut is entirely a matter for the police authorities involved and the Home Office.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he was *(a)* informed about and *(b)* approved the closure of the website relating to the Deepcut Review conducted by Nicholas Blake QC; and if he will make a statement. [143403]

Mr. Ingram: No. The website was set up by Nicholas Blake QC for the duration of the review and closed recently, more than a year after the report was published in March 2006. The report is still available on the internet on Nicholas Blake's webpage at Matrix Chambers at:

http://www.matrixlaw.co.uk/WhoWeAre_Members_NicholasBlakeQC.aspx

A copy will also shortly be put on to the MOD's website at:

www.mod.uk

RAF Northolt

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions *(a)* the Prime Minister and *(b)* other Ministers of the Crown flew from RAF Northolt in each year since 2003. [137920]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 17 May 2007]:* The following table details on how many occasions the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Crown have flown from RAF Northolt in each financial year since 2003:

Financial year	*Prime Minister*	*Ministers of the Crown*
2003-04	21	118
2004-05	28	76
2005-06	20	108
2006-07	18	53

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assistance the UK is *(a)* sending and *(b)* planning to send to aid the United States' efforts to end piracy off the coast of Somalia in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian Ocean. [143234]

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what action is being taken by the Royal Navy against piracy off the coast of Somalia. [143331]

Mr. Ingram: The UK currently has forces deployed as part of the Coalition Naval Task Force which operates in the Arabian sea and Indian ocean, including off the coast of Somalia. These assets are deployed on a range of maritime security tasks, and could respond to incidents of piracy should they arise.

Submarines: Pay

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost is of submarine pay being paid to Royal Navy personnel not currently serving onboard a submarine. [143607]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The total cost of submarine pay is currently approximately £27 million per annum of which £12 million per annum is paid to personnel not currently serving on board a submarine.

Territorial Army

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how the figure for the planned reduction for funding for the Territorial Army in financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 as a result of the Defence Programme 2007 was arrived at; and what factors were taken into account in deciding to make the reduction; [142678]

(2) when the Armed Forces Minister was first informed of the potential impact of the reduction of funding for the Territorial Army in financial years 2007-08 to 2008-09. [142908]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* A range of measures was considered collectively during the Department's Planning Round to balance the Defence Programme and ensure that all areas of Defence, including the Territorial Army, operate as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. It was judged that we could make a small adjustment to TA expenditure in order to ensure that resources were allocated in line

with Defence priorities, while ensuring that TA support to current operations remained unaffected.

This measure formed part of the Defence Programme 07 submitted to Ministers in February 2007 for consideration and approval, as part of the departmental planning round process.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: Education

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether he expects the targets set at the recent G8 summit for education for every child to be met by 2015; [143773]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that targets set at the last G8 summit for education for every child will be met by 2015. [143773]

Hilary Benn: While the G8 did not agree additional long-term education targets at the Heiligendamm summit, the G8 did agree to implement the commitments on development made at Gleneagles. This includes support for long-term funding for education, and to continue to work with partners and other donors to meet shortfalls in all Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI) endorsed countries, estimated by the FTI Secretariat at around $500 million for 2007.

With regard to the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving universal primary education by 2015, faster progress and a concerted effort by all donors is needed. The UK has already made a long-term commitment to help achieve this target through our promise to provide £8.5 million over 10 years in support of education, announced in April 2006. The support for long-term funding agreed at Heiligendamm is welcomed and shows that the UK approach and example should be adopted. We will continue to use all opportunities to urge other donors to also meet their promises.

Malawi: Water

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he expects UK funding for the World Bank's Second National Water Development Programme in Malawi to be allocated to one or more specific components of the World Bank project; what the time scale is of the UK contribution; and if he will make a statement. [143963]

Hilary Benn: The UK is looking to contribute to the World Bank's second National Water Development Programme in Malawi through the World Bank's Africa Catalytic Growth Fund (ACGF). The ACGF, part of the Bank's Africa Action Plan, aims to help Africa make faster progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and increasing the rate of economic growth. Financed by voluntary contributions, the ACGF complements other sources of development financing, including those from the Bank's International Development Association (IDA). The UK has committed £200 million to the ACGF, of which £90 million has been paid to the Bank, to date, to support five projects. We are currently discussing with the Bank a proposed ACGF allocation of about $30 million (£15 million) to the Malawi National Water Development Programme, which would focus on strengthening the rural water supply and sanitation component, to be financed from the next UK contribution to the ACGF (due in April 2008).

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the outcomes of UK financial support for the Somali Transitional Federal Government. [144178]

Hilary Benn: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1250-51W, which outlines the details, effectiveness and tangible examples of the UK's support to the Somali Transitional Federal Government.

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his assessment is of the adequacy of the level of humanitarian funding to Somalia. [144180]

Hilary Benn: Our assessment is that funding for humanitarian activities is adequate, but we remain concerned about access issues for agencies trying to work on the ground, and about the continuing restrictions being placed on humanitarian actors by the Transitional Federal Government.

The United Nations appeal is $262 million (£132 million), of which 54 per cent. is currently funded. The ICRC appeal is 46 million Swiss francs (£18.7 million), of which 57 per cent. has been received and 72 per cent. pledged.

The UK is committed to addressing humanitarian needs in Somalia. So far in 2007, DFID has committed £6.3 million in additional funds to help those worst affected by the fighting and the ongoing humanitarian needs. We keep in close contact with UN agencies and our partners on the ground to ensure that DFID's humanitarian response fits the immediate needs of the most vulnerable.

Sudan: Asylum

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to make aid available to refugees from Darfur in the Central African Republic. [143235]

Hilary Benn: Following the aerial attack on the southern Darfur town of Dafak in May, a total of 2,650 Sudanese refugees fled over the border to north-eastern Central African Republic. The United Nations humanitarian agencies have assessed the situation and have begun an airlift to deliver essential food, shelter and household items to those in need. This assistance is funded by the $100,000 from the UN's local Emergency Response Fund, to which DFID contributed £550,000 in April, in addition to the $6.4 million provided from the UN's global Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) since 2006. DFID is the single largest donor to the CERF, providing $154 million since 2006.

DFID remains concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Central African

Republic, and the impact on refugees and other vulnerable people. In response, we have increased our humanitarian commitment to the country to £2 million in 2007.

Tanzania: Debts

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the debt relief allocated to Tanzania by *(a)* the World Bank and *(b)* the African Development Bank has (i) been received by Tanzania and (ii) remains to be delivered in the latest period for which figures are available. [143743]

Hilary Benn: Tanzania completed the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC) in 2001, receiving debt cancellation worth $861 million from the World Bank and $155 million from the African Development Bank. In 2006, Tanzania received a further $1,375 million of debt cancellation from the World Bank and $245 million from the African Development Bank under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI). All figures are in 2005 Net Present Value (NPV) terms.

Tanzania's debt cancellation under HIPC and MDRI is irrevocable. Tanzania will not be required to make any payments on any debts disbursed by the World Bank before the end of 2003 and by the African Development Bank before the end of 2004. In their 2006 Status of HIPC and MDRI Implementation Report, the World Bank and IMF reported that $595 million of the debt cancellation at the World Bank and $102 million at the African Development Bank was yet to be delivered. The World Bank has advised us that this will be corrected in the 2007 report, which will show that all HIPC and MDRI debt cancellation for Tanzania and the other countries that have completed the HIPC Initiative has been delivered.

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Clay

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what tonnage of clay was *(a)* imported into the UK and *(b)* extracted in the UK for use in the construction industry in each quarter of (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007 to date; [143757]

(2) what tonnage of shale was extracted in the UK in each quarter of *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2006 and *(d)* 2007 to date. [143758]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Office for National Statistics publishes annual figures for Product Sales and Trade: Mining of Clays and Kaolin (PRA 14220). One table covers common clays and shales for construction use including for bricks, tiles, pipes, and cement but excluding bentonite (sodium and calcium smectite), attapulgite and sepiolite, fireclay, expanded clays, and kaolin and kaolinic clays; it does not separate clay from shale and while it provides annual figures for UK manufacturer sales, the most recent figure for volumes which has not been suppressed as disclosive was for 2003, namely 11.3 million tonnes, and in the same year there were UK manufacturer sales of fireclay of 0.5 million tonnes.

HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics give the following figures for imports of HS2508: clays, andalusite, kyanite and sillimanite whether or not calcined, mullite, chamotte or dinas earths (excluding kaolin and other kaolinic clays, and expanded clay):

Quarter	*Weight (thousand tonnes)*
2004	
Q1	54
Q2	85
Q3	85
Q4	92
2005	
Q1	74
Q2	82
Q3	93
Q4	84
2006	
Q1	56
Q2	67
Q3	92
Q4	93
2007	
Q1	66

Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics

Coastal Towns: Conferences

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry who *(a)* was invited to and *(b)* attended the Coastal Towns Conference organised by his Department on 8 May 2007. [139686]

Margaret Hodge: The following people attended the conference:

Margaret Hodge MP—Minister for Industry and the Regions;
Kitty Ussher MP—Parliamentary Private Secretary;
Vicky Pryce—Department of Trade and Industry;
David Southworth—Department of Trade and Industry;
Paul Steeples—Department of Trade and Industry;
Keith Thorpe—Communities and Local Government;
Annabel Houghton—Department of Culture Media and Sport;
Paul Nicol—Department of Culture Media and-Sport;
Bill Wells—Department of Work and Pensions;
John Scott—Government Office South East;
Peter White—North West Development Agency;
Sandra Rothwell—South West Regional Development Agency;
Steve Weaver—Blackpool council;
Mark Smith—Bournemouth borough council;
Nicola Precious—East Lindsey district council;
Peter Wright—Great Yarmouth borough council;
Ray Williamson—Scarborough borough council;
Richard Samuel—Thanet district council;
Peter Hampson—British Resorts and Destinations Association;
Jessica Courtney Bennett—British Urban Regeneration Association;
Paul Jess—British Urban Regeneration Association;
Christina Beatty—Sheffield Hallam university;
Steve Fothergill—Sheffield Hallam university; and
John Walton—University of Central Lancashire.

Representatives of the following organisations were invited, but were not able to attend:

HM Treasury;
Durham county council;
Hastings borough council;
North Tyneside council;
Penwith district council;
Restormel borough council; and
Worthing borough council

Microgeneration

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the *(a)* rationing rules and *(b)* waiting times are for Government grants for householder solar heating and microgeneration schemes; and what steps he has taken (i) to increase financial allocations and (ii) to speed up processing times. [140181]

Malcolm Wicks: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme offers grants to householders for a range of microgeneration technologies including solar thermal hot water. There is no rationing of grants for any of the technologies supported, but we do have different grant levels with an overall cap of £2,500 per household.

The Chancellor announced in the Budget 2007 that an additional £6 million would be allocated to the household stream, taking the total available to £18.7 million. The scheme was then suspended so that we could work with key stakeholders to address operational issues encountered over recent months, and decide how to make best use of the new money.

Since the re-launch of the programme on 29 May, we have removed the cap on grants which means there are now no waiting times. Online applications are processed instantly, and paper applications are processed within five days in line with the terms and conditions of the programme.

Departments: Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143877]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available as central records of instances of home working are not maintained. However, in the November 2006 Staff Survey, 246 staff (16 per cent.) reported that they had a regular home working arrangement (e.g. one day per week). In addition, 260 (18 per cent.) replied that they had access to occasional home working on request. 72 per cent. of respondents were satisfied with the Department's flexible working policies. 70 per cent. of all staff participated in the staff survey.

As part of policy on alternative and flexible working patterns, the Department is willing to consider home working arrangements where they are compatible with the work and business needs and with the skills and preferences of individual members of staff.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143902]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested in part *(a)* and *(b)*, relating to temporary contracts is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Information on permanent staff recruited in each of the specified years is as follows:

	Male		*Female*		*Declared disability*		*Aged 55 and over*	
	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
2004	74	0	72	3	4	0	9	0
2005	65	1	69	4	4	1	11	0
2006	67	0	49	5	4	0	9	0

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143919]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Available information, as at 1 June 2007 and including UK Trade and Investment and Office of Manpower Economics is as follows:

	Percentage of DTI staff
Male	58
Female	42
Declared disability	8
Age 55+	17

Departments: Special Advisors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers on Wednesday 16 May 2007; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140133]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Special advisers' involvement in party political matters is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, including section 22 (iii), and the guidance issued by the Cabinet Secretary in December 2006 and May 2007, copies of which are in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what make and model of car *(a)* he and *(b)* each Minister in his Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141989]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by the Minister of State for Transport on Thursday, 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1269W. Ministers in the Department for Trade and Industry are provided with two Toyota Prius, one Rover 75, one Vauxhall Vectra and one Honda Civic.

Departments: Peninsula Business Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Peninsula Business Services since May 1998. [144533]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Central records indicate that no payments have been made to Peninsula Business Services in any of the last five financial years.

I have asked the chief executives of the executive agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Publications

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what magazines and newspapers are produced by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Executive Agencies of his Department. [136542]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 May 2007]:* The following list details the newsletters/magazines that have been produced since April 2006 as notified to the DTI's Publications Unit:

Miners Compensation Newsletter

Space UK—published by BNSC

Overseas Trade: published by UK Trade and Investment

Environmental Opportunities Overseas—published by UKTI

UK Global—published by UKTI

TPI News—published by UKTI

DTI News: The staff publication of the Department, is published monthly and distributed internally to all staff.

Drugs: Prices

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects to publish the Government's response to the Office of Fair Trading report on the Pharmaceutical Price Regulations Scheme. [144048]

Mr. McCartney *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* Ministers are still considering the full implications of this important and complex report. Due to the need to assess all of the information provided by OFT, including detailed annexes published after the main report, the timing of the Government response has been delayed.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what recent discussions his Department has held with electronic producers and product designers of electronic goods on the implementation of individual producer responsibility under article 8.2 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [143988]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government are committed to the principles of Individual Producer Responsibility (IPR) and ensuring that producers recognise the importance of design in the sustainability agenda and will continue to work with the business community on this issue.

As part of the WEEE system, the DTI will be establishing an independent WEEE Advisory Body to provide advice to Government on issues arising from the implementation of the WEEE Regulations and on how to encourage product design to assist with IPR. This will be one of the areas the DTI will ask them to address.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive on product design. [143989]

Malcolm Wicks: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive encourage producers of electrical equipment to consider design of new products to facilitate environmentally sound treatment and reprocessing when equipment reaches its end of life.

The UK has addressed this issue through Regulation 59 of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 (SI 3289).

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has held with electronic producers on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [143990]

Malcolm Wicks: Regulations implementing the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic and Equipment (WEEE) Directive require producers to finance the treatment, recovery and environmentally sound disposal of WEEE. The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006—were laid before the House on 12 December following extensive consultation with business, including a number of electronic producers.

Energy Supply

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if his Department will consider the merits of publishing a low carbon milestone document to help Ofgem achieve its new role of analysing the long term energy outlook in order to address the concerns about security of supply as outlined in the recent Energy White Paper. [143865]

Malcolm Wicks: As set out in the Energy White Paper (paragraph 4.36) the new energy markets outlook is to be jointly managed by the Department of Trade and Industry and Ofgem and will provide energy market information relating to security of supply.

The Government's strategy to move towards a low carbon economy is also set out in the Energy White Paper, which explains how the domestic sector and planned new housing will play its part in meeting our climate change objectives. The Climate Change Bill will establish legally binding carbon budgets, and targets (or milestones) to help this country meet its commitment to tackle climate change.

Imports: Motorcycles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many motorcycles manufactured in China of 50cc and under were imported into the UK in each of the last 12 months; and what their value was. [144320]

Mr. McCartney: The following table shows HM Revenue and Customs' Overseas Trade Statistics for the value and number of UK imports from China of motorcycles including mopeds, with engines of 50cc or less:

Month	*Value (£000)*	*Number*
2006		
January	653	9,667
February	448	3,409
March	176	1,878
April	378	2,894
May	257	3,066
June	366	3,502
July	310	4,000
August	380	4,486
September	380	6,403
October	260	3,161
November	323	4,149
December	273	2,883
2007		
January	175	1,209
February	70	672

Imports: Wood

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, what volume of *(a)* whitewood and *(b)* redwood was imported into the UK in each quarter of each year since 2004. [144479]

Mr. McCartney: HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics give the following figures for imports of the following Combined Nomenclature trade codes; the first four cover spruce and silver fir seeking to provide figures for "whitewood", while the second four cover pine, particularly Scots Pine, seeking to provide figures for "redwood":

CN44032011: Coniferous wood, in the rough or roughly squared, not treated with paint, stains or preservatives: Sawlogs of coniferous wood in rough, not treated: spruce of kind *picea abies karst* or silver fir

CN44032019: Coniferous wood, in the rough or roughly squared, not treated with paint, stains or preservatives: Other coniferous wood in rough: spruce of kind *picea abies karst* or silver fir not treated other than sawlogs

CN44071031: Coniferous wood, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed etc., of thickness greater than 6 mm: Wood sawn lengthwise—planed—spruce of the kind *picea abies karst* or silver fir (*abies alba mill*)

CN44071091: Coniferous wood, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed etc., of thickness greater than 6 mm: Wood sawn lengthwise coniferous wood spruce unsorted and other than unsorted

CN44032031: Coniferous wood, in the rough or roughly squared, not treated with paint, stains or preservatives: Sawlogs of coniferous wood in rough not treated: pine of kind *pinus sylvestris L.*

CN44032039: Coniferous wood, in the rough or roughly squared, not treated with paint, stains or preservatives: Coniferous wood, in rough, not treated: pine of kind *pinus sylvestris L*, other than sawlogs

CN44071033: Coniferous wood, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed etc., of thickness greater than 6 mm: Pine of the kind of *pinus sylvestris L.*

CN44071093: Coniferous wood, sawn or chipped lengthwise, sliced or peeled, whether or not planed etc., of thickness greater than 6 mm: Sawn lengthwise coniferous wood pine unsorted mixtures of spruce/pine and other coniferous wood

Year/Quarter	Weight (thousand tonnes) CN44032011 CN44032019 CN44071031 CN44071091	CN44032031 CN44032039 CN44071033 CN44071093
2004		
Q1	387	292
Q2	501	365
Q3	439	298
Q4	392	264
2005		
Q1	436	299
Q2	483	332
Q3	430	266
Q4	372	268
2006		
Q1	386	245
Q2	419	268
Q3	383	219
Q4	389	210
2007		
Q1	352	192

Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics

Limestone

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what tonnage of limestone was *(a)* imported into and *(b)* quarried in the UK in each quarter of (i) 2004, (ii) 2005, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 2007 to date. [143769]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Office for National Statistics publishes annual figures for Product Sales and Trade: Quarrying of Limestone, Gypsum and Chalk (excluding Uranium and Thorium Ores) in PRA 14120. However data on volumes of UK manufacturer sales of limestone are not available. UK manufacturer sales of crushed limestone aggregates are reported as part of crushed stone of a kind used for concrete aggregates, for roadstone and for other construction use excluding gravel, pebbles, shingle and flint in the ONS report Product Sales and Trade: Operation of Gravel and Sandpits in PRA 14210, but are not separated from many other aggregates.

HM Revenue and Customs Overseas Trade Statistics give the following figures for imports of CN25210000 limestone flux, limestone and other calcareous stone used for the manufacture of lime or cement, and of CN25171020 limestone, dolomite and other calcareous stone, broken or crushed for road metalling, railway or other ballast:

Quarter	Weight (thousand tonnes) CN25210000	CN25171020
2004		
Q1	0	78
Q2	2	114
Q3	2	105
Q4	6	91
2005		
Q1	25	103
Q2	38	128
Q3	30	172
Q4	31	107
2006		
Q1	3	103
Q2	14	108
Q3	4	37
Q4	2	57
2007		
Q1	5	51

Source:
Overseas Trade Statistics

Mobile Phone Masts

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what advice the chief scientific adviser has provided in relation to mobile telephone masts. [143656]

Malcolm Wicks: To my knowledge, None.

In 2000, the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones chaired by Sir William Stewart undertook a comprehensive review of the scientific literature. It concluded that the "balance of evidence to date suggests that exposure to radiofrequency radiation below international guidelines does not cause adverse health effects to the general population" (www.iegmp.org.uk). A more recent report by the Health Protection Agency in 2004 on Mobile Phones and Health came to the same conclusion. This advice is available on the website of the Health Protection Agency

(www.hpa.org.uk/radiation).

Nanotechnology

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what role he expects the Technology Strategy Board to play in nanotechnology research and knowledge transfer in the next 10 years. [143286]

Malcolm Wicks: The Government's 10-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework, published in July 2004, reaffirmed the commitment to support businesses investing in new and emerging technologies, such as nanotechnology. The delivery mechanism for this work is the Technology Strategy Board, comprising mainly experienced business leaders, which will identify the new and emerging technologies critical to the growth of the UK economy into which Government funding and activities can be directed.

Over the period 2005-08, £320 million is available to businesses in the form of grants to support research and development through the Technology Strategy Board.

This includes over £100 million already invested in nanotechnology on collaborative R and D and a network of development facilities. A new nanotechnology knowledge transfer network was established in May 2007 to take forward the work of the Micro and Nanotechnology

Network. Future decisions on technology and funding priorities will lie with the new TSB.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will take steps *(a)* to ensure that nanotechnology research activities receive long-term large grant support sufficient to enable sustained work to be carried out in the area and *(b)* to protect the existing UK research base. [143287]

Malcolm Wicks: The research councils provide funding in responsive mode for research including nanotechnology related activities. This is a flexible mechanism and can support larger longer term grants where this is appropriate. This will, by stimulating competition, ensure that the councils continue to support a healthy research base in the UK.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is implementing a programme in nanoscience through engineering to application, in order to build on the platform of earlier investments and to realise the benefits of the technology for society and the economy. Key features will be:

strong partnership with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) to achieve pull-through to a range of sectors;

the participation of science and techpology facilities council (STFC) and other research councils where relevant;

a grand challenge approach to identify the highest impact research areas;

leadership and co-ordination by a senior strategy advisor from the community.

Over £100 million has already been invested in nanotechnology by the Technology Strategy Board over the period 2005-2008.

National Institute for Medical Research

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consultations have taken place with Camden council on the future location of the National Institute for Medical Research. [143067]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The MRC has met Camden council on three occasions relating to the fixture location of the NIMR.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry when he expects a final decision to be made on the future location of the National Institute for Medical Research. [143068]

Malcolm Wicks: The national Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC). The Medical Research Council is currently preparing a detailed business case for the relocation of the NIMR to central London.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what planning barriers exist to development of the Mill Hill site of the National Institute for Medical Research. [143069]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The Mill Hill site of the NIMR is in a conservation area.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what consultations have been held with the British Library on the proposed move of the National Institute for Medical Research to the site near the British Library. [143070]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The MRC has not consulted the British Library about the relocation of the NIMR to a site near to the British Library.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what factors were taken into account in deciding not to move the National Institute for Medical Research to the Temperance Hospital site. [143072]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The MRC has not taken a final decision on the preferred site for the NIMR.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what the purchase price was for the Temperance hospital site intended as the new centre for the National Institute for Medical Research; [143073]

(2) how much has been spent on the process of purchasing and considering the development of the Temperance hospital site in Camden for the future location of the National Institute for Medical Research, excluding the direct purchase price of the site. [143105]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC). The MRC paid £28 million for the National Temperance hospital site and has spent an additional £0.8 million on development costs.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (1) what consultations have taken place with National Institute for Medical Research staff on the decision not to move to the Temperance hospital site and to consider relocation to the British Library site; [143074]

(2) what planning and development restrictions apply to building on the British Library site intended as the future home for the National Institute for Medical Research. [143076]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The interim Director of NIMR 'Sir Keith Peters' communicates regularly with NIMR staff about the development of a business case including the option of

relocating NIMR to the National Temperance hospital site, as well as work to determine the feasibility of relocation to a larger site adjacent to the British Library. No decision has been made.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what the current estimate is of the cost of relocating the National Institute for Medical Research from Mill Hill to Central London. [143075]

Malcolm Wicks: The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a wholly owned institute of the Medical Research Council (MRC).

The MRC is currently preparing a detailed business case for the relocation of the NIMR to central London. This will address the cost of various options.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate has been made of the area that would be available to the National Institute for Medical Research at the British Library site in light of the other organisations intended to be accommodated there. [143082]

Malcolm Wicks: The site adjacent to the British Library is approximately 3.5 acres of which about one third could be made available to NIMR.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what effect he expects the planned change in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's budget for 2007-08 and beyond to have on the release of decontaminated land for development at Harwell. [142652]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The NDA's annual plan for 2007 sets out their proposals for cleanup at Harwell. And the NDA's budget for 2007-08 has been set. It is for the NDA, in discussion with the site, to prioritise cleanup in light of available funding. The NDA budget for 2008-09 and beyond is part of the CSR discussions which are in train.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what effect he expects the reduction in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's budget for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* the following three years to have on the timescales for decommissioning nuclear sites. [143337]

Malcolm Wicks: There has been no reduction in funding for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The settlement for 2007-08 enables the NDA to operate a programme budget of some £2.47 billion, giving the NDA and its contractors the certainty they need without impacting on the planned programme of nuclear clean up work. The NDA's funding in respect of the Comprehensive Spending Review period (2008-09 to 2010-11) is under discussion and will be settled in the autumn.

Parental Leave

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry whether he plans to table regulations to provide for additional paternity leave under section 3 of the Work and Families Act 2006; and if he will make a statement. [136530]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government have made a commitment to introduce additional paternity leave and additional statutory paternity pay, which will give additional flexibility to families to make their own choice as to which parent is best placed to take the second six months of leave, before the end of this Parliament. A formal date for introduction is still to be decided, but it is intended to be brought in alongside the extension of statutory maternity pay, maternity allowance and statutory adoption pay from 39 weeks to 52 weeks. This will give families the choice for the first time on the best arrangements for their family when having a baby.

Political Funds

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate the Certification Office has made of the total revenue collected from political fund contributions by union members in the most recent year for which figures are available, broken down by each trade union. [142181]

Malcolm Wicks: This information is included within the annual returns of those trade unions with political funds. Their latest annual returns have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Office Card Account: Successor

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the written statement of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 52WS, on the Post Office card account (successor), what his estimate is of the number of post office branches which will be operating in 2010; and what effect he expects the size of the personal teller network for the successor to the Post Office card account announced in his statement to have on the number of branches operating at that time. [139099]

Mr. Darling: The Government have announced a commitment to provide up to £1.7 billion in support of the post office network, on top of the £2 billion made available since 1999, together with policies aimed at creating a stable network following a managed programme of no more than 2,500 compensated closures by the end of 2008.

The number of post office outlets operating in 2010 will be dependent on a range of factors, including Post Office Ltd's efforts to introduce new financial services products and drive efficiencies within the business. The Department for Work and Pensions has announced that it requires in the region of 10,000 outlets to deliver the successor to the Post Office card account. There is no direct link between this number and the future number of post offices, but given the size of their network, Post Office Ltd should be in a position to make a strong bid.

Post Offices

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will undertake an analysis of the

accessibility arrangements for Crown Post Offices transferred to branches of WH Smith in *(a)* England and *(b)* Worcestershire; and if he will make a statement. [138699]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Decisions on the management and location of individual post offices are operational issues for POL. The company is committed to local consultation on the service implications where Crown post offices are transferred to the management of a franchise partner, including WH Smith. In particular views are invited on access arrangements and facilities and WH Smith are committed to ensuring that customers continue to have access to Post Office services. The location of the new Post Offices within WH Smith stores will be fully compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA).

Post Offices: Cash Dispensing

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what plans the Post Office has to install a free cash machine in the Walker Post Office in east Newcastle upon Tyne. [143731]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This is an operational matter for which the management of Post Office Ltd. (POL) have direct responsibility. I understand that this branch currently has a fee paying ATM. The site has been assessed by POL and their venture partner the Bank of Ireland and this is a site where they want to place an external free to use ATM.

I also understand that the subpostmaster has been sent the contract and terms and conditions, and POL are currently waiting for them to return the signed paperwork.

Research: Tax Credits

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had on research and development tax credits and their potential extension to include money spent on the design process itself. [144038]

Malcolm Wicks: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no recent discussions on this subject. Research and development (R&D) tax credits are already available for qualifying costs of R&D, as defined under the DTI's guidelines of 5 March 2004. The Department has sought to make clear the scope of coverage of the guidelines, both in awareness-raising literature published last November (prepared in consultation with HM Treasury and HMRC) and during direct contacts with industry during the normal course of our work.

R&D takes place where an activity seeks to achieve an advance in science or technology through the resolution of scientific or technological uncertainty. Design can be R&D and when it is, R&D tax credits are available.

Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors: Females

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on the number of women on the Institute's governing body. [140684]

Margaret Hodge: The Department has not held any discussions with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors on this subject.

Technology: Expenditure

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what proportion of the Technology Programme budget announced in the 2006 Budget has been allocated; to whom; and in which sectors. [143264]

Malcolm Wicks: The information is as follows.

The spring 2007 competition is currently under way and has allocated funds across the following areas:

	£ million
Smart, Bioactive and Nanostructure Materials for Health	7
Plastic Electronics: Materials Processing and Systems Integration	5
Lightweight Materials and Structures	15
Design Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing	40
Oil and Gas Technologies	5
Low Carbon Energy Technologies	10
Networked Enterprise	8

There was no Budget announcement in 2006; however, since 2004 over eight collaborative research and development competitions have been held and the Technology Programme has allocated £438 million to 620 projects in the following technology priority areas:

Environmentally Friendly Transport

Bio Science and Healthcare

Advanced Materials and Micro/Nano Technology

Sensors, Displays and Imaging and Optoelectronics

ICT

Validation of Complex Systems

Zero (Carbon) Emissions Enterprises

Waste reduction and Sustainable Production and Consumption

This can be broadly recast (by number of projects) across the following sectors:

	Percentage
Advanced Materials (including Micro and Nanotechnology)	21
Bioscience and Healthcare	9
Design Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing	17
Electronics and Photonics	16
Emerging Energy Technologies	15
Information and Communications Technology	6
Sustainable Production and Consumption	16

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Lottery Funding

4. **Mr. David Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent representations she has received on the impact of lottery funding for

voluntary sector organisations of the 2012 Olympics. [143854]

5. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent representations she has received on the impact of lottery funding for voluntary sector organisations of the 2012 Olympics. [143855]

Edward Miliband: In the run-up to the Olympics decision, I received many representations from third sector organisations seeking assurances that money for the sector from the Big Lottery Fund would be protected.

As confirmed by the BLF, the additional funding to the Olympics announced on 15 March will come from money that would have gone to statutory programmes, not money set aside for the voluntary sector, and as the Chairman Sir Clive Booth said at the time:

"I am pleased that we will be able to protect existing programmes and the money earmarked for the third sector."

8. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the impact on third sector organisations of the diversion of lottery funding towards the 2012 Olympics. [143860]

Edward Miliband: As confirmed by the BLF, the additional funding to the Olympics announced on 15 March, will come from money that would have gone to statutory programmes, not money set aside for the voluntary sector. The other distributors contributing to the Olympics have said they do not expect existing commitments to be affected and will make specific announcements about future programmes in due course.

Charitable Status

6. **Martin Horwood:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the implementation of the public benefit test for charitable status. [143857]

Edward Miliband: The Charities Act provides a robust and flexible framework for the Charity Commission, as an independent regulator of charities in England and Wales, to properly take forward the public benefit test. The Commission has recently completed consulting on its draft public benefit guidance, and will publish a response before the relevant provisions of the Charities Act come into force early next year.

Whitehall Departments

7. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent steps she has taken to improve the effectiveness of Whitehall Departments in formulating policy and delivering the Government's objectives. [143858]

Hilary Armstrong: Our main current initiative is the programme of Capability Reviews. This has now covered almost all Government Departments. The reviews are identifying the actions needed to improve their capability and performance including devising and delivering policies.

Civil Servants: Recruitment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what proportion of senior civil servants are *(a)* from black or ethnic minority backgrounds and *(b)* women; [143734]

(2) what steps her Department is taking to improve representation of *(a)* black and ethnic minority groups and *(b)* women in the senior Civil Service; and what assessment she has made of (i) the effectiveness of those initiatives and (ii) levels of awareness of them among (A) potential recruits and (B) existing civil servants; [143735]

(3) what steps have been taken to ensure that aptitude and personality tests used in recruitment to the Civil Service are not biased against *(a)* people from black or ethnic minority backgrounds and *(b)* women. [143736]

Hilary Armstrong: The October 2006 senior civil service (SCS) statistics show that there were:

(a) 118 (3.2 per cent.) black or ethnic minority staff in the SCS; and

(b) 1288 (31.25 per cent.) women in the SCS, of those 249 (26.8 per cent.) were in topmanagement posts (i.e. at Director level or above).

The Cabinet Office launched the Civil Service wide diversity 10-Point Plan in November 2005, which is a robust and pro-active framework aimed at increasing representation of women, disabled people and BME staff at senior levels. A review of departmental progress against the 10-Point Plan has recently been conducted and further interventions/actions have been agreed to help accelerate progress towards further supporting and encouraging existing civil servants as well as attracting potential new recruits.

While departments are responsible for their individual recruitment practices, the 10 Point Plan, launched in November 2005, makes it clear that they should ensure recruitment practices are free from cultural bias in assessment processes.

For the Civil Service Fast Stream, which the Cabinet Office manages on behalf of the Civil Service, there are two key steps taken to counter unfair bias. These are:

(i) limiting the weight of any one selection method in the process (personality tests are not used); and (ii) subsequently evaluating these assessment methods for potential bias on an on-going and annual basis.

Child Maintenance

Simon Hughes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effect of tougher enforcement of debt collection, as proposed in the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill, on socially excluded groups with low levels of financial literacy. [143871]

Hilary Armstrong: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues at the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). The Social Exclusion Task Force works closely with DWP and the Treasury (HMT) on many of initiatives to tackle social and financial exclusion.

Departments: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what measures she is taking to ensure that online feedback is integral to the transformational Government agenda. [143856]

Mr. McFadden: Designing public services around the needs of citizens and businesses is at the heart of the transformational Government agenda. Hundreds of thousands of people are discussing public services and public policy issues online. The Government has received a report from Tom Steinberg and Ed Mayo on the power of this information, especially for improving public services. The report has today been placed in the House Libraries. The Government hope to respond to the report in the near future.

Policy Review

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Government's policy review process is complete. [144607]

Hilary Armstrong: The policy review has now concluded and outputs from the process are available on the Cabinet Office website

(http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/policy_review/index.asp).

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Northern Midlands Coalfields

14. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on progress on the regeneration of the Northern Midlands coalfields. [143846]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am very proud of the progress that has been made over the past 10 years revitalising the former English coalfields, including those of the Northern Midlands. When we came into power in 1997, these communities had suffered and been ignored for years.

It was desperately important to raise aspirations in these communities through regeneration, education and job creation.

English Partnership's Coalfield Programme, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and the Coalfields Enterprise Fund are delivering real change with combined budgets of over half a billion pounds.

I would like to pay tribute to three people who have been instrumental in bringing the coalfield communities back to life—Paula Hay-Plumb of English Partnerships, Peter McNestry of the Coalfield Regeneration Trust, and Bill Flanagan of the Coalfield Communities Campaign.

There are now thousands more jobs, improved housing and better education.

These communities are being brought back to life, and I am proud of what we have achieved.

Congestion Charging

15. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on the co-ordination of Government policy on congestion charging and the urban environment; and if he will make a statement. [143847]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Over the past 10 years, this Government have spent £128 billion on transport. After 18 years of neglect, 10 years of investment mean we now have more people travelling on public transport.

Despite this, car use still continues to grow. It is not a new problem, but it has a different form from 1997—with 10 years of unprecedented economic growth, many families now have two and often three cars. Between 1997 and 2006, the number of vehicles on our roads has increased from 27 million to 33 million.

This is why we have introduced the draft Local Transport Bill. It proposes a package of measures to further empower interested local authorities to take local action to address local congestion. It also includes important measures to deliver further improvements in public transport, especially bus services.

This approach builds on our existing action to tackle the problem of congestion. For example, in the Greater London Authority Act 1999 and Transport Act 2000, we brought in the controversial legislation to allow congestion charging, which Mayor Ken Livingstone then introduced. Over the period of the scheme, it has achieved:

Congestion down by 21 per cent.

Traffic volumes down 20 per cent.

And over £300 million raised to be re-invested into London's public transport network

We are placing buses at the heart of our transport agenda, to reverse the previous 'deregulation' in 1985 which did so much to damage public transport across the country.

European Constitutional Treaty

16. **Mark Pritchard:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has held to co-ordinate Government policy on the European constitutional treaty. [143848]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Government policy on European Union matters is co-ordinated through the Joint Ministerial Committee on Europe (JMC(E)) and the European Policy Cabinet Committee. I am a member of both committees, which are chaired by my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

Significant European Council agenda items are also routinely discussed at Cabinet meetings.

Sustainable Cities

17. **Ms Dari Taylor:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what discussions he has had with his counterparts in China on co-operation on the sustainable development of cities. [143849]

The Deputy Prime Minister: In April 2007 I met with State Councillor Tang and Premier Wen in Beijing. I put to the Chinese leadership a proposal on strengthening co-operation between the UK and China in the field of sustainability, particularly sustainable cities.

In addition, I recently highlighted the potential for sustainable city cooperation between the UK and China to Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo, Construction Minister Qiu Baoxing, and Jiangsu Party Secretary Li Yuanchao during their respective visits to the UK.

Sustainable development has been an important focus of the China taskforce which I have chaired since 2003 at the request of the Prime Minister. The Chinese are keen to step up exchanges with the UK to help them develop sustainable communities and see both the Thames Gateway, and the UK designed Eco-City at Dongtan as key examples.

New Town Regeneration

18. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will make a statement on progress on the regeneration of new towns, with particular reference to Skelmersdale. [143850]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Since 1997, the Government have made regeneration and renewal a priority, investing more than £20 billion in our towns and cities. There has been considerable progress in Skelmersdale including a major redevelopment of the town centre and the area is also benefiting from £3.7 million in safer stronger communities funding.

Schools Policy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent discussions he has had with Cabinet colleagues on schools policy. [143844]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Cabinet Committee on Schools Policy has the remit to discuss and develop policies to improve schools and to monitor progress.

Since 1997 this Government have worked tirelessly to drive up standards in schools, giving parents more choice and young people a better start in life.

Thanks to our programme of sustained investment coupled with reform, we have seen unprecedented improvements:

Over 35,000 extra teachers
Over 172,000 extra support staff
Smaller classes
Best ever exam results
Doubling spending per pupil

And in 15 years time, every school in the country will be thoroughly modernised.

That's a record to be proud of—and I'm proud to have been a part of the Government that has delivered it.

JUSTICE

Prison Service

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 384W, on the Prison Service, on what date Nick Pascoe took over responsibility for the commissioning of Ron Tasker's investigation from Keith Munns; and if she will make a statement. [143552]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not possible to state the precise date on which the current Area Manager for London took over as commissioning officer. He took over following a conversation with the Deputy Director General. This conversation took place after 1 February 2007.

Administration of Justice: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much has been allocated by the Ministry of Justice for the judicial systems in Crown dependencies. [141791]

Ms Harman: No provision has been allocated for this purpose. The Crown dependencies (the Isle of Man and the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey) are self-governing dependencies of the Crown, and as such, they have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative and fiscal systems and courts of law. It is for the Government of each Crown dependency to make such provision for its judicial system as it considers appropriate.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to meet representatives of the government of *(a)* the Isle of Man, *(b)* Guernsey and *(c)* Jersey. [141803]

Ms Harman: There are no current plans, but Ministers meet representatives of the governments of the Crown Dependencies whenever it is appropriate to do so.

Coroners

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will take steps to allow co-habiting partners to *(a)* identify bodies of their partner and *(b)* receive information relating to the inquest in a situation where a spouse is still alive; and if she will make a statement. [142078]

Ms Harman: In cases where the identification of a body is supervised by the coroner's office, Rule 20 of the Coroners Rules 1984 includes in the definition of a properly interested person the spouse or civil law partner of the deceased as well as anyone who in the coroner's opinion is a properly interested person. It is within the coroner's discretion whether a co-habiting partner should be treated as a properly interested person for the purpose of an inquest and hence may identify the body of his or her partner.

Councillors

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what guidance *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Information Commissioner has produced on the requirements on councillors to register under the Data Protection Act 1998 when acting in their capacity as a representative of the residents of their ward. [143660]

Vera Baird: My Department has not issued any guidance on this issue.

The Information Commissioner's Office published updated guidance on 17 May 2007 which included advice to elected and prospective members of local authorities on how registration under the Data Protection Act 1998 applies to them. The guidance can be found on the Commissioner's website at

http://www.ico.gov.uk/upload/documents/library/data_protection/practical_application/advice_elected_and_prospective_members_local_authorities.pdf.

Court Service: Maladministration

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what estimate she has made of the number of administrative errors made by the Court Service in the last 12 months. [143405]

Ms Harman: Data held by Her Majesty's Courts Service show that 10,480 justified complaints relating to the administrative actions of the county, Crown and magistrates courts were recorded within the period June 2006-May 2007. This represents 64 per cent. of the total number of complaints recorded during the same period.

Just under two million civil claims were heard in the county courts, and Crown Court centres disposed of over 127,000 hearings or trials in the financial year 2006-2007. In 2006 the magistrates courts dealt with approximately 2.3 million defendants in criminal cases and 1.2 million civil applications.

Crime: Mentally Ill People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what support is offered to mentally ill people who commit crimes. [143448]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The range of support provided to mentally ill people who commit crimes is set out in the Offender Mental Health Care Pathway (Department of Health, 2005). This outlines best practice in stages from police custody and court appearances through to prison and pre-release arrangements with community mental health teams. Copies have been placed in the Library. It is also available on the Department of Health website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4102231

Under the Mental Health Act 1983 the courts have powers to assess mentally disordered offenders before sentencing and to divert them to receive specialist treatment in hospital rather than punishment. The police also have the power under the Act to remove a person who appears to be suffering from mental disorder to a place of safety. The Government plan to publish guidance this year to the NHS and partner agencies which supports the development of local diversion services by building on current best practice.

Beginning in 2003, and completing in April 2006, the national health service took over commissioning responsibility for all prison health services in public sector prisons. This was previously the responsibility of the Prison Service. One of the main reasons this transfer was made was to help ensure that prisoners had better access to mainstream health services.

Investment in prison mental health in-reach services has been steadily increasing, with nearly £20 million invested in these services each year since 2004-05, and 360 whole time equivalent staff employed—more than the initial commitment in the NHS Plan to create 300 posts. There are now teams in 102 prisons and their services are available to the entire prison estate.

People who are mentally too ill to remain in prison should be transferred to hospital. We have introduced tighter monitoring to identify prisoners waiting an unacceptably long period for transfer to hospital. A protocol was issued to prisons and primary care trusts in October 2005 setting out what must be done when a prisoner has been waiting for a hospital place for more than three months following acceptance by the national health service.

These measures have helped bring about positive results. In 2006, 33 per cent. more prisoners, with mental illness too severe for prison, were transferred to hospital than in 2002—up to 961 from 723. There has been a significant decrease in the number of people waiting over 12 weeks for a transfer—in the quarter ending March 2007, 40 prisoners were waiting, down from 51 in the same quarter in 2005.

The ACCT (Assessment, Care in Custody and teamwork) care planning process for prisoners in danger of self-harm or suicide has helped contribute to a reduction in the number of suicides in England and Wales. In 2006, these were down 14 per cent. —down to 67 cases, from 95 in 2004. This is the lowest figure since 1996.

Crime: Schools

Mr. Watson: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many police officer hours were allocated to the safer schools scheme in each of the last three years; [143208]

(2) how many arrests there have been as a result of the introduction of the safer schools scheme. [143209]

Bridget Prentice: The collection of such data is done locally and is a matter for individual police forces.

Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans her Department has to improve communication between the Government and the Crown dependencies. [141804]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice provides the official channel of communication between the United Kingdom Government and the Governments of the Crown dependencies. Communication arrangements are kept under continuous review and improvement is sought whenever possible.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many people are employed by her Department. [141792]

Ms Harman: The headcount figures for the former DCA and those parts of the Home Office which transferred to the Ministry of Justice have been taken from the latest civil service employment statistics published by the Office for National Statistics on 13 June 2007 for the quarter ending 31 March 2007.

	Number
Former DCA	36,910
National Offender Management Service	1,620
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	338
HM Prison Service	49,570
Total	88,438

The number of staff transferring from Home Office Corporate Services following the creation of the Ministry of Justice is still being discussed.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many officials work in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Privy Council Office. [143172]

Ms Harman: The headcount figures for the former DCA and those parts of the Home Office which transferred to the Ministry of Justice have been taken from the latest civil service employment statistics published by the Office for National Statistics on 13 June 2007 for the quarter ending 31 March 2007.

	Number
Former DCA	36,910
National Offender Management Service	1,620
Office for Criminal Justice Reform	338
HM Prison Service	49,570

The number of staff transferring from Home Office Corporate Services following the creation of the Ministry of Justice is still being discussed.

The present headcount figure for those parts of the Privy Council Office transferred to the Ministry of Justice is 21.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was received by the Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139331]

Ms Harman: During the last five years my Department has received the following amounts from the letting of its properties:

	£
2002-03	15,000
2003-04	15,000
2004-05	15,000
2005-06	15,000
2006-07	15,000

The Home Office is reporting with regard to MOJ properties transferring from the Home Office as part of Machinery of Government changes.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what properties her Department and its predecessor *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139351]

Ms Harman: During the last five years my Department's property portfolio comprised of no Freehold or Long Leasehold properties. The following are occupation Leasehold Properties:

FY 2002/03

Clive House. 70 Petty France, London SW1H 9EX
Interchange Centre. West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1BH
30 Millbank. London SW1P 4QP
Millbank Tower. 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 3QP
Selborne House. 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW
Southside. 105 Victoria Street London SW1
Steel House. 11 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LJ
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

FY 2003/04

Clive House. 70 Petty France, London SW1H 9EX
Interchange Centre. West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1BH
30 Millbank. London SW1P 4QP
Millbank Tower. 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 3QP
Selborne House. 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW
Southside. 105 Victoria Street London SW1
Steel House. 11 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LJ
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

FY 2004/05

Clive House. 70 Petty France, London SW1H 9EX
Interchange Centre. West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1BH
30 Millbank. London SW1P 4QP
Millbank Tower. 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 3QP
50 Queen Annes Gate London SW1H 9AP
Selborne House. 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW
Southside. 105 Victoria Street London SW1
Steel House. 11 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LJ
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

FY 2005/06

4 Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2HT
Clive House. 70 Petty France, London SW1H 9EX
Interchange Centre. West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1BH
30 Millbank. London SW1P 4QP
Millbank Tower. 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 3QP
50 Queen Annes Gate London SW1H 9AP
Selborne House. 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW
Steel House. 11 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LJ
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

FY 2006/07

4 Abbey Orchard Street, London SW1P 2HT
Clive House. 70 Petty France, London SW1H 9EX
Interchange Centre. West Street, Gateshead, NE8 1BH
30 Millbank. London SW1P 4QP
Millbank Tower. 21-24 Millbank, London SW1P 3QP
50 Queen Annes Gate London SW1H 9AP
Selborne House. 54/60 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QW
Steel House. 11 Tothill Street, London SW1H 9LJ
Tower House, Fairfax Street, Bristol BS1 3BN

The Home Office is reporting with regard to MOJ properties transferring from the Home Office as part of Machinery of Government changes.

European Court of Human Rights: Legal Costs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent before October 2000 by the Government in defending cases brought by UK citizens in the European Court of Human Rights. [143437]

Vera Baird: As costs are paid by the lead department and not recorded centrally, the information requested could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Prices

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will publish figures held by the Land Registry for the average price of a *(a)* domestic dwelling, *(b)* flat and *(c)* detached house in each local authority in England in (i) 1997, (ii) 2000 and (iii) the latest period for which figures are available. [143659]

Vera Baird: The data have been placed in the Libraries of the House and contain information collected by Land Registry for the average price of a domestic dwelling (including semi-detached and terraced), flat and detached house in each local authority area in England and Wales in (i) 1997, (ii) 2000 and (iii) the latest period, covering January to March 2007.

Judgments: Debts

Mr. Todd: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether any restrictions are placed on the sale of data relating to court judgments by debt consolidation businesses and debt advice agencies. [141666]

Ms Harman: No restrictions are placed on the sale of data relating to court judgments by debt consolidation and debt advice agencies. In 2006, the Register of Judgments Orders and Fines Regulations 2005 came into force. The regulations provide powers to the Registrar of the Register to refuse access to the Register to any person whom he suspects of using the data for unlawful purposes or in breach of any of the data protection principles as set out in the Data Protection Act 1998.

Legislation: Channel Islands and Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many Bills originating in *(a)* Guernsey, *(b)* the Isle of Man and *(c)* Jersey were granted Royal Assent in each year since 1997. [141794]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice does not hold figures for Crown Dependencies legislation receiving Royal Assent prior to 2001.

The figures from February 2001 to May 2007 are as follows:

Table of Crown Dependency legislation receiving Royal Assent 2001-07

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*To May 2007*	*Total*
Jersey	25	49	47	28	36	32	5	222
Guernsey	21	20	25	13	14	14	3	110
Alderney	4	4	6	1	3	0	0	18
Sark	4	3	4	0	0	3	0	14
Isle of Man	33	2	16	9	6	26	4	96
Total	87	78	98	51	59	75	12	460

Legislation: Guernsey

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many Bills were considered for extension to Guernsey in each year since 1997. [141800]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice does not hold all of the information requested. However, our departmental records show that the Ministry of Justice and before it the Department of Constitutional Affairs has written to the Guernsey authorities on behalf of legislating UK Government Departments on 20 occasions since 1997 where extending a Bill to Guernsey has been considered: on eight occasions in 2004; five occasions in 2005; six occasions in 2006 and once so far in 2007.

Legislation: Isle of Man

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what Bills concerning transport were considered for extension to the Isle of Man in 2006. [141802]

Ms Harman: No Bills concerning transport where there was consideration of extension to the Isle of Man came to the Ministry of Justice (formerly the Department for Constitutional Affairs) during 2006.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the Answer of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1454W, on members: correspondence, when she expects to provide a substantive reply to the Question; and what the reason is for the delay. [143614]

Vera Baird: I have now written to the hon. Member disclosing the list of highest paid barristers from the Community Legal Service (CLS) during 2005-06.

	£
Elizabeth Gumbel Q.C.	493,000
Jeremy Rosenblatt	492,000
Sally Bradley Q.C.	422,000
Stephen Knafler	401,000
Anthony Hayden Q.C.	377,000
Paul Storey Q.C.	373,000
Eleanor Hamilton Q.C.	371,000
John Godfrey	371,000
Michael Keehan	312,000
Marcus Scott-Manderson	306,000

These figures must be interpreted carefully and do not represent the personal earnings of the individuals listed in any one year. There are a number of reasons for this.

1. The amounts paid to each barrister listed represent payments for work covering many years, for a variety of cases. The amount an individual receives in any year fluctuates widely, and is to a large extent due to the variety of payment processes and schemes used by the Legal Services Commission and the Courts.

2. All the figures listed are inclusive of VAT (17.5 per cent.) as paid, and disbursements incurred (e.g. travelling). Individuals must pay that VAT to HM Revenue and Customs.

3. Barristers pay a percentage of their fees towards professional overheads. Additionally, barristers face the same expenses as any other self employed person, including income tax and National Insurance contributions.

A number of other qualifications need to be added to these figures.

1. Payments are made after claims are carefully scrutinised by the Legal Services Commission or the Courts, and where necessary adjusted. The Legal Services Commission and the Courts may make payments many years after cases conclude.

2. While these figures represent gross payments actually made to the barristers during the year, some of those monies have been (or may in the future be) repaid to the Community Legal Service Fund by other parties. This will happen in cases where the legally aided party wins the case and recovers costs from the opponent. Once those costs are recovered the legally aided party's solicitor refunds some or all of the money to the CLS Fund. As a consequence the figures may not reflect the actual cost of the barristers' fees to the Fund. In some cases where costs are recovered from the losing party the actual cost to the CLS Fund may be very little or even nothing.

3. Not all payments could be verified with all the individuals concerned. Cases in dispute, where amounts listed as being paid to individual barristers were identified from records held by the Department and the Legal Services Commission, and the practitioner has no such record, have been included. Where possible, amounts have been verified by practitioners and adjusted where necessary.

Prison Service: Managers

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which members of HM Prison Service Management Board have close relations in senior management positions within the service; what senior management position is held in each case; what the relationship is with the Management Board member in each case; and if she will make a statement. [143416]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Governor of HMP Nottingham is the son of the Director General.

Prisoners: Females

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many women *(a)* are being held in UK prisons and *(b)* were being held in each year since 2000. [141412]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[pursuant to the reply, 11 June 2007, Official Report, c. 888W]:* I erroneously informed my right hon. Friend that the number of female prisoners at 30 April this year was 4,502. The figure should in fact have read 4,370.

The reason for the error is that the final figure included categories not consistent with the rest of the figures.

Prisons: Smoking

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the likely impact on the number of fire incidents across the prison estate of *(a)* Prison Service Instruction 09/2007 and *(b)* a complete ban on smoking within prisons; and if she will make a statement. [142872]

Mr. Sutcliffe: On average there are about 1,000 fire incidents each year in prison but too little time has elapsed since PSI 9/2007 came into force for any assessment to be made on the impact of the PSI.

Probation: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many trainee probation officers are expected to qualify in 2007-08, broken down by probation area; and how many in each area she expects will subsequently be offered a contract of employment. [140422]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The numbers of trainee probation officers due to qualify in 2007-08 are contained in the following table. The trainees will graduate at the end of September so it is too early to know precisely how many vacancies there will be at that stage. It is already clear, however, that a significant number of graduates will not be offered contracts of employment with their training probation areas. Every effort will be made to re-deploy displaced graduates across the country because some employers are likely to have excess vacancies, but it is clear that not all graduates will be placed upon graduation.

Probation area	*Trainees due to qualify in September 2007-08*
Avon & Somerset	14
Devon & Cornwall	18
Dorset	4
Gloucestershire	4
Wiltshire	6
Bedfordshire	6
Cambridgeshire	4
Essex	16
Hertfordshire	9
Norfolk	7
Suffolk	5
Cheshire	6
Cumbria	5
Lancashire	0
Greater Manchester	30
Merseyside	9
Derbyshire	5
Leicestershire	5
Lincolnshire	8
Northamptonshire	7
Nottinghamshire	4
Durham	9

	Trainees due to qualify in September 2007-08
Teesside	14
Northumbria	0
Hampshire	13
Kent	16
Surrey	4
Sussex	16
Thames Valley	18
Humberside	5
North Yorkshire	0
South Yorkshire	8
West Yorkshire	14
Staffordshire	4
Warwickshire	3
West Mercia	0
West Midlands	25
London	95
London Cohort 7 (A&B)	21
Dyfed-Powys	8
Gwent	14
North Wales	9
South Wales	20
Total	488
Regions	
South West	46
Eastern	47
North West	50
East Midlands	29
North East	23
South East	67
Yorks & Humber	27
West Midlands	32
London	116
Wales	51
Total	488

Probation Officers: Training

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average total cost was of training a probation officer in the latest period for which figures are available. [140423]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average total cost of training a probation officer is approximately £74,102. This figure includes the trainee's salary cost, related pension contribution and university administration cost and is calculated over a two year period.

Public Appointments: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what steps her Department is taking to ensure greater transparency in the recommendation of Crown appointments to the dependencies. [141801]

Ms Harman: Crown appointments to the Crown Dependencies are made by the Queen on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor. Every effort is made to ensure that the process is transparent.

Regional Government: Freedom of Information

Michael Gove: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if she will take steps to ensure that regional assemblies are classed as public authorities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [143658]

Vera Baird: Organisations such as regional assemblies will be considered in the context of any review of extending the coverage of the Freedom of Information Act. We have no plans to review the coverage of the Act at present.

Sentencing: Appeals

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many and what percentage of sentences were taken to appeal by *(a)* the Attorney-General and *(b)* the convicted person in each of the last five years. [142707]

Ms Harman: The following table shows, for each of the last five years, the number and percentage[2] of applications regarding sentence received by the Court of Appeal Criminal Division *(a)* upon referral by the Attorney-General and *(b)* upon lodgement by the convicted person. Figures regarding appeals against sentence by persons convicted in the magistrates court are not collected centrally and cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

		2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Number of defendants convicted in the Crown court[1]		60,861	61,344	62,156	60,412	60,761
Number of sentence referrals received from the Attorney-General by CACD[1]	Referrals	153	100	158	122	162
	Percentage[2]	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Number of applications for leave to appeal against sentence received by CACD[1]	Appeals	5,804	5,664	5,809	5,178	5,082
	Percentage[2]	9.5	9.2	9.4	8.6	8.3

[1] The number of applications received by the Court of Appeal during any calendar year does not relate directly to the number of defendants convicted during the same calendar year.
[2] Percentage of referrals/applications for leave to appeal received by CACD compared to number of defendants convicted in the Crown court.

Small Claims: Legal Representation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) in how many and what proportion of cases heard by small claims courts claimants had legal representation in each year since 1990; [141455]

(2) what average payment has been made to successful claimants in cases heard by small claims courts where the claimant *(a)* had and *(b)* did not have legal representation in each year since 1990; [141456]

(3) what the average time taken from allocation to hearing for small claims was in each county court in Essex in 2006. [141458]

Ms Harman: Detailed information concerning small claims was not collected centrally until 1996. Figures relating to legal representation, average awards and average waiting time for the years since 1996 are provided in the following tables.

	Legal representation			*Monetary award (£)*	
	Yes	*No*	*Percentage legally represented*	*Legally represented*	*Not legally represented*
1996	[1]36,810	[1]57,250	39.1	680	586
1997	[1]43,500	[1]54,310	44.5	840	647
1998	[1]45,520	[1]53,180	46.1	813	611
1999	[1]46,140	[1]42,250	52.2	954	787
2000	[1]27,160	[1]28,680	48.6	1,152	974
2001	[1]29,880	[1]28,460	51.2	1,321	1,033
2002	[1]23,770	[1]31,960	42.7	1,206	1,015
2003	[1]22,110	[1]30,030	42.4	1,269	1,097
2004	[1]20,060	[1]26,040	43.5	1,345	1,111
2005	[1]20,580	[1]26,940	43.3	1,244	1,156
2006	[1]20,329	[1]26,503	43.4	1,385	1,091

[1] Figures have been weighted and rounded to provide overall national figures.

Notes:

1. The figures relate only to those cases allocated to the small claims track with a claim value of £5,000 or less.
2. The data is collected from 29 selected county courts by way of a sample exercise conducted every February, July and October.

County court	*Average waiting time (weeks)*
Basildon	8.2
Chelmsford	12.8
Colchester	10.7
Harlow	12.6
Southend	12.1

Note:

The average waiting time is measured between the date of allocation to small claims track to the final disposal hearing.

Supreme Court: Costs

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the total estimated cost is of the establishment of the Supreme Court; and how much is expected to be spent on *(a)* design, *(b)* building work and *(c)* financial management. [143703]

Ms Harman: As announced on 14 June 2007, the estimated set-up costs for establishing a Supreme Court are £56.9 million. The building work will cost £36.7 million, which will be paid for by an annual lease charge of £2.1 million over 30 years. Both these amounts are within original estimates. The additional £20.2 million covers professional adviser fees, programme team costs, furniture, IT services and library costs. Of that £20.2 million, £2.6 million is design costs associated with the renovation of the UK Supreme Court.

The set-up costs of the Supreme Court will be met through the Ministry's allocated budget.

Wandsworth Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) why the head of residence at HM Prison Wandsworth was removed from her post in September 2004; and if she will make a statement; [143413]

(2) why an acting 'F' grade governor at HM Prison Wandsworth was removed from his post in September 2004; and if she will make a statement. [143414]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not Prison Service policy to discuss information relating to individual members of staff. As the hon. Member is aware the subject matter of these questions is covered by an ongoing enquiry.

Wormwood Scrubs: Pay

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice on what basis the post of Head of Personnel at HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs is entitled to receive the required hours allowance; and if she will make a statement. [143410]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Prison Service policy is that only managers in paybands E, F and G will receive required hours addition (RHA) allowance. The post of Head of Personnel at HMP Wormwood Scrubs has recently been incorporated within the HR Business Partner role, and is graded at senior manager, payband D. This post does not attract the payment of RHA.

Youth Justice: Crown Dependencies

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what plans she has to improve youth justice in the Crown dependencies. [141790]

Ms Harman: None. The Crown dependencies (the Isle of Man and the Bailiwicks of Jersey and Guernsey) are self-governing dependencies of the Crown with their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative and fiscal systems and courts of law, and each is responsible for its own system of youth justice.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Apprenticeships

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the success rates are for the complete framework of *(a)* further education, *(b)* adult and community learning, *(c)* school sixth forms and *(d)* work-based learning for (i) post-16, (ii) 16 to 18 and (iii) over 18-year-olds for Levels 1 to 3 qualifications for each year between 2000 and 2006. [111381]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 30 January 2007]:* The following table shows success rates in further education (FE) and work based learning (WBL) from 2000/01 to 2004/05. These data were published in the Statistical First Release, "Further Education and Work Based Learning—Learner Outcomes in England" for the relevant year.

	2000/01	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
FE						
All levels						
16-18	58	63	66	69	72	75

	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
19+	59	65	68	72	75	77
Allages	59	65	68	71	74	76
Level1						
16-18	51	53	56	61	64	69
19+	48	50	55	59	61	64
Allages	49	51	55	59	62	62
Level2						
16-18	51	53	55	60	64	68
19+	46	49	50	54	60	65
Allages	48	51	52	56	61	67
Level3						
16-18	60	68	70	72	75	77
19+	46	50	51	53	58	63
Allages	56	62	64	67	71	74
WBL						
Apprenticeship						
16-18	—	31	37	36	41	56
19+	—	21	27	29	34	50
Allages	—	26	32	32	38	53
Advanced Apprenticeship						
16-18	—	24	25	31	41	54
19+	—	19	22	29	40	53
Allages	—	22	24	30	40	53

Learner data for school sixth forms are currently not collected on the LSC's ILR, so success rates can not be calculated. However, statisticians in the Department and the LSC are working to collect data which will enable the calculation of these success rates; a date for publication has not yet been agreed.

Success rates are not calculated for ACL.

Bichard Inquiry

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress he has made in implementing the recommendations of the Bichard inquiry; and if he will make a statement. [143322]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

As the Home Office is coordinating the implementation programme for the Bichard Inquiry's recommendations. I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 22 May 2007, which accompanied publication of the Government's 4th Progress Report.

As we reported, good progress has been made in implementing Sir Michael's Bichard's Recommendations. 21 of the 31 Recommendations are now substantially delivered and the outstanding projects are going forward under agreed programmes of work to clear milestones.

Degrees: Admissions

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of students who had previously studied for *(a)* higher national diplomas and *(b)* foundation degrees went on to study honours degrees in each year since 1994-95. [138363]

Bill Rammell: The available information on higher national diploma (HND) qualifiers and foundation degree (FD) qualifiers who went on to study a first degree in the following academic year only is shown in the tables. The figures were derived from the destinations surveys, which collect information about the destinations of qualifiers six months after qualification. Figures for 2005/06 will be available next month.

The available information is limited to qualifiers who went on to study for a first degree in the year immediately following qualification: it does not cover those who chose to progress to a first degree at a later stage.

For a number of reasons, it is difficult to draw reliable conclusions about the trends in the numbers of FD qualifiers who went on to study for a first degree in the following academic year, compared to students who completed HNDs. FDs were only introduced in 2001/02 and until 2004/05 there were relatively low numbers of qualifiers, which makes the figures inherently more volatile. It is also important to note that FD qualifiers tend to be older than HND qualifiers. Older qualifiers are less likely to go on to study for a first degree in the year immediately following qualification, because they are often already employed and tend to have other financial and domestic commitments. They may therefore be more likely to proceed to further study at a later date.

In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) reported in their January 2007/03 (web only) report, Foundation Degrees Key Statistics 2001-02 to 2006-07, that some students on FDs who proceed to further study are reported as having qualified with an honours degree without having been reported as obtaining a FD degree, which has the effect of reducing the number of FD qualifiers who are recorded as having gone on to study for a first degree.

Number of UK domiciled HND qualifiers and the number of those who went on to study for a first degree in the following academic year UK higher education institutions academic years 1994/95 to 2004/05

		Of which are studying for a first degree in the following academic year[1]	
Academic year in which qualification obtained	*HND qualifiers of known first destination*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1994/95	14,620	7,695	52.6
1995/96	13,085	7,245	55.4
1996/97	12,300	6,805	55.3
1997/98	11,670	6,690	57.3
1998/99	11,135	6,600	59.3
1999/2000	9,410	5,560	59.1
2000/01	9,500	5,610	59.1
2001/02	9,500	5,745	60.5
2002/03	9,660	5,545	57.4
2003/04	7,225	4,030	55.8
2004/05	6,050	3,365	55.6

[1] Covers students who are participating in (a) work and further study and (b) further study only, based on their situation six months after obtaining their qualification. Not all students provide information of their destination, for instance, the response rate to the questionnaire from HND qualifiers was 66 per cent. for the 2004/05 academic year.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)—First Destinations Supplement (FDS) 1994/95 to 2001/02 and the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) 2002/03 to 2004/05.

Number of UK domiciled foundation degree qualifiers and the number of those who went on to study for a first degree in the following academic year UK higher education institutions academic years 1994/95 to 2004/05

Academic year in which qualification obtained	*Foundation degree qualifiers of known first destination*	*Of which are studying for a first degree in the following academic year[1]*	
		Number	*Percentage*
1994/95	n/a	n/a	n/a
1995/96	n/a	n/a	n/a
1996/97	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997/98	n/a	n/a	n/a
1998/99	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999/2000	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000/01	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001/02	n/a	n/a	n/a
2002/03	770	450	58.3
2003/04	1,980	1,010	51.2
2004/05	4,070	2,140	52.6

n/a = Foundation degrees were introduced in 2001/02 and usually take two years to complete. As such, figures for first degree students with a prior foundation degree qualification are only available from 2002/03.

[1] Covers students who are participating in (a) work and further study and (b) further study only, based on their situation six months after obtaining their qualification. Not all students provide information of their destination, for instance, the response rate to the questionnaire from foundation degree qualifiers was 70 per cent. for the 2004/05 academic year.

Note:
Figures have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)—First Destinations Supplement (FDS) 1994/95 to 2001/02 and the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey (DLHE) 2002/03 to 2004/05.

Departments: Data Protection

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many times his Department was found to have been in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139210]

Mr. Dhanda: In the last five years, the Information Commissioner has considered my Department in breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 on two occasions, in 2003 and in 2005. In each case, remedial action was taken and the commissioner did not take matters further.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143894]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is set out in the following table.

	Temporary		*Permanent*	
	part-time	*full-time*	*part-time*	*full-time*
2004				
Male	—	31	3	52
Female	2	41	16	66
55 and over	—	2	—	4
2005				
Male	1	29	1	84
Female	2	39	10	82
55 and over	—	1	1	10
2006				
Male	—	7	1	39
Female	—	15	6	45
55 and over	—	—	—	3

The Department does not hold details of the total numbers of people granted a contract of employment during the years in question who declared a disability.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143911]

Mr. Dhanda: The information is set out in the following table:

	Percentage
Male	43
Female	57
Declared disability	5
Aged 55 or over	12

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of post-16 students in each local education authority area are in receipt of education maintenance allowance, broken down by those attending *(a)* grammar schools, *(b)* secondary modern schools, *(c)* comprehensive schools, *(d)* sixth form colleges and *(e)* further education colleges. [140448]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to the hon.

Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in Warrington claimed education maintenance allowance in each year since it was introduced, broken down by ward of residence. [141017]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) for the DfES and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 19 June 2007:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 141017 that asked; "How many students in Warrington claimed Education Maintenance Allowance in each year since it was introduced, broken down by ward of residence."

Information on the number of young people who have applied, enrolled and received Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is available at Local Authority Level, but not at Ward level. EMA take-up is defined as young people who have received one or more EMA payments in the academic year.

EMA take-up for Warrington Local Authority area during each academic year since inception is as follows:

	Number
2004/05	726
2005/06	1,332
2006/07	[1]1,666

[1] To end of May

EMA Take up data showing the number of young people who have received one or more EMA payments during 2004/05, 2005/06 and to date in 2006/07 is now also available on the LSC website, at the following address:

http://wwwlsc.gov.uk/providers/Data/statistics/learner/EMA_take_up.htm

I hope you find this information useful.

Extended Schools

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the Train to Gain level 3 pilots in the North West. [142435]

Phil Hope: The Level 3 trials are now operational in three LSC regions including the north west. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but it is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Mark Haysom the LSC's Chief Executive has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 19 June 2007:

I have been asked by the Secretary of State for Education and Skills to respond to questions you posed regarding what evidence is collected on the performance of Train to Gain skills brokers, what assessment has been made of the satisfaction levels of those using such brokerage services, Level 3 Trials and any assessment that has been made in the north west.

Train to Gain: evidence collected on performance and satisfaction levels

The performance of Train to Gain skills brokers against set targets is monitored and reported on a monthly basis. Monthly management information evidence includes employer engagement, employer size, sector data; skills broker referral destinations; earner profile, and employer satisfaction with the service provided by skills brokers. Performance against these targets has been reported each month since April 2006 and the information is used to manage the skills brokerage contractors.

An independent survey of the skills brokerage service has been in place since the launch of Train to Gain to in April 2006. The survey measures employers' satisfaction levels with the independence, impartiality and responsiveness of the skills brokerage service. The current national satisfaction level with the service provided by skills brokerage organisations is 85.7 per cent.

Train to Gain: Level 3 Trials

The level 3 trials have been running in the region since August 2006. In the first six months of operation the Trials did not perform well, with negligible learners on programme As a consequence an early assessment of the Trials was carried out with providers within the region.

The assessment of the Trials resulted in the Department for Education and Skills and the Minister for Skills agreeing to allow the LSC to amend the policy. This has reduced policy conflicts that existed between mainstream further education and the trials.

The LSC spent the early part of 2007 working with providers and skills brokers to both re-contract and communicate the policy changes. The changes are now implemented and the leaner numbers in all trial regions are increasing steadily month on month.

Performance is still lower than we had anticipated but monitoring and further research is ongoing to ensure that issues relating to performance are understood.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of pupils gained five A* to C grades at GCSE including English and mathematics in schools with *(a)* fewer than 1,000 pupils, *(b)* 1,000 to 1,500 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,500 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [142503]

Jim Knight: The information requested is available in the 2006 Secondary School Achievement and Attainment Tables which are available in the House Library.

Hearing Impaired: Sign Language

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what programmes are in place to assist those with impaired hearing to develop basic lip reading and sign language skills. [143052]

Mr. Dhanda: Lip reading and sign language courses are offered through LSC-funded further education provision and are funded in exactly the same way as other vocational courses. In the 2005/06 academic year, 20,607 learners enrolled on LSC-funded lip reading and sign language courses (20,092 on sign language courses and 515 on lip reading courses.)

The majority of the cost of learning is supported by public funds, but the learner is also expected to contribute to the cost of their learning, unless certain

conditions apply: for example, learners on income-related benefits are eligible for fee remission, as are learners aged 16 to 18 years; and individual providers may choose to waive a full fee or charge a reduced fee. In 2004/05 lip reading classes were free to more than 80 per cent. of learners either as a result of national policy or at the discretion of the provider.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will classify the teaching of lip reading and sign language as a basic skill for those with impaired hearing. [143176]

Mr. Dhanda: We recognise the importance of lip reading and sign language for the deaf and hard of hearing. Lip reading and sign language are eligible for LSC funding but do not form part of the Government's "Skills for Life" definition of provision commonly referred to as 'basic skills' as they are not mapped to the national literacy and numeracy standards.

The majority of the cost of learning is supported by public funds, but the learner is also expected to contribute to the cost unless certain conditions apply: for example, learners on income-related benefits are eligible for fee remission, as are learners aged 16 to 18 years; and individual providers may choose to waive a full fee or charge a reduced fee. Some providers also have 'access funds' that they are able to make available to individuals to help with the costs of a course. In 2004/05 lip reading classes were free to more than 80 per cent. of learners either as a result of national policy or at the discretion of the provider.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many people with impaired hearing in Copeland receive free basic skills training in lip reading and sign language. [143178]

Mr. Dhanda: In the 2005/06 academic year, 20,607 learners in England enrolled on LSC-funded lip reading and sign language courses (20,092 on sign language courses and 515 on lip reading courses.) In the Copeland constituency in the same period, 12 learners enrolled on sign language courses and none on lip reading courses. Of the 12 learners enrolled on sign language courses, none were recorded as having impaired hearing.

Higher Education: Admissions

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent assessment his Department has made of the progress made towards meeting the target of 50 per cent. participation in higher education by 2010. [127772]

Bill Rammell: The PSA target is to increase participation in higher education towards 50 per cent. of those aged 18 to 30. The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figures are shown in the table.

Higher education initial participation rate for 17 to 30-year-olds

	HEIPR (Percentage)	*Number of initial participants*
1999/2000	39 (39.3)	239,000
2000/01	40 (39.7)	239,000
2001/02	40 (40.2)	244,000
2002/03	41 (41.2)	255,000
2003/04	40 (40.3)	257,000
2004/05	41 (41.3)	268,000

Notes:
1. The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time.
2. Numbers are quoted to the nearest thousand.
Source:
"Methodological Revisions to the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR)", published by DfES.

These figures show that the higher education initial participation rate has increased by 2 percentage points between 1999/2000 and 2004/05, representing 29,000 additional initial participants over the period.

The HEIPR figure for 2005/06 was released in a Statistical First Release on 27 March 2007.

In the face of significant and ongoing growth in the key age-groups in the underlying population, further progress will be similarly challenging. Still, the funded places provided to the Higher Education Funding Council allow for some growth in the participation rate. In addition, demand for higher education remains strong. Figures from UCAS show that the number of applicants from England accepted onto UK higher education courses starting in 2005 increased by 8.9 per cent. in comparison to 2004 (301,798 in 2005 against 277,079 in 2004). In 2006, the number of accepted applicants from England fell by 4.2 per cent. compared to 2005, but this was still up by 4.4 per cent. compared to 2004. The latest figures for 2007 entry (showing the position as at mid-January, which normally represents around 75 per cent. of the final total) show there has been a large increase in applicants from England (up by 7.1 per cent. compared to 2006, and also slightly up by 2.4 per cent. compared to 2005). These figures suggest that more progress on this target is possible.

Truancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of half days were missed as a result of unauthorised absence in schools with *(a)* fewer than 1,000 pupils, *(b)* 1,000 to 1,500 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,500 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available. [142505]

Jim Knight: The information requested is available in the 2006 Achievement and Attainment Tables which are available in the House Libraries.

Vocational Education: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what support is available in addition to educational maintenance allowances for those 16-19 trainees who require assistance with accommodation and other living expenses. [139288]

Phil Hope: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council, who operate learner support schemes for 16 to 19-year-olds on behalf of the DfES. Mark Haysom, the Council's Chief Executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 June 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent Parliamentary Question that asked, "What support is available to those 16-19 trainees, in addition to Education Maintenance Allowances, who require assistance with accommodation and other living expenses?"

There are a number of other Learner Support Schemes from which a young person can access financial support. Aside from Education Maintenance Allowance; a young person may be eligible to receive financial assistance with accommodation and living expenses from the Residential Support Scheme and the Discretionary Learner Support Fund (DLSF).

The Further Education Residential Support Scheme enables learners to access education that is not available within reasonable daily travelling distance of the learner's home address. The scheme will pay for residential accommodation and can also help with the associated travelling costs of living away from home.

DLSF are available to students who are experiencing financial hardship. Unlike an EMA this is not a weekly allowance but it does provide financial help via a system of one-off payments for students with particular needs.

Funds are held locally and allocated on a discretionary basis. DLSFs can help with the costs of transport, childcare, residential lodgings and course related costs such as books, materials and equipment. It is also available for domestic emergencies. It does not have an income threshold but it is aimed, specifically, at those in greatest need; because of this it is usually income tested in some way.

Whilst the LSC provides LSF funding, it is administered by a young person's Learning Provider or Local Authorities (LAs). It is for these organisations to decide their own policies in respect of the distribution of DLSFs and to defend these policies locally. Learners should contact their Learning Provider to find out whether they are eligible.

I hope that you find this information addresses your question.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Arm's Length Management Organisation

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many local authorities have *(a)* completed and *(b)* are planning to complete a large scale voluntary transfer; and how many have (i) set up and (ii) are planning to set up an arm's length management organisation; [142350]

(2) how many local authorities which have not yet carried out a large scale voluntary transfer or set up an arm's length management organisation (ALMO) have chosen as their current preferred option for housing *(a)* retention, *(b)* transfer, *(c)* an ALMO, *(d)* a private finance initiative and *(e)* a mix of those options; and how many have no option formally signed off. [142351]

Yvette Cooper: The 354 district level and unitary authorities have undertaken or are undertaking the following:

	Delivery route fully established (LSVT complete; ALMO with funding; PFI contract signed)	*Delivery route in development*
Large Scale Voluntary Transfer	148	32
Arms Length Management Organisation	40	11
Retention	[1]103	—
Mixed[2]	14	6

[1] Only one authority has not yet had an Options Appraisal signed off.

[2] Includes one or more of the delivery routes some of which include HRA-PFI, only considered fully established when all delivery routes are funded).

Of the 20 local authorities undertaking a mixed model approach which covers two or more of the options; five have completed an LSVT and 10 are pursuing this option, 12 have established an ALMO and three are developing one and four are continuing to manage some part of their stock directly.

There are 14 local authorities with HRA PFI schemes, several have more than one scheme at different stages of development; there are 12 signed HRA PFI contracts in 10 local authorities and a further 10 proposals in nine local authorities.

Children: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of East Sussex's services for children with disabilities. [141887]

Mr. Dhanda: I have been asked to reply.

Ofsted with other inspectorates are currently undertaking a joint area review of children's services in East Sussex, which will report in the autumn.

This will include making a judgment and reporting specifically on services for children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The high-level annual performance assessment of local authority children's services undertaken by Ofsted, with, until 2006, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, does not make a scored judgment specifically on services for such children. However, it considers such services in reaching a judgment on the council's overall performance on children's services. The letter summarising the 2006 annual performance assessment of East Sussex, issued by the two inspectorates on 1 November 2006, notes as a key strength the family support service for children with disabilities.

Council Tax: Valuation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on Valuation Office: contracts, for what reasons the contract with Rightmove does not seek to collect data from Wales. [143456]

Mr. Woolas: The contract with Rightmove was entered into to support work in preparation for the (now postponed) council tax revaluation in England.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much has been spent by *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* Ordnance Survey on the National Spatial Address Infrastructure. [143459]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government and its predecessors spent approximately £50,000 in support of the National Spatial Address Infrastructure (NSAI). Ordnance Survey's external expenditure on NSAI totals £98,000.

In addition, both organisations invested significant management time in the initiative, but the time spent by individual members of staff is not separately identifiable.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many appeals were forecast to arise by the Valuation Office Agency in relation to the 2005 business rates revaluation. [143502]

Mr. Woolas: The Valuation Office Agency made no specific forecast.

Electric Cables: Health Hazards

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report,* column 292W, on electric cables: health hazards, if she will publish the advice which she sought from the Health Protection Agency; and if she will make a statement; [144088]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report,* columns 291-92W, on electric cables: health hazards, when the Government plan to respond to the report by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on extremely low frequency waves and electric magnetic fields. [144091]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply

The recently published report from the stakeholder advisory group on extremely low frequency electric and magnetic fields, known as the SAGE report, is currently under consideration by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). The Government have asked HPA for advice concerning the report's recommendations. This advice will be published once Ministers have had the opportunity to consider it.

Energy: Conservation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Government will consider the merits of publishing a low carbon milestone document to ensure that policies on housing plans and energy initiatives are co-ordinated following the publication of the Energy White Paper. [143867]

Yvette Cooper: The Government's strategy to move towards a low carbon economy are set out in the Energy White Paper, which explains how the domestic sector and planned new housing will play their part in meeting our climate change objectives. The Climate Change Bill will establish legally binding carbon budgets and targets to help this country meet its commitment to tackle climate change. The Government are also consulting on a timetable for zero carbon homes within 10 years.

Family Intervention Project

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Family Intervention Project. [143422]

Meg Munn: In 2004 Communities and Local Government commissioned a two year evaluation of six Intensive Family Support Projects which pioneered new ways of working with families at risk of eviction as a result of antisocial behaviour. The evaluation found that in more than eight out of ten families (85 per cent.), at the point at which they exited the projects, complaints about antisocial behaviour had ceased or reduced and tenancies were stabilised resulting in a reduction in the risk of homelessness. Two further pieces of research have been commissioned. One will track a sample of families who worked with the six Intensive Family Support Projects and the other will be on the study that helped inform roll-out of the 53 Family Intervention Projects which the Government announced in April. The findings of both studies (in the case of the second piece, the first stage of the project) will be published later in the year.

Fire Services: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Fire Service Emergency Cover risk assessment and response toolkit system is compatible with the software to be used in the regional fire control centres. [142952]

Angela E. Smith: The Risk Management Toolkit and Optimal Resource Location tool specified for the Regional Control Centres will use the same data, algorithms and techniques as the Fire Service Emergency Cover toolkit. The software will have a similar look and characteristics.

Fire Services: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many operational fire control room staff are employed in each brigade emergency fire control room, broken down by region; and what her latest estimate is for planning purposes of the number to be employed in operational roles in each regional fire control centre. [142955]

Angela E. Smith: The following table gives by region, the number of staff we expect will be employed in the each Regional Control Centre (RCC) and the number of staff currently employed in control rooms. The numbers include control room operators as well as data and gazetteer specialists and operational managers. These numbers have been used to calculate the costs in the

latest version of the business case published on 14 June. The assumptions in the business case are kept under review. The actual number of staff employed by each RCC will be for the RCC Company to determine. We expect fewer staff to be employed in the RCC network than at present. Fire and Rescue Authorities are encouraged to look for other jobs for staff who will not transfer to the RCCs. The Department will meet the reasonable costs of retaining these control room staff.

	Current FRS control rooms 05/06	*Planned RCC numbers*
East Midlands	125	81
East of England	147	85
London	112	114
North West	200	103
North East	107	76
South East	266	93
South West	155	85
West Midlands	150	91
Yorkshire and Humberside	143	86
Total	1405.0	814

Note:
All numbers are in terms of full-time equivalents

Housing: Eco-towns

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individual dwellings are planned to be built under the plans for five eco-villages; what total public funding is planned to be provided by central Government for those plans; and where they will be built. [143469]

Yvette Cooper: Decisions about plans for eco-towns, including potential funding support, more detailed criteria, and potential locations (making use where possible of brownfield land) will be set out in due course.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the construction of five eco villages. [143641]

Yvette Cooper: Further information about plans for eco-towns will be set out in due course.

Housing: Energy

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to remedy the two million properties that the English House Condition Survey 2005 identifies as having an energy efficiency rating below SAP 30. [143693]

Yvette Cooper: Existing policies and programmes have seen the proportion of homes with an energy efficiency rating of SAP30 or below fall from 17 per cent. of the total housing stock in 1996 to 10 per cent. (2.2 million homes) in 2005.

Programmes such as Warm Front, Decent Homes and the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC) continue to deliver energy efficiency improvements in homes. Over the period from 1996 to 2005, there has been a doubling of the number of properties with insulated cavity walls and a 19 per cent. rise in the number of homes using gas central heating.

We are currently consulting on proposals for a new Carbon Emissions Reduction Target that would double the activity under the existing EEC programme from 2008-11.

Housing: Environment Protection

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what procedure will be followed to determine the location of the eco-homes announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. [144051]

Yvette Cooper: Our planning system has a plan-led approach with development plans and policies at both local and regional level on which the public is consulted, and which then provide a framework for assessing individual planning applications. We expect our national planning policies, including on housing and tackling climate change, to be taken into account in the preparation of these plans and they may also be material to decisions on individual planning applications. We will set out further information on eco-towns in due course.

Housing: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to regenerate housing in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [143425]

Yvette Cooper: Planning Policy Statement 3 on Housing encourages local authorities to achieve a wide choice of high quality homes, to widen opportunities for home ownership, to improve affordability and to create sustainable communities. The Local Government White Paper places emphasis on the need to focus on place shaping and we are working with a wide variety of partners nationally and in the North East region to achieve this.

Middlesbrough borough council and Redcar and Cleveland borough council are currently completing, with other partners, a costed and prioritised Tees Valley Sub-regional Housing Strategy which will form the basis of the next round of Government funding through the Single Housing Investment Pot (SHIP) of the North East Housing Board. The Tees Valley authorities have banded together to form Tees Valley Living which act as a strategic co-ordinating group for housing and regeneration activities.

Both Middlesbrough BC and Redcar and Cleveland have 'fit for purpose' housing strategies in place and both are working to address the key housing priorities which include tackling housing market failure; improving the condition of housing stock by meeting the decent homes standard; providing appropriate supported and specialist housing and ensuring the provision of suitable and sufficient affordable housing in the future.

Social housing stock in Middlesbrough is now managed by Erimus Housing Association and in Redcar and Cleveland by Coast and Country Housing. Both of these RSL', together with others operating in the area are well on track to meet the 2010 target for achieving Decent Homes status.

Housing: Migration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate she has made of future net migration for the purpose of formulating household projections; and what her most recent estimate is of household formation attributable to net migration between 2004 and 2026. [137282]

Yvette Cooper: The '2004-based' household projections for England are derived from the Office for National Statistics' population projections.

The 2004 based household projections show that the biggest factor is more people living alone and net migration accounts for 73,000 (33 per cent.) of the 223,000 annual household growth between 2004 and 2026.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations *(a)* she and *(b)* her predecessor responsible for housing policy received on the impact of section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 on the willingness of tenants to complain to private landlords about the condition of privately rented accommodation. [143310]

Yvette Cooper: Only one representation has been received requesting a meeting to discuss the impact of Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 on the willingness of tenants to complain to private landlords over the condition of privately rented accommodation. A meeting was subsequently arranged with my hon. Friend the Member for Crosby (Mrs. Curtis-Thomas) and representatives from the Citizens' Advice Bureau to discuss a Bureau report which explores this issue.

Tenants have a right to request that their landlord carries out repairs for which he or she is responsible under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 and we condemn any landlord who would evict their tenants for exercising their statutory rights.

Non-Domestic Rates

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the net yield from business rates was in each local authority in England in 2006-07; [143482]

(2) what the average business rates cost was in each local authority in England in 2006-07. [143495]

Mr. Woolas: A table giving details of both the net yield from business rates and the average business rate in each local authority in England, in 2006-07, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Planning Permission: Green Belt

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Green Belt areas in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* the South West of England received permission for development in 2006-07 as a result of appeals allowed by (i) planning inspectors and (ii) her. [142685]

Yvette Cooper: The number of appeals in the Green Belt during the period from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 which have been allowed and, for contextual purposes, dismissed, can be seen as follows:

Decisions taken by Planning Inspectors

	Allowed	*Dismissed*	*Total*
South West	51	144	195
South East	15	43	58
Total	66	187	253

Decisions taken by the Secretary of State

	Allowed	*Dismissed*	*Total*
South West	0	0	0
South East	1	1	2
Total	1	1	2

Smoking: Public Places

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's most recent estimate is of the cost of the public smoking ban to local authorities in England; and what funding is being provided to councils. [143540]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The anticipated costs and benefits of smoke-free legislation is set out in the Departments final Regulatory Impact Assessment published in December 2006. Copies are available in the Library.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1698W, for details on funding for local authorities.

The Government provide funding for local authorities' new responsibilities to build compliance and, where necessary, enforce smokefree legislation under the principles of the New Burdens Doctrine by way of a non-ringfenced grant. The grant has been made in line with the Government's commitment to provide freedom for local authorities in the allocation of their budgets.

South East Plan

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the panel to report on the Examination in Public of the South East Plan. [144050]

Meg Munn: The Panel Report is due to be submitted to Government on 31 July 2007. In line with Planning Policy Statement 11 it will be published as soon as practicable following that date.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable is to be followed in finalising the South East Plan; and if she will make a statement. [144052]

Meg Munn: Guidance on the timetable for finalising the Regional Spatial Strategy (The South East Plan) is set out in Planning Policy Statement 11.

The Panel are due to hand their report to Government on 31 July 2007, the report will be published as soon as practicable following that date.

Any proposed changes arising from the Panel Report will be published and available for consultation later in the year.

To pre-empt the outcome of the Panel Report by making a statement at this time would not be appropriate.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on the Valuation Office: contracts, what the expected expenditure is on the Data Capture/Other Operating Costs for the remaining duration of the current Rightmove contract. [141758]

Ruth Kelly: The Valuation Office Agency's published Annual Reports and Accounts for 2005-06 and 2006-07 show expenditure to date, net of recoverable VAT. Any anticipated future expenditure cannot be released into the public domain, as this would prejudice the commercial interests of both the VOA and Rightmove.co.uk plc.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Child Support Agency (CSA) Office in Bolton to respond to the enquiry raised by the hon. Member for Aylesbury with the CSA MPs' hotline about the case of Mr. C.D. of Princes Risborough (case reference 2597287282) on 25 May; and if he will make a statement. [142219]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 20 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Child Support Agency office in Bolton to respond to the enquiry raised by the hon. Member of Aylesbury with the Agency Member of Parliament hotline about the case of Mr C.D of Princes Risborough on 25 May; and if he will make a statement. [142219]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in how many of the cases administered by the Child Support Agency *(a)* the parent with care and *(b)* the non-resident parent falls into each income decile. [143038]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Children: Poverty

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of children living in families with incomes below 60 per cent. of median earnings were living in lone parent households in each year since 1997. [143585]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Specific information regarding low income for the United Kingdom is available in "Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised)". The report uses 60 per cent. of median income (rather than earnings) as the low income threshold. This threshold is the internationally recognised measure of poverty.

The available information is in the following table.

Number and percentage of children living in households below 60 per cent. of median income that were living in lone parent households: Before housing costs

Year	*Number (millions)*	*Percentage*
1996-97	1.3	39
1997-98	1.4	40
1998-99	1.3	40
1999-2000	1.4	43
2000-01	1.3	43
2001-02	1.3	43
2002-03	1.3	43
2003-04	1.2	42
2004-05	1.2	43
2005-06	1.1	40

Notes:
1. The information shown is for Great Britain up to 2001-02 and for the United Kingdom for 2002-03 onwards.
2. The information is based on OECD equivalisation factors and will therefore not be the same as any figures previously published that were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Source:
Family Resources Survey

Departments: Energy

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answers of 14 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 370W on Departments: Energy, and of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1686-87W on Departments: Renewable Energy and 125398, for what reason different figures were given for the proportion of electricity sourced by his Department from renewable sources in 2005-06. [142395]

Mrs. McGuire: The figures used in the answer of 14 March reported that 206,087,269 kilowatt hours, representing 63 per cent. of the Departments energy came from renewable resources. This figure included that element of 'green' energy that is supplied from good quality combined heat and power, which whilst sustainable, does not meet the criteria for renewable energy. This combined figure for 'green' energy is used internally to highlight the decreasing use of standard "brown" electricity and was therefore used inadvertently.

For 2005-06 the Department used 175,174,178 kilowatt hours of energy acquired from renewable sources—accounting for 53.5 per cent. of the total electricity

consumption. The remaining 30,913,091 kilowatt hours of 'green' energy was supplied from good quality combined heat and power.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff funded by the public purse in his Department are classified as people without posts; [137666]

(2) how many staff funded by the public purse in the *(a)* Appeals Service and *(b)* Child Support Agency are classified as people without posts; [142193]

(3) how many staff funded by the public purse in *(a)* the Disability and Carers Service, *(b)* Jobcentre Plus and *(c)* the Pension Service are classified as people without posts. [142202]

Mrs. McGuire: Currently there are 13 members of staff who, for exceptional reasons, are recorded by the Department's systems as being paid but not undertaking either permanent or temporary work. This figure represents 0.01 per cent. of the total staff in the Department.

The Department's surplus management procedures operate to ensure that wherever possible staff who become surplus are provided with temporary work until they are redeployed or leave the Department including under management approved release schemes.

The distribution of these staff is shown in the following table.

Business area	*Number of staff*
Child Support Agency	3
Disability and Carers Service	[1]—
Jobcentre Plus	[1]—
The Pension Service	9
Departmental corporate units	1
Departmental total	13

[1] None.

The Appeals Service transferred to the Department for Constitutional Affairs on 1 April 2006.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British sign language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142502]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP does not currently provide BSL videos on its departmental website and we have made only informal assessment of its merit.

The Department's Standard for Accessible Written Information, based on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 requires reasonable adjustment to be made when meeting requests for alternative formats. This means that DWP does not have to make everything available in every accessible format where to do so would involve excessive cost or significant practical problems.

We have provided information products in BSL on DVD or video; however we have to evaluate its cost effectiveness on a case-by-case basis.

We recently looked at the accessibility of information to disabled people across all channels. We are now working to a defined set of standards, and will keep these under review.

Disadvantaged: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has approved proposed contracts for the use of deprived area funding for 2007-08 in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde Jobcentre Plus districts. [142826]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 20 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question concerning the approval of proposed contracts for the use of Deprived Area Funding for 2007/08 in the Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde Jobcentre Plus Districts. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

I can confirm that a contract has been awarded for Lanarkshire with an effective start-date of 4 June 2007. The contract for Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde is currently out to tender with a deadline of 15 June 2007 for prospective bids.

I hope this is helpful.

Employment Services: Scotland

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account was taken of Government policy on good procurement practice in respect of length of contract terms for contracts with employment service providers when the contracts proposed for deprived area funding in Lanarkshire and Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde were agreed. [143002]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 20 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what account was taken of Government policy on good procurement practice in respect of the length of contract terms for contracts with employment service providers when the contracts proposed for Deprived Area Funding in the Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde Jobcentre Plus Districts were agreed. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

I can confirm that the contracts follow procurement rules laid down by the Department for Work and Pensions, which fully comply with Government policy on good procurement practice.

I hope this is helpful.

Housing Benefit: Harrow

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants will be able to opt-out of voice risk analysis when making a claim for housing benefit or council tax benefit to Harrow council. [140596]

Mr. Plaskitt: Voice stress analysis is not currently being used to risk assess new claims to housing benefit and council tax benefit at Harrow council. It is being used in phone calls relating to changes of circumstances. All callers are made aware of this at the start of the call and then have the option of whether or not to continue the call.

Incapacity Benefit: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of incapacity benefit there are in Wimbledon. [143135]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 June 2007]:* At November 2006 there were 1,730 claimants of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance in the Wimbledon parliamentary constituency.

Jobcentre Plus: Chard

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the levels of deprivation in the wards served by the Job Centre in Chard, Somerset. [143619]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Information on levels of poverty is not available below the level of Government Office Region.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many telephone calls to Jobcentre Plus contact centres were *(a)* engaged and *(b)* lost (i) across the call centre network and (ii) to each call centre in each of the last 12 months. [140395]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 4 June 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 20 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many telephone calls to Jobcentre Plus Contact Centres were engaged and lost across the call centre network and to each call centre in each of the last 12 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

When a customer calls a Jobcentre Plus Contact Centre, they are placed into a queue either until the call is answered or they choose to abandon the call. Customers do not get an engaged tone.

We collate data by the type of service the customer calls and each Contact Centre deals with one or a mixture of the following services:

First Contact: for customers making a new or repeat claim to benefit.

Jobseeker Direct: for jobseeker to enquire about and place applications for advertised vacancies.

Employer Direct: for employers to post vacancies using our facilities.

National Benefit Fraud Hotline: for anyone to report alleged benefit theft.

NINO: for anyone wishing to apply for a National Insurance Number.

The national statistics across these service lines for the 12 months ending April 2007 are set out in the attached tables. Copies of which have been placed in the House of Commons library.

These figures are against 2006/07 targets of 90% of calls answered for First Contact and Jobseeker Direct. The target for calls answered for Employer Direct, National Benefit Fraud Hotline and NINO was 95%.

I Hope this is helpful.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of new deal claimants returned to jobseeker's allowance *(a)* between six months and 12 months and *(b)* after 12 months after leaving the programme in each year since 1998. [140588]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New deal, returners to jobseeker's allowance (JSA)

		Returned to JSA between six and 12 months from date of leaving new deal		*Returned to JSA more than 12 months from date of leaving new deal*	
	Number of leavers	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998	94,900	17,700	19	41,210	43
1999	323,160	68,920	21	132,320	41
2000	337,790	73,860	22	134,300	40
2001	296,500	66,270	22	111,110	37
2002	280,370	63,780	23	96,330	34
2003	290,370	65,300	22	90,970	31
2004	275,190	63,640	23	66,230	24
2005	253,240	54,040	21	24,670	10

Notes

1. Information is based on all leavers from all new deal programmes who were claiming JSA when they started the programme.
2. The number and percentage of people returning to JSA more than 12 months after leaving new deal is based on latest available JSA data to November 2006. As more up-to-date JSA data becomes available, numbers are likely to rise.
3. If a person has two separate JSA periods, one between six and 12 months after leaving new deal, and one more than 12 months after leaving new deal, only the JSA period between six and 12 months is included in the table.
4. Latest complete year data is for 2005.

Source:

Information Directorate, DWP.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 809W, (1) on jobseeker's allowance, what proportion of jobseeker's allowance claims were processed in *(a)* one to 21 working days and *(b)* more than 22 working days in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) each of the last 24 months; [143133]

(2) on incapacity benefit, what proportion of incapacity benefit claims were processed in *(a)* one to

21 working days, *(b)* more than 22 working days, *(c)* more than 41 working days and *(d)* one to 40 working days in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) each of the last 24 months. [143136]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answers 15 June 2007]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 19 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about the proportion of Jobseeker's Allowance claims processed in one to 21 working days and more than 22 working days in each of the last five years and each of the last 24 months, and the proportion of Incapacity Benefit claims processed in one to 21 working days, more than 22 working days, more than 41 working days and one to 40 working days in each of the last five years and each of the last 24 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

The information is not available in the format requested. The information that is available is contained in the following tables.

Jobseeker's allowance, percentage of claims processed from April 2006 to May2007

	Percentage of jobseeker's allowance claims processed in:	
	One to 21 days	*22 days and over*
2006		
April	81.2	18.8
May	79.9	20.1
June	81.0	19.0
July	82.9	17.1
August	80.6	19.4
September	82.1	17.9
October	83.0	17.0
November	84.3	15.7
December	86.7	13.3
2007		
January	87.6	12.4
February	86.6	13.4
March	87.6	12.4
April	88.7	11.3
May	88.2	11.8

Incapacity benefit, percentage of claims processed from April 2006 to May 2007

	Percentage of incapacity benefit claims processed in:			
	One to 10 days	*11 days and over*	*One to 40 days*	*41 days and over*
2006				
April	51.0	49.0	91.3	8.7
May	49.1	50.9	90.9	9.1
June	48.1	51.9	91.0	9.0
July	51.3	48.7	91.3	8.7
August	52.2	47.8	91.5	8.5
September	51.9	48.1	92.8	7.2
October	54.9	45.1	92.6	7.4
November	56.3	43.7	92.8	7.2
December	58.7	41.3	93.6	6.4

Incapacity benefit, percentage of claims processed from April 2006 to May 2007

	Percentage of incapacity benefit claims processed in:			
	One to 10 days	*11 days and over*	*One to 40 days*	*41 days and over*
2007				
January	54.1	45.9	91.8	8.2
February	59.4	40.6	92.3	7.7
March	61.6	38.4	93.3	6.7
April	60.6	39.4	92.9	7.1
May	59.9	40.1	93.1	6.9

We cannot identify the proportion of Incapacity Benefit claims processed in one to 21 working days or in more than 22 working days. In addition, we cannot identify the proportion of Jobseeker's Allowance or Incapacity Benefit claims processed in specific time bands for any period before April 2006.

Lone Parents: Social Security Benefits

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Lancashire constituency were registered for lone parents' benefit in the financial year ending March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [143533]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

Lone parents in receipt of income support

	West Lancashire parliamentary constituency
November 1997	1,700
November 2006	1,210

Notes:
1. Latest available data are for November 2006.
2. For comparative purposes, earlier data have been provided for November rather than March 1997.
3. Data sources have changed over time; 1997 data are taken from five per cent. samples, and 2006 data are taken from 100 per cent. samples.
4. Five per cent. data have been rounded to the nearest hundred; 100 per cent. data have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to correct the statistics on second tier provision in 2004-05 following the validation of more class one national insurance contributions. [141527]

Mr. Plaskitt: The DWP are due to receive updated data from HMRC about valid class one contributions during July. We will then, under the national statistics protocols, analyse the effect of this update and decide whether a revision of the statistics is appropriate.

The second tier pension provision statistics accurately reflect the information held by HMRC for valid class one national insurance contributions at the time of publication.

New Deal for Disabled People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in the new deal for disabled people were or have been on the

scheme for more than 12 months since July 2001; and how many participants left for employment in each month since July 2001. [137646]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 18 May 2007]:* Up to the end of November 2006, new deal for disabled people (NDDP) had been successful in helping 134,160 people into work, including 101,720 people who had registered with, and received assistance from, NDDP job brokers.

Participants on NDDP can remain on the programme for as long as they need help, and up to November 2006, 142,460 people are recorded as having been on the programme for more than 12 months.

When NDDP participants enter employment, they are not necessarily counted as leavers from the programme as they are entitled to a minimum of twenty-six weeks in-work support from their new deal provider.

Information in the table represents those people who left NDDP but elected to either not access the in-work support element of the programme, or to utilise this only for a short period of time. These participants are therefore the only group that appear under the definition of those leaving directly to employment.

New deal for disabled people

Month	*Number of leavers with a recorded immediate destination of employment*
July 2001	—
August 2001	—
September 2001	—
October 2001	—
November 2001	10
December 2001	10
January 2002	20
February 2002	70
March 2002	140
April 2002	190
May 2002	220
June 2002	160
July 2002	160
August 2002	220
September 2002	270
October 2002	290
November 2002	400
December 2002	340
January 2003	550
February 2003	380
March 2003	510
April 2003	480
May 2003	850
June 2003	550
July 2003	450
August 2003	650
September 2003	590
October 2003	1,330
November 2003	1,080
December 2003	890
January 2004	1,240
February 2004	1,240
March 2004	1,210
April 2004	1,190
May 2004	1,010
June 2004	1,220
July 2004	1,620
August 2004	1,440
September 2004	1,310
October 2004	2,140
November 2004	1,550
December 2004	1,730
January 2005	2,040
February 2005	2,050
March 2005	1,740
April 2005	1,720
May 2005	1,600
June 2005	1,880
July 2005	2,270
August 2005	1,790
September 2005	2,270
October 2005	1,810
November 2005	1,740
December 2005	1,980
January 2006	2,110
February 2006	2,250
March 2006	2,470

Notes:
1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Latest data relate to the end of November 2006. A comparison between leavers to employment before and after April 2007 is not valid because of a change in the way data is collected on sustained employment.
3. New deal for disabled people was introduced in July 2001.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people registered with the new deal for disabled people in each year since 2001. [142538]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information is in the following table.

New deal for disabled people

	Number of people registering with a job broker
2001	5,810
2002	24,620
2003	30,710
2004	49,100
2005	59,510
2006	63,050

Notes:
1. Data for 2001 are from July 2001 when the programme began.
2. Latest complete year data is to December 2006.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people entered *(a)* employment and *(b)* sustainable employment from the New Deal for Disabled People in each year since 2001. [142545]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 13 June 2007]:* The information is in the following table.

New Deal for Disabled People

	People gaining a job[1]	*Of which, gained a sustained job*[2]
2001[3]	1,000	910
2002	8,190	5,260

New Deal for Disabled People

	People gaining a job[1]	*Of which, gained a sustained job*[2]
2003	16,240	9,550
2004	29,520	18,120
2005	37,750	20,630

[1]. Includes people gaining a job through an NDDP Job Broker and those who are also registered with an NDDP Job Broker but who gain a job through a Jobcentre Plus Adviser.
[2]. Only includes those gaining work through an NDDP Job Broker as a sustainability measure is only available from jobs obtained through an NDDP Job Broker.
[3]. Data are from July 2001.

Notes:
1. Latest complete year data is for 2005.
2. An NDDP job is regarded as sustained when a person who has been placed into work through an NDDP Job Broker remains in work for 13 out of 39 weeks. Prior to October 2003, an NDDP job was regarded as sustained when a person, placed into work through an NDDP Job Broker, remained in work for 26 out of 39 weeks.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal for Partners

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants of the new deal for partners left the scheme for employment in each month since 1998; and how many returned to benefit within six months of having left the new deal. [141113]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 7 June 2007]*: The latest available information is in the following table.

Information on leavers from new deal for partners is only available from May 2004.

This is the earliest date from which information has been collected centrally.

Month of leaving new deal for partners (NDP)	*Number of participants leaving NDP to employment*	*Number returning to benefit within six months of leaving NDP*
May 2004	10	0
June 2004	20	0
July 2004	10	0
August 2004	20	0
September 2004	40	0
October 2004	30	0
November 2004	40	0
December 2004	30	10
January 2005	30	10
February 2005	30	0
March 2005	60	10
April 2005	40	0
May 2005	40	10
June 2005	60	0
July 2005	50	0
August 2005	50	10
September 2005	40	0
October 2005	50	0
November 2005	50	0
December 2005	20	0
January 2006	40	0
February 2006	30	0
March 2006	30	0
April 2006	30	0
May 2006	40	0
June 2006	40	0
July 2006	20	0
August 2006	30	0
September 2006	30	0
October 2006	20	0
November 2006	40	0

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest ten.
2. Destinations are measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using the WPLS.

Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, and the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS)

New Deal for Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of claimants on the new deal for young people left the programme for *(a)* the employment option, *(b)* the environmental taskforce, *(c)* the voluntary section, *(d)* full-time education/training and *(e)* unsubsidised work in each year since 1998. [140587]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested on the new deal for young people (NDYP) employment; environment taskforce; voluntary sector, and full-time education and training options is not available. This is because they are integral parts of NDYP and those participating on these Options are not classified as having left new deal.

Since January 1998 when the programme started, to the end of November 2006, 1,090,270 people had left NDYP, of which 508,650 (47 per cent.) had left to unsubsidised employment.

Information on the numbers of people who have participated on each of the NDYP options, as part of their participation in NDYP, is in the table.

New deal for young people options

Option	*Participants*	
	Number	*Percentage*
Employment option	89,310	17
Voluntary sector option	194,330	38
Environment taskforce option	124,500	24
Full-time education and training option	104,000	20

Notes:
1. Information is from January 1998–November 2006 and may include people who have participated on more than one option.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. The percentages in the tables are the number starting each option as a percentage of the number starting all options.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions New Deal database

New Deal Schemes

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of applicants on each new deal programme were placed in *(a)* unsubsidised and *(b)* subsidised jobs in each region in each quarter since 1998. [140589]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A new deal subsidy is only paid through new deal for young people and new deal 25 plus so all of those placed into work through the other new deals have been placed into unsubsidised employment.

The available information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* participants, *(b)* first-time participants and *(c)* repeat participants there were on each new deal programme in each region in each quarter of each year since 1998. [140597]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Parents: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an assessment of the lessons to be learned for the UK from Swedish practice in parental benefit and early years provision; and if he will make a statement. [142511]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

We are committed to learning from the policies and experiences of other countries, including the Scandinavian nations which have long established, high quality, universal services for young children and families. We also regularly make assessments of international evidence and experiences as part of our research programme.

The UK has participated in a number of OECD reviews that have identified policy and practice and shared learning from a range of member countries including Sweden. Recent published OECD reports include "Starting Strong: Early Childhood Education and Care (2006)" and "Babies and Bosses—Reconciling Work and Family Life (Vol. 4): Canada, Finland, Sweden, United Kingdom (2005)". These reports are available from the OECD website at http://www.oecd.org. We also continue to keep up to date with developments in Sweden in the early childhood area through our participation in the OECD Early Education and Care Network.

We regularly review the wide range of parental leave and pay policies developed by other EU member states, including those of Sweden. Experience from Sweden suggests that despite the long period over which paid parental leave can be taken by either parent, the majority is still taken by mothers during the child's first year, with most fathers taking less than their entitlement. The UK provides a relatively long period of paid maternity leave, and in developing a new entitlement for fathers to take up to six months' additional paternity leave we are focusing available resources on the child's first year. This will give both parents greater choice and flexibility in deciding how to balance work and family commitments, and will fit with the UK's existing statutory leave entitlement and the range of other financial support available for parents.

Personal Savings

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will update figure *(a)* 2.4, *(b)* 2.5, *(c)* 2.6 and *(d)* 2.7 and tables (i) 4.5 and (ii) 6.1 from financial incentives to save for retirement (Research Report No. 403) using the new income tax rates. [141536]

James Purnell: The Department published financial incentives to save for retirement in November 2006, which provided estimates of the payback which can be expected from saving in a private pension for a range of example individuals based on a range of assumptions including those around investment returns and other factors.

These figures have since been updated to take account of the 2007-08 benefit figures, the changes announced in the April 2007 Budget, and our proposals for personal accounts, as set out in the consultation response published on 14 June. The revised figures and tables will be placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants have been *(a)* cautioned, *(b)* asked to return monies and *(c)* brought before the courts for claiming benefits for more than one wife in the last 24 months. [144225]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Welfare to Work

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) when his Department expects to respond to the report by David Freud Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity: Options for the future of Welfare to Work published on 5 March 2007; [140809]

(2) what steps he has taken to promote the opportunity to comment on proposals in the report by David Freud Reducing Dependency, Increasing Opportunity: Options for the future of Welfare to Work among private and voluntary sector welfare to work organisations. [140810]

Mr. Jim Murphy: On 26 March 2007, the Secretary of State invited all stakeholders to send in their views. A number of stakeholder seminars have also taken place to gather views on David Freud's recommendations.

The Government's response to the Freud report will be published in the summer.

TREASURY

Council Tax: Appeals

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure the Valuation Office Agency incurred on legal advice, solicitor fees and barrister fees in relation to council tax appeals before the Valuation Tribunal Service in England and Wales in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [143664]

Dawn Primarolo: During the course of 2006-07 the Valuation Office Agency expended £750 on counsels' fees in relation to council tax appeals before Valuation Tribunals.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Valuation Office Agency maintains data on the capital value of each domestic property in Wales. [142359]

Dawn Primarolo: Yes. In so far as this is required to help it undertake its functions to provide valuation advice under Section 10 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and as part of its duties to compile and maintain the Council Tax Valuation Lists in Wales.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the Valuation Office Agency's internal guidance on using the Property Details Application via its intranet site. [142363]

Dawn Primarolo: The Property Details work aid, which is available on the Valuation Office Agency's intranet site, is internal technical instructions on how to link data in their various computer applications. It is not appropriate to place these documents in the Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many telescopic views the Valuation Office Agency has purchased in the last 36 months; and at what cost. [143651]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency has not purchased any telescopic views in the last 36 months.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what external data sources are used to supplement, compile or validate the Valuation Office Agency's property attribute database for domestic properties, other than its paper-based records. [143749]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1596-97W.

Crown Estate: Electric Cables

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much revenue the Crown Estate collected from charges levied on cables crossing its land in each year since 2004; and how much the Crown Estate charged per kilometre of cable laid *(a)* on the seabed and *(b)* over ground in each year since 2004; [140467]

(2) how much the Crown Estate received in rent from business based in *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland in each of the last three years. [140477]

John Healey: The figures are as follows:

		£000
	2004-05	*2005-06*
Land based cables	1,242	976
Seabed cables	5,454	5,530
Rent from businesses		
Orkney	147	173
Shetland	971	615

Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Under the British Telecom Master Wayleave Agreement, rents for cables are charged as lump sums per year, and are not charged by length.

Crown Estate: Fisheries

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Crown Estate received from rents paid by shellfish farmers in *(a)* Orkney, *(b)* Shetland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* the UK in each of the last three years; [140474]

(2) how much the Crown Estate raised from rents levied on salmon farmers in *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland in each of the last three years. [140475]

John Healey: The figures are as follows:

		£000
	2004-05	*2005-06*
Shellfish Farmers:		
Orkney	3	1
Shetland	31	35
Scotland	96	146
UK	114	171
Salmon Farmers:		
Orkney	129	131
Shetland	899	483

Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Crown Estate: Ports

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much income the Crown Estate received from rents paid for *(a)* marinas and *(b)* piers in each year since 2004. [140468]

John Healey: The figures are as follows:

		£ million
	2004-05	*2005-06*
Marinas	1.6	1.6
Piers	4.1	4.0

Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Crown Estate: Marine Stewardship Programme

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Crown Estate spent on marine stewardship programmes in each year since 2005; [140472]

(2) how much the Crown Estate plans to spend on marine stewardship programmes in the next three financial years; [140473]

(3) how much the Crown Estate raised from charges levied on marinas and piers in *(a)* Orkney and *(b)* Shetland in each of the last two years. [140476]

John Healey: The figures are as follows:

	2005-06 [1] (£000)
Marine Stewardship Programme	656
Marinas:	
Orkney	0
Shetland	1
Piers:	
Orkney	3
Shetland	18

[1] Financial information for 2006-07 is not yet available.

The Crown Estate has committed £750,000 for each of the next three financial years to the Marine Stewardship Programme.

Departments: Africa

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1742W, on Departments: Africa, what the name of the hotel or other accommodation was which he occupied in each location. [139996]

John Healey: The Chancellor stayed locally when he visited Dar Es Salaam, Maputo, Johannesburg and Cape Town. It is not the practice of this or previous Administrations to disclose details of ministerial accommodation.

Departments: Correspondence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with the Cabinet Office on the target of 20 working days for replying to correspondence from hon. Members. [143318]

John Healey: There have been no formal discussions with the Cabinet Office on this target. The Cabinet Office guidance to Departments and agencies provides for a target of replying to correspondence in no more than 20 working days. HM Treasury has adopted a lower target of replying within 15 working days.

Departments: Hotels

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies spent on hotel and other similar privately-provided accommodation (i) in the UK and (ii) abroad in 2006-07. [133438]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Treasury, the Debt Management Office, the Royal Mint, the Office of Government Commerce, and National Savings and Investment do not currently disaggregate hotel accommodation from general subsistence cost records, so the information requested cannot be provided.

The work of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs depends to a large extent on the mobile nature of its staff when tackling and investigating criminal fraud and smuggling, and inspecting the compliance of businesses and individuals with rules related to tax, customs and duties.

Overseas, HMRC officers play a vital role in preventing and intercepting drugs and other illicit goods being trafficked into the UK.

Of necessity, this work cannot be done without incurring significant but essential costs in relation to transport, subsistence and accommodation.

However, in all such areas, the staff of HMRC are subject to strict rules—for example—in terms of the type of transport and accommodation they may use, and the type and amount of subsistence costs they may claim.

In 2006-07, the total expenditure by HMRC on accommodation within the UK was £14.1 million and outside the UK was £376,000.

Where available, figures for other agencies are as follows:

		£000
Agency	*Domestic*	*Overseas £000*
GAD	6.5	15
ONS	713	78
VOA	[1]525	

[1] This figure cannot be separated.

Departments: ICT

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many IT contracts have been put out to competitive tender since 2001 by date; how many companies tendered in each case; and which company won each tender. [143343]

John Healey: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Treasury awards all contracts in accordance with Government procurement rules, which state that all IT contracts in excess of £2,500 should be subject to competition.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff funded by the public purse in *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs, *(b)* Valuation Office Agency, *(c)* Office for National Statistics, *(d)* Royal Mint, *(e)* Office of Government Commerce and OGC Buying Solutions, *(f)* National Savings and Investments and *(g)* UK Debt Management Office are classified as people without posts. [141388]

John Healey: None of these Departments or agencies has any staff classified as without posts.

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143921]

John Healey: HM Treasury's staff makeup as at 1 April 2007 is as follows:

(a) 55 per cent. male

(b) 45 per cent. female

(c) 4 per cent. with declared disability

(d) 5 per cent. aged 55 or over

Departments: Offices

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his private office and *(b)* his Department's press office cost to run in each of the last five years. [132918]

John Healey: Information on the Treasury's administration costs is published in the resource accounts and the departmental report each year, available from http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/about/about_index.cfm The 2006-07 annual report and accounts, combining the two documents, was published on 4 June.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to his Department's Ministers; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141975]

John Healey: I refer to the answer given to the right hon. Member by the Prime Minister on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W, and to my answer to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 1 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1611W.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in each of the last five years for which information is available; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was in each year; and if he will make a statement. [143119]

John Healey: The figures for the Treasury for 2006-07 are set out in the following table. For the earlier years I refer to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 7 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1039W. Bonuses are paid in two circumstances: performance bonuses are those linked to the annual staff appraisal system; special bonuses are those paid to recognise exceptional performance for specific contributions or pieces of work during the year or situations outside the normal expectations of the post.

	2006-07
Performance bonus (£000)	995
Special bonuses (£000)	108
Number of staff	640
Percentage of staff (based on headcount at end of each financial year)	55
Highest amount	14,600

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was received by the Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139325]

John Healey: The income the Treasury has earned from sub-letting space in the 1 Horse Guards Road building is as follows:

Financial year	*Letting income (£000)*
2006-07	1,495
2005-06	658
2004-05	415
2003-04	14
2002-03	0

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate has been made of the value of his Department's property portfolio. [139364]

John Healey: The Treasury's offices at 1 Horse Guards road were valued at £95.87 million as at 31 March 2006.

Departments: Publicity

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139448]

John Healey: Information on the advertising agencies and other organisations that have supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for HM Treasury, National Savings and Investments and the Office for National Statistics is not readily available and could be supplied only at disproportionate cost.

The Royal Mint considers that release of this information could compromise its commercial position.

All the Treasury's other agencies have not used advertising agencies or other organisations supplying consultancy services for advertising campaigns in the last five years.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143786]

John Healey: The Treasury has not procured any services or products from Remploy in the last 12 months.

Departments: Telephone Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many non-geographic telephone numbers are in use by his Department; and what revenue was received from them in each year since 2001. [144538]

John Healey: The Treasury has not used non-geographic telephone numbers.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139901]

John Healey: The information requested is as follows:

Fees for travel services paid by HMT Treasury, including the Debt Management Office

Period	Fees (£)
July 2002-03	35,000
2003-04	60,000
2004-05	86,000
2005-06	123,000
2006-07	91,227

The figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 reflect the higher levels of travel undertaken throughout 2005 as a result of HM Treasury's international commitment during the UK's dual presidencies of the EU and G7.

The information prior to July 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Fees for travel services paid by OGC

Period	Fees (£)
2002-03	0
2003-04	13,433
2004-05	6,571
2005-06	2,792
2006-07	1,583

The information prior to 2002 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

East Riding

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many times he has visited the East Riding of Yorkshire on official Government business in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142145]

John Healey: As a part of his official duties, the Chancellor has made a number of visits to the regions and nations of the United Kingdom over the last 10 years.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many vehicles there were in each band for which Vehicle Excise Duty was paid in the latest period for which figures are available. [140663]

John Healey: The Department for Transport annually publishes vehicle licensing statistics which are broken down into vehicle category. This is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/vehicles/licensing/

The department is planning to publish the latest 2006 statistics towards the end of this month.

Finance: Disadvantaged

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department is taking to promote financial literacy among socially excluded groups. [143859]

Ed Balls: The Government have taken significant steps to promote financial literacy for socially excluded groups. For example, in November 2006, the Department for Education and Skills revised the Sure Start Children's Centre good practice guidance to encourage Children's Centres to offer more financial education for parents. The Government also promotes financial skills for adults with poor literacy and numeracy through its 'Skills for Life' strategy and through the National Reducing Re-offending Delivery Plan, which has a commitment to address financial literacy for offenders.

Integrating financial literacy across a range of public services, particularly those aimed at the most vulnerable, is one of the Government's long term aspirations set out in "Financial Capability: the Government's long-term approach", which was published in January 2007.

The Government have also asked Otto Thoresen, Chief Executive of AEGON UK, to design a national approach to generic financial advice. The Thoresen review terms of reference place particular emphasis on meeting the needs of those most vulnerable to the consequences of poor financial decision-making, including socially excluded groups.

The Government will publish an action plan on financial capability, including the outcome of the Thoresen review, early next year.

The Government also continues to tackle financial exclusion—promoting access to banking and other financial services, affordable credit and money advice. As part of the Government's financial inclusion strategy, the Department of Work and Pensions' £5.4 million "Now Let's Talk Money" campaign is working through trusted intermediaries—such as housing associations, community groups and charities—to provide financially excluded people with the information, advice and support they need to take up financial services products.

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the extent of the backlog is in dealing with correspondence and other contacts at HM Revenue and Customs. [143250]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC has received over 26 million items of correspondence from customers in the last 12 months. At the end of May 2007 it is estimated that around 76,000 items are more than 40 working days old.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on delaying the implementation of home information packs until 1st August 2007. [143752]

John Healey: The two Departments have discussed Home Information Packs as part of the regular process of policy development within Government.

Home Responsibilities Protection

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many calls his Department has received on the 0845 302 1479 inquiry line since it was established; and how many of these calls have resulted in the issuing of form CF411 to claim home responsibilities protection. [142800]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* Information in terms of volumes is not available prior to 10 April 2005. Between 10 April 2005 and 31 May 2007 inclusive this line received around 1.4 million calls.

Data are not available on the number of calls that resulted in the issue of form CF411.

Immigration

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the chief executive of the Office for National Statistics on the impact of the change of calculation methodology for estimating the number of international migrants to the UK. [143011]

John Healey: As Minister responsible for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have regular meetings with the National Statistician, which cover all areas of ONS business.

Inheritance Tax

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has estimated the revenue that would be lost to the Exchequer if principal residences were exempt from inheritance tax. [143283]

Dawn Primarolo: Exempting principal residences from inheritance tax from 2008-09 onwards would incur a full year cost of around £1.7 billion.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the inheritance tax threshold to £500,000. [143341]

Dawn Primarolo: Raising the inheritance tax nil rate band to £500,000 from 2008-09 would incur a full year cost of around £2 billion.

Landfill Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate the Government have made of the proportion of landfill tax which is paid by local authorities and their contractors. [143667]

John Healey: Reliable estimates are not available for the proportion of landfill tax revenue from local authorities and their contractors. Registered landfill site operators pay the tax to HMRC and information on the source of the waste and the customer is not recorded on the landfill tax return.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the Treasury Chief Secretary to the Department for Communities and Local Government in March in relation to local government restructuring. [143648]

Mr. Timms: It would be inappropriate to place a letter from ongoing correspondence between Ministers in the public domain.

Lord Bhattacharyya

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which posts he has appointed Lord Bhattacharyya since 1997. [141293]

John Healey: The Chancellor has not appointed Lord Bhattacharyya to any posts.

Minimum Wage

Dr. Kumar: To ask Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people and percentage of the workforce who receive the national minimum wage *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. [143428]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Based on data from the Office for National Statistics' Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2006, the DTI estimates that, in the UK, between 430,000 and 440,000 jobs (less than 2 per cent. of the UK total) were paid at the national minimum wage in April 2006.

Data at the parliamentary constituency level are not available. However, the DTI estimates that between 10,000 to 50,000 jobs (1 per cent. to 5 per cent. of the total) held in the north-east were paid at the national minimum wage in April 2006.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the level of the minimum wage. [143429]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

National minimum wage rates are set following recommendations by the independent Low Pay Commission. The Commission undertakes wide-ranging consultation and analysis before making its recommendations. Copies of the most recent Low Pay Commission report are available in the Libraries of the House.

Revenue and Customs: Informers

Mr. Gray: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what powers HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) reward informers; and what procedures HMRC has for informing Ministers of the use of such powers. [144041]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs are empowered to pay rewards by virtue of section 26 of the Commissioners for Revenue and Customs Act 2005.

HMRC has unlimited delegated authority to make these payments, subject to the condition that the department makes regular internal assessments of its expenditure on rewards, and reports to the Treasury to request authority if any novel or contentious payments are anticipated.

The Treasury are notified of amounts paid in rewards prior to any publication in the Department's annual report or elsewhere.

Revenue and Customs: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) where the call centres are located which handle calls to the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs; [141560]

(2) whether the telephone system used by the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs is capable of recording *(a)* the average waiting time before a call from a member of the public is answered and *(b)* whether a call has been automatically terminated before being answered; and if he will make a statement; [141561]

(3) what benchmarks he uses to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the national helpline of HM Revenue and Customs in providing a service to the public. [141562]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC do not operate a single "national helpline" and the information is therefore not available in the format requested. HMRC operate a network of contact centres at some 22 separate locations throughout Great Britain and this network currently supports over 30 separate helplines and lines of business.

The management information available on helpline operations depends on the line of business that the helpline supports.

Students: Loans

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how frequently HM Revenue and Customs makes payments to student loan companies. [144125]

Dawn Primarolo: HM Revenue and Customs transfers student loan repayments remitted by employers each month, along with pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) tax and national insurance contributions (NIC) deducted from employees' earnings, to the Treasury's consolidated funds overnight following the date of receipt. No sums are retained or transferred to the Student Loans Company (SLC) from HMRC at any stage.

Taxation: Rented Housing

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the tax revenue arising from buy to let property. [143751]

John Healey: This information is not available. The tax system does not recognise properties bought to let as a distinct category of property.

Taxation: Self-assessment

John Hemming: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct HM Revenue and Customs not to take enforcement action against those affected by the backlog in self-assessment. [143285]

Dawn Primarolo: HMRC only takes enforcement action on returns that they have not received or on debts that have not been paid.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what investigations his Department has made into Riggs Bank in relation to the possible funding of terrorist operations on or after 11 September 2001; and if he will make a statement. [144118]

Ed Balls: The investigation of specific allegations of financial crime, including the financing of terrorism, are a matter for law enforcement authorities and, where appropriate, the Financial Services Authority. No such investigation has been carried out by this Department.

Unitary Councils

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what role his Department will play in the assessment of the bids to the Department for Communities and Local Government for unitary local government status. [143642]

John Healey: Following stakeholder consultation, all 16 unitary proposals will be assessed against the five criteria the Government set out when we invited local authorities to submit their proposals. Decisions on those bids which will proceed toward implementation will be taken collectively by all Ministers.

Ministerial Travel

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Cabinet Office publication Overseas Travel by Ministers 2004-05, of how many days duration his trip to the United States in December 2004 was. [137064]

John Healey: All ministerial visits are conducted in accordance with the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers". Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500 and the total cost of all ministerial travel. The Chancellor's meetings in New York and Washington were between 16 December and 21 December. He spoke at the UN Council on Foreign Relations and met Jean Ping, President of the General Assembly He also met US Treasury Secretary, John Snow, the President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, Managing Director of the IMF de Rato, Secretary of State, Dr. Rice and former Chairman of the Federal Reserves, Alan Greenspan. The Chancellor stayed on at his own cost until 23 December.

Valuation Office Agency: Freedom of Information

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests the Valuation Office Agency has received in each year since that Act came into force. [143750]

Dawn Primarolo: The Valuation Office Agency received 216 requests under Freedom of Information Act 2000 during the 2005 calendar year. There were 211 such requests during the 2006 calendar year.

Valuation Office Agency: Hong Kong

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the Valuation Office Agency's representatives' visits to Hong Kong in the last 24 months. [142171]

Dawn Primarolo: The visits to Hong Kong were made at the request of the Rating and Valuation Department, Hong Kong (Special Administrative Region). The Valuation Office Agency has been providing valuation advice to the Rating and Valuation Department. As the agency charged for the work undertaken there was no net cost to the public purse.

VAT

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library the legal advice he has received in relation to his Department's inquiry into VAT and Low Value Consignment Relief. [143723]

Dawn Primarolo: It would not be appropriate to release the legal advice concerned, as it is confidential and subject to legal professional privilege.

VAT: Registration

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many new VAT registration requests for limited companies his Department received in each month of 2006-07. [143338]

Dawn Primarolo: Revenue and Customs do not separately record the number of requests from limited companies at the point of registration. The following number of businesses applied for VAT registration:

VAT registration requests

Month	*Number*
2006	
April	23,014
May	26,474
June	25,658
July	22,130
August	24,257
September	20,830
October	23,956
November	24,214
December	16,629
2007	
January	24,430
February	26,477
March	27,107

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what basis his Department can refuse a new limited company VAT registration. [143339]

Dawn Primarolo: To register for VAT, a person must be making, or intend to make, taxable supplies in the course of business. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) carries out a range of checks to test and verify the information provided by those applying for VAT registration. If a person cannot satisfy HMRC that they are making, or intend to make, taxable supplies in the course of business they will not be registered.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the length of time it takes for a new limited company to receive VAT registration from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [143340]

Dawn Primarolo: Revenue and Customs do not separately record the time it takes for a limited company to be registered.

Welfare Tax Credits: EC Countries

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of EU workers working in the UK made claims for *(a)* child tax credit and *(b)* child benefit in respect of children living in another EU country in each year since 2003. [144124]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 943W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Foreigners

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many foreign nationals were in receipt of *(a)* child benefit, *(b)* working tax credits and *(c)* child tax credits in each year since 2003. [143592]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available.

Welfare Tax Credits: ICT

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the total compensation Electronic Data Services agreed to pay to HM Revenue and Customs as a result of tax credit system problems has been received. [143342]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 20 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 623-24W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Internet

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reopen the tax credit e-portal. [143597]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the evidence I gave to the Treasury Select Committee on 14 March 2007 in response to question 88.

Welfare Tax Credits: Lone Parents

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people claiming tax credits are registered as lone parents. [143593]

Dawn Primarolo: An estimate of the number of lone parents claiming tax credits is published in the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards 2005-06". A provisional estimate is also published in the "Child and Working Tax Credit Statistics. April 2007". Both publications are available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer from how many people who have been declared bankrupt the Tax Credit Office is claiming back tax credit overpayments. [143344]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. HM Revenue and Customs' guidance relating to the recovery of overpayments from claimants who report they have been declared bankrupt can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/ntcmanual/payment_opayments/ntc0780052.htm

HEALTH

Abortion

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to reduce the number of repeat abortions; and if she will make a statement. [144154]

Caroline Flint: It is a key aim of the Government to reduce unintended pregnancy rates, including repeat abortions, as featured in both the sexual health and teenage pregnancy strategies, and provision of good quality contraceptive services are essential to achieve this. Women who have undergone abortion are an important group and often have unmet contraceptive needs.

We will be issuing best practice guidance on reproductive healthcare later this year aimed at commissioners and providers emphasising the need to develop strong links between abortion and contraceptive services.

We are also examining the feasibility of undertaking pilots to provide women with tailored contraceptive packages following abortion. The pilots will also examine which groups of women are most vulnerable to repeat abortion.

Abortion: Legislation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions *(a)* she, *(b)* Ministers in her Department and *(c)* officials have had with the British Medical Association on possible amendments on abortion to the Draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill; and if she will make a statement; [142820]

(2) what recent representations she has received from *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public on possible amendments on abortion to the Draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill; what response she has given; and if she will make a statement. [142821]

Caroline Flint: The Secretary of State for Health, Health Ministers and officials have had no recent discussions with the British Medical Association about possible amendments on abortion to the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill, and no such recent representations have been received from hon. Members or members of the public.

It is accepted parliamentary practice that proposals for changes in the law on abortion have come from Backbench Members and that decisions are made on the basis of free votes. The Government have no plans to change the law on abortion.

Abortion: Private Sector

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the private sector clinics and hospitals which are able to provide abortions; how many approved beds each contains; whether they are approved for (i) surgical day care abortions with or without general anaesthetic and (ii) late abortions; and what the name of the proprietor is in each case. [140881]

Caroline Flint: The names and addresses of the independent sector places currently approved under the Abortion Act 1967, including the name of the proprietor, is shown in the following table. The approval under the Act allows the places to perform abortion. The registration under the Care Standards Act 2000, based on the information provided to the Healthcare Commission, determines the number of beds and the method and gestation of abortion that can be performed, within the terms of the Abortion Act. This information is not held centrally by the Department.

Names and addresses of independent sector places approved to perform abortions under the Abortion Act 1967

Name		
Abbey Gisburne Park Hospital	Clitheroe	Abbey Hospitals Ltd.
BMI The Blackheath Hospital	London	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Chaucer Hospital	Canterbury	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Clementine Churchill Hospital	Harrow	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Droitwich Spa Hospital	Droitwich Spa	BMI Healthcare Ltd.

Names and addresses of independent sector places approved to perform abortions under the Abortion Act 1967

Name		
BMI The Garden Hospital	Hendon	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Hampshire Clinic	Basingstoke	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Park Hospital	Nottingham	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Sandringham Hospital	King's Lynn	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI The Somerfield hospital	Maidstone	BMI Healthcare Ltd.
BMI Three Shires Hospital	Cliftonville, Northampton	Three Shires Hospital Charity
BPAS Blackdown Clinic	Leamington Spa	BPAS
BPAS Cannock Clinic	Cannock	BPAS
BPAS Central Birmingham Clinic	Birmingham	BPAS
BPAS Central London Clinic	London	BPAS
BPAS Coventry Clinic	Coventry	BPAS
BPAS Danum Lodge Clinic	Doncaster	BPAS
BPAS Dean Park Clinic	Bournemouth	BPAS
BPAS Leeds Clinic	Leeds	BPAS
BPAS Leigham Clinic	London	BPAS
BPAS Merseyside Clinic	Liverpool	BPAS
BPAS North London Day Surgery Unit	Edmonton, London	BPAS
BPAS Peterborough Clinic	Peterborough	BPAS
BPAS Robert Clinic	Birmingham	BPAS
BPAS Rosslyn Clinic	Twickenham	BPAS
BPAS Stafford Clinic	Stafford	BPAS
BPAS Swindon Clinic	Swindon	BPAS
BPAS Torquay Day Care Unit	Torquay	BPAS
BPAS Wistons Clinic	Brighton	BPAS
BUPA Alexandra Hospital	Walderslade	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA Hospital Bristol	Durdham	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA Hospital Bushey	Watford	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA Hospital Leicester	Leicester	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA Hospital Southampton	Southampton	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA Hospital Washington	Washington, Tyne and Wear	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA Murrayfield Hospital	Thingwall	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
BUPA North Cheshire Hospital	Warrington	BUPA Hospitals Ltd.
Duchy Hospital	Truro	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
Fitzwilliam Hospital	Peterborough	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
London Bridge Hospital	London	HCA International Ltd
Marie Stopes Bristol Centre	Bristol	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes Baling Centre	Ealing	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes Essex Centre	Buckhurst Hill	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes House	London	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes Leeds Centre	Leeds	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes Maidstone Centre	Maidstone	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes International Manchester Centre	Fallowfield	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes Reading Centre	Reading	Marie Stopes International
Marie Stopes South London Centre	Brixton, London	Marie Stopes International
New Hall Hospital	Salisbury	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
Pinehill Hospital	Hitchin	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
South Manchester Private Clinic	Stockport	Fraterdrive Ltd.
The Bodmin NHS Treatment Centre	Bodmin	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
The Calthorpe Clinic	Edgbaston	The Calthorpe Clinic Ltd.
The Hull and East Riding Hospital	Anlaby	Classic Hospitals
The Leicester Nuffield Hospital	Leicester	Nuffield Hospitals
The Lincoln Nuffield Hospital	Lincoln	Nuffield Hospitals
The Manor Hospital	Headington, Oxford	Nuffield Hospitals
The Newcastle Nuffield Hospital	Newcastle upon Tyne	Nuffield Hospitals
The North London Nuffield Hospital	London	Nuffield Hospitals
The North Staffordshire Nuffield Hospital	Newcastle under Lyme	Nuffield Hospitals
The Nuffield Hospital Harrogate	Harrogate	Nuffield Hospitals
The Nuffield Hospital Ipswich	Ipswich	Nuffield Hospitals
The Plymouth Nuffield Hospital	Plymouth	Nuffield Hospitals
The Portland Hospital	London	HCA International Ltd.
The Rivers Hospital	Sawbridgeworth	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
The Shropshire Nuffield Hospital	Shrewsbury	Nuffield Hospitals

Names and addresses of independent sector places approved to perform abortions under the Abortion Act 1967

Name		
The Wellington Hospital	London	HCA International Ltd.
The Woodland Hospital	Kettering	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.
The Wye Valley Nuffield Hospital	Hereford	Nuffield Hospitals
Winfield Hospital	Longford, Glos.	Capio Healthcare UK Ltd.

Source:
Department of Health, September 2006

Accident and Emergency Departments

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* organisations responsible to her Department have conducted into the correlation between survivability and journey times to accident and emergency departments in (i) Surrey Primary Care Trust, (ii) South East Coast Strategic Health Authority and (iii) England; and if she will make a statement. [143277]

Andy Burnham: The Department does not routinely undertake assessments of this kind, either for England or for particular localities.

It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure there is appropriate provision of urgent and emergency care services that are responsive to people's needs. This includes accident and emergency provision. The aim should be to provide safe, high quality care as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety. Local organisations, including primary care trusts and strategic health authorities, may make use of a range of information available to them when considering the planning and provision of local services.

Air Ambulance Services: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she intends to review the funding of air ambulances by charities; and if she will make a statement. [144087]

Andy Burnham: There are no plans to review the funding of air ambulances.

Although air ambulance services are provided by charities, staff costs have been paid by the national health service since 2002. It is for NHS trusts to decide whether they provide any additional funding to air ambulance charities.

Lymphatic Cancer

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the NHS Life Checks proposed in the Our Health, Our Care, Our Say White Paper will include lymphatic cancer indicators. [143740]

Caroline Flint: The purpose of national health service life checks is to highlight modifiable health behaviours and aspects of lifestyle that are risk factors for poor health. These will include smoking, diet and nutrition, physical activity, alcohol, stress and emotional well-being. The mid-life life check for people aged 45-60 will have a particular focus on assessing people's risk of vascular disease, the leading cause of death and disability in England. There will not be a specific emphasis on assessing risks for or symptoms of lymphatic cancer.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the proposed revisions to the payment by results tariff will take into account the care, support and treatment needs of lymphoma patients. [143306]

Andy Burnham: The "Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11" sets out plans for extending the scope of payment by results. The consultation is due to complete on 22 June 2007 and the Department will issue a response to the consultation in autumn 2007. Copies have been placed in the Library.

The consultation document outlines how tariffs for radiotherapy and chemotherapy could be introduced in 2009-10.

However, social care is currently outside the scope of payment by results. Care and support services other than those provided during a patient's stay in hospital or as an outpatient where care is consultant-led, are excluded from tariff. Funding for services that are outside the scope of, or excluded from, payment by results is agreed locally between commissioners and providers.

Cannabis: Research

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what licences are current for research into possible medicinal uses of cannabis; what assessment she has made of the progress being made with each research project; and when the results of the research will be available. [135952]

Caroline Flint: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by the national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with the medicinal use of cannabis derivatives are available on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

A total of 50 clinical trials involving extracts of cannabis, cannabis based medicines or cannabis derived medicines have been approved by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency since July 1999. The Agency does not have information on when the results from these trials will be available.

Childbirth

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether an assessment has been made of the

impact of payment by results on *(a)* the number of home births, *(b)* the number of caesarean sections and (c) the national choice guarantees made in her Department's Maternity Matters strategy for maternity services as referred to in the answer of 18 April 20006, *Official Report*, column 230W, on maternity services. [143558]

Andy Burnham: There has been no formal assessment to date of the impact of payment by results on the number of home births, caesarean sections or national choice guarantees made in the Maternity Matters strategy.

However, the Maternity Matters strategy makes clear that a tariff for home births is needed to support the national choice guarantees. Both 'Maternity Matters and the Options for the Future of Payment by Results: 2008-09 to 2010-11' consultation document, published on 15 March 2007, commit the Government to achieving this. Clinical experts are also being consulted to ensure that payment by results pays a price that more appropriately reflects costs in maternity services.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library.

Chlamydia Infection: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to ensure the accuracy of chlamydia testing kits on sale in the UK. [144153]

Caroline Flint: Manufacturers of chlamydia testing kits are obliged to meet specified requirements for their safety, quality and performance laid down in the Medical Devices Regulations 2002 (as amended) before they are placed on the United Kingdom market. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has post market surveillance responsibilities on behalf of the Secretary of State to enforce the regulations and investigate serious incidents involving this type of device.

Dental Services: Barnsley

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions between 2003 and April 2006 her Department received representations from Barnsley Primary Care Trust on the adequacy of funding for orthodontic services in Barnsley. [138735]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department worked closely with a number of primary care trusts (PCTs) in the South Yorkshire area between 2004 and 2006 to help develop local dental services and pilot new ways of working, and in that process had a number of contacts with officials from both Barnsley PCT and the former South Yorkshire Strategic Health Authority. The question of longer term activity and funding levels for specialist orthodontic practices was one of the issues raised in those contacts.

Under the legislation governing the transition to new local commissioning arrangements from 1 April 2006, dentists with general dental services contracts, including orthodontists, were guaranteed new contracts based on their national health service earnings during the 12-month reference period October 2004 to September 2005. The Departments advice to PCTs was that, where practices' more recent levels of activity exceeded those reflected in the reference period earnings, PCTs should ensure as a minimum that funding was available to complete treatment for all patients under treatment as at 31 March 2006 but that it was a local decision for the PCT, or the PCTs across the wider health economy, based on an assessment of local needs, whether to commit the additional investment needed to sustain the higher levels of activity in the longer term.

We understand that Barnsley PCT has recently completed a review of local orthodontic treatment needs and intends to commission an additional 64 orthodontic courses of treatment annually to reflect the outcome of this needs assessment.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much revenue her Department received from *(a)* adverts on her Department's public information leaflets and *(b)* adverts on her Department's public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [142529]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There is currently no mechanism for recording this information centrally within the Department and to attempt to do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what make and model of car *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141996]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the Minister of State for Transport (Dr. Ladyman), on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1268-69.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on hospitality by her Department in the financial year 2006-07. [133257]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: With the introduction of the Department's new finance system in April 2004 a number of financial codes were combined to include miscellaneous expenditure, which is not classifiable as hospitality. Therefore we do not hold an accurate value for the period 2006-07.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was raised from the sale of departmental property in each of the last five years. [139315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The only receipt from the sale of departmental property within the last five years was in

2002-03 when the sum of £3,607,067 was received from the sale of Glenthorne Youth Treatment Centre.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was received by her Department from the letting of its properties in each of the last five years. [139334]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During the last five years the Department has received the following rental sums from the letting of its properties.

	Sum received for rental (£)
2002-03	4,081,705.89
2003-04	4,351,572.89
2004-05	4,907,519.15
2005-06	2,233,789.54
2006-07	943,828.69

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate has been made of the value of her Department's property portfolio. [139377]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has three freehold properties within its portfolio. It is estimated that they are valued at £74,940,000.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of leasing buildings and office space for *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies was in each of the last five years. [139468]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The cost of leasing buildings for the Department and its agencies in each of the last five years is as follows.

		£
	Department	*Agencies*
2002-03	28,044,804.95	6,220,638.61
2003-04	27,704,175.25	7,869,604.63
2004-05	27,852,335.38	9,310,880.25
2005-06	29,327,046.97	9,053,255.39
2006-07	25,815,319.20	10,472,808.55

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her Department's delegated expenditure limit is above which expenditure must be approved by HM Treasury. [144521]

Andy Burnham: The Department has delegated limits from HM Treasury for approving the following specific categories of expenditure:

NHS Estate: Land Transactions;

NHS Estate: Capital Projects (Buildings and Equipment)

Civil Estate: Land Transactions

NHS Trust Information Management and Technology Projects

Departmental Information Technology Projects

NHS Losses and Special Payments

Departmental (including Agencies and non-department public bodies) Losses and Special Payments

Clinical and Medical Negligence

Most of these categories in turn involve a number of different schemes and transactions, each of which has a different delegated limit. The delegated limit for the appointment of preferred bidder business case and full business case for a capital investment scheme under the Private Finance Initiative is £100 million; this falls within the NHS Estate: Capital Projects (Buildings and Equipment) category above.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what requests for additional funds her Department made to HM Treasury in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; what the date was of each request; and whether each was granted. [144522]

Andy Burnham: The Department has not made any requests to HM Treasury for additional funds in 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Doctors: Training

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what meetings she has held with the British Medical Association on the operation of the medical training application system. [125094]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions she has had with the British Medical Association to evaluate the selection process for junior doctors. [129339]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* My right. hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health met representatives from the British Medical Association (BMA) on 28 February and 14 March.

The Secretary of State and my noble Friend the Minister of State, Lord Hunt, also met Dr. Sam Everington, Deputy Chairman of Council, Dr. Jo Hilborne, chair, Junior Doctor's Committee, Dr Jonathan Fielden, chair, Consultants Committee and Ms Sally Watson, director of representational and political activities on 24 May.

In addition the Secretary of State had phone calls with the BMA on 8 March, 9 and 16 May.

Lord Hunt met James Johnson, chairman of the BMA on 2 May.

There have also been a series of official level meetings with representatives from the BMA on modernising medical careers (MMC) since 1 February.

The selection process for MMC, including the medical training application system computer system, were discussed at all of these meetings and phone calls.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report,* columns 583W, on doctors: training, whether the report into the breach of security of the Medical Training Application Service website will address the question of whether Methods were instructed to issue a password by her Department. [138374]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's internal security report has already confirmed that a password was not introduced to protect the data, despite the Medical Training Application Service contract

specifying that access would be controlled by a system of file privileges requiring an allocated username and password.

Drugs: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what her estimate is of the number of patients supplied with counterfeit *(a)* Plavix, *(b)* Casodex and (c) Zyprexa; and what assessment she has made of the consequent risk posed to patient health; [142938]

(2) if she will plan an urgent review of UK preparedness to deal with the risk to patient safety of counterfeit medicines; [142939]

(3) whether new measures are being considered to stop counterfeit medicines reaching patients; [142940]

(4) what resources she plans to dedicate to tackling the risks posed by the supply of counterfeit medicines in the next three years; [142941]

(5) what her assessment is of the scale of the risk in Europe from the supply of counterfeit medicines; [142942]

(6) if she will make a statement on the four recent class 1 recalls of counterfeit medicines found in the UK legitimate supply chain; [142943]

(7) what assessment she has made of a possible link between suppliers of counterfeit medicines and organised crime; [142944]

(8) what resources she plans to commit to tackling the illegal trade in counterfeit medicines in the next three years. [142945]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is currently conducting an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the recent penetration of counterfeit Casodex, Zyprexa and Plavix into the regulated supply chain which led to the class 1 recalls. The number of patients affected will not be known until the completion of the recall and the investigation.

A class 1 recall, a system to recall medicines with immediate effect, was undertaken because initial analysis has shown a reduced amount of the correct active ingredient present in each of the counterfeit products. Counterfeit products commonly contain reduced quantities of active pharmaceutical ingredients. These are unlikely to have been manufactured to good manufacturing standards and may contain impurities which put health at risk. The class 1 recalls were considered necessary as evidence suggested these products may have reached pharmacy and patient level.

The extent of counterfeit medicine in circulation worldwide is difficult to estimate. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published estimates suggesting up to 10 per cent. of medicines globally are counterfeit. This is more prevalent in developing countries and less so in developed nations. Within developed nations WHO estimate that up to 1 per cent. of medicines may be counterfeit. The European Commission has recognised that counterfeiting is a growing problem within the European Union and has undertaken a study to identify any legislative and regulatory weaknesses with a view to exploring policy options. As with all other member states, the United Kingdom has provided information on local experiences, statistics and strategies associated with combating counterfeiting.

The MHRA is developing a strategy which will address the risks to patient safety from counterfeit medicines by providing a comprehensive approach through the implementation of strategic and operational measures to minimise the risk of counterfeit medicines reaching patients through both the regulated and unregulated supply chains. This strategy is being reviewed to take into account the recent incidents and subsequent intelligence gathered from industry and our international counterparts. Resource issues are part of this strategy. The strategy will be published later this year.

MHRA works closely with law enforcement and other regulatory bodies both nationally and internationally. MHRA hosts regular meetings with stakeholders within industry, law enforcement and regulatory bodies, intelligence concerning counterfeit medicines is reviewed and assessed.

Strong links exist between the MHRA and other law enforcement agencies. MHRA works closely with the Serious and Organised Crime Agency to establish links between organised crime and counterfeit medicines.

Drugs: Health Education

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the results of the evaluation of the drugs awareness campaign Frank Brain Warehouse will be published; and if she will make a statement. [142519]

Caroline Flint: Evaluation of the FRANK drugs information campaign is conducted annually to track awareness and impact of FRANK messages to young people. Research fieldwork for the campaign year ending 31 March has been completed and the data are currently being analysed. This data will include measures of the effectiveness of the Brain Warehouse advertising campaign, the prime objective of which was to communicate to young people how the regular use of cannabis can lead to mental health problems. A summary of the full campaign evaluation will be published on www.drugs.gov.uk in the week commencing 16 July 2007.

Drugs: Misuse

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are receiving treatment for drug addiction in Stoke-on-Trent; and what estimate has been made of *(a)* the number of drug addicts in Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* the number not in treatment. [143346]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not centrally available in the format requested. The Department collects data on drug treatment at drug action team (DAT) level, rather than by geographical area. The most recent data, 2004-05, available for Staffordshire DAT, which includes Stoke on Trent is as follows:

Estimated number of Problematical Drug Users (PDUs): 2,975

Estimated number of PDUs not in treatment: 1,410

Notes:

PDUs are defined as crack/opiate users.

The PDU estimate was conducted by Glasgow university for the Home Office.

The figures provided are estimates and as such, they may differ from the actual figures.

Mr. Greenway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the adequacy of primary care trust commissioning plans with relation to the treatment of addictions. [143766]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* Primary care trusts (PCTs) are expected to commission services based on the needs of their local population. As part of this the needs of individuals who have a form of addiction should be a component of a PCT's commissioning plan. Strategic health authorities are responsible for the performance management of PCTs.

Drugs: Research

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health further to the announcement of 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 30WS, on medicines development, how much financial support the Government have committed to the production and dissemination of the leaflet; and if she will make a statement. [143627]

Caroline Flint: The Department of Health and the Department of Trade and Industry contributed £25,000 and £20,000 respectively to the Coalition for Medical Progress in March 2007 for the writing, design, print and distribution of the leaflet on medicines development. The leaflet is available in the Library.

The leaflet was produced in order to raise general public awareness about how medicines are developed, and covers the use of animals in medicines research and testing, through to clinical trials and licensing. It will be available for patients in around 60 per cent. of general practitioner surgeries in England from autumn 2007.

General Practitioners: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* general practitioner surgeries and *(b)* single-handed general practitioner surgeries there were in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England in each year since 1997. [143955]

Andy Burnham: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, information is available by strategic health authority (SHA)/primary care trust (PCT) area. Table one includes information relating to general practitioner (GP) practices in the former SHAs and PCTs in the east of England area up to September 2005. Table two provides information on GP practices for the reconfigured SHA and PCT areas for 2006.

General practitioner (GP) partnerships and single handed GP providers[1] for specified organisations, 1997 to 2005

			1997		1998		1999	
			GP partnerships	*Single handed GP provider*	*GP partnerships*	*Single handed GP provider*	*GP partnerships*	*Single handed GP provider*
England			9,102	2,817	9,090	2,779	9,034	2,721
001	*Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire*		308	42	308	41	306	37
	5A2	Norwich PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5AF	North Peterborough PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5AG	South Peterborough PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5CY	West Norfolk PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5G1	Southern Norfolk PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GF	Huntingdonshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GT	Great Yarmouth Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JH	Cambridge City PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JJ	South Cambridgeshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JK	East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

General practitioner (GP) partnerships and single handed GP providers[1] for specified organisations, 1997 to 2005

			1997		1998		1999	
			GP partnerships	*Single handed GP provider*	*GP partnerships*	*Single handed GP provider*	*GP partnerships*	*Single handed GP provider*
	5JL	Broadland PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JM	North Norfolk PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JQ	Ipswich PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JR	Suffolk Coastal PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JT	Central Suffolk PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JV	Waveney PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JW	Suffolk West PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q02	*Bedford and Hertfordshire*		238	54	239	58	232	48
	5CP	Hertsmere PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GC	Luton PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GD	Bedford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GE	Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GG	Welwyn Hatfield PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GH	North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GJ	South East Hertfordshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GK	Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GV	Watford and Three Rivers PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GW	Dacorum PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GX	St. Albans and Harpenden PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Q03	*Essex*		284	96	286	97	285	100
	5AH	Tendring PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5AJ	Epping Forest PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5AK	Southend on Sea PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5DC	Harlow PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GL	Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GM	Colchester PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GN	Uttlesford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GP	Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GQ	Thurrock PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5GR	Basildon PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	5JN	Chelmsford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

General practitioner (GP) partnerships and single handed GP providers[1] for specified organisations, 1997 to 2005

			1997		1998		1999	
			GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider
	5JP	Castle Point and Rochford PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	TAG	Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

			2000		2001		2002	
			GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider
England			8,965	2,662	8,910	2,626	8,833	2,566
001	*Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire*		308	39	309	44	301	37
	5A2	Norwich PCT	n/a	n/a	19	2	19	2
	5AF	North Peterborough PCT	n/a	n/a	20	8	18	5
	5AG	South Peterborough PCT	n/a	n/a	13	2	14	4
	5CY	West Norfolk PCT	n/a	n/a	21	—	21	1
	5G1	Southern Norfolk PCT	n/a	n/a	26	2	25	1
	5GF	Huntingdonshire PCT	n/a	n/a	25	4	26	5
	5GT	Great Yarmouth Teaching PCT	n/a	n/a	12	2	12	1
	5JH	Cambridge City PCT	n/a	n/a	18	1	18	—
	5JJ	South Cambridgeshire PCT	n/a	n/a	16	1	17	2
	5JK	East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	n/a	n/a	18	2	17	1
	5JL	Broadland PCT	n/a	n/a	15	2	14	1
	5JM	North Norfolk PCT	n/a	n/a	13	2	13	2
	5JQ	Ipswich PCT	n/a	n/a	18	4	17	4
	5JR	Suffolk Coastal PCT	n/a	n/a	15	2	14	1
	5JT	Central Suffolk PCT	n/a	n/a	15	5	14	4
	5JV	Waveney PCT	n/a	n/a	16	2	15	1
	5JW	Suffolk West PCT	n/a	n/a	29	3	27	2
Q02	*Bedford and Hertfordshire*		233	52	231	54	230	52
	5CP	Hertsmere PCT	n/a	n/a	13	4	13	4
	5GC	Luton PCT	n/a	n/a	35	12	35	14
	5GD	Bedford PCT	n/a	n/a	24	6	24	4

			2000		2001		2002	
			GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider
	5GE	Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	n/a	n/a	33	6	33	6
	5GG	Welwyn Hatfield PCT	n/a	n/a	8	—	8	—
	5GH	North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT	n/a	n/a	22	4	22	2
	5GJ	South East Hertfordshire PCT	n/a	n/a	24	4	24	4
	5GK	Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT	n/a	n/a	9	2	9	2
	5GV	Watford and Three Rivers PCT	n/a	n/a	28	8	27	8
	5GW	Dacorum PCT	n/a	n/a	21	7	21	8
	5GX	St Albans and Harpenden PCT	n/a	n/a	14	1	14	—
Q03	*Essex*		289	106	279	96	275	93
	5AH	Tendring PCT	n/a	n/a	21	5	22	7
	5A3	Epping Forest PCT	n/a	n/a	18	4	18	4
	5AK	Southend on Sea PCT	n/a	n/a	39	23	38	23
	5DC	Harlow PCT	n/a	n/a	11	3	10	1
	5GL	Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	n/a	n/a	15	5	15	5
	5GM	Colchester PCT	n/a	n/a	23	4	23	4
	5GN	Uttlesford PCT	n/a	n/a	11	—	11	—
	5GP	Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	n/a	n/a	22	8	22	9
	5GQ	Thurrock PCT	n/a	n/a	33	19	31	16
	5GR	Basildon PCT	n/a	n/a	22	8	21	7
	53N	Chelmsford PCT	n/a	n/a	17	3	17	3
	53P	Castle Point and Rochford PCT	n/a	n/a	28	12	27	11
	TAG	Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	n/a	n/a	19	2	20	3

			2003		2004		2005	
			GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider
England			8,833	2,578	8,542	2,285	8,451	2,176
Q01	*Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire*		303	38	300	31	298	24
	5A2	Norwich PCT	19	2	17	1	18	2

			2003		2004		2005	
			GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider
	5AF	North Peterborough PCT	18	6	18	5	18	6
	SAG	South Peterborough PCT	14	4	15	4	15	4
	5CY	West Norfolk PCT	22	2	23	2	22	—
	5G1	Southern Norfolk PCT	26	1	26	2	26	1
	5GF	Huntingdonshire PCT	24	3	23	2	23	1
	5GT	Great Yarmouth Teaching PCT	11	1	11	1	12	2
	5JH	Cambridge City PCT	19	2	17	1	17	1
	5JJ	South Cambridgeshire PCT	17	2	17	2	17	1
	5JK	East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	17	1	18	1	18	1
	5JL	Broadland PCT	14	—	14	—	14	—
	5JM	North Norfolk PCT	13	2	13	1	12	—
	5JQ	Ipswich PCT	18	2	19	3	18	2
	5JR	Suffolk Coastal PCT	14	1	14	1	14	1
	5JT	Central Suffolk PCT	14	4	12	1	12	1
	5JV	Waveney PCT	15	2	15	2	15	1
	5JW	Suffolk West PCT	28	3	28	2	27	—
Q02	*Bedford and Hertfordshire*		232	54	231	52	227	48
	5CP	Hertsmere PCT	13	4	12	3	10	1
	5GC	Luton PCT	36	15	36	15	35	14
	5GD	Bedford PCT	26	8	28	9	28	8
	5GE	Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	32	5	33	6	32	5
	5GG	Welwyn Hatfield PCT	8	—	8	—	8	—
	5GH	North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT	21	2	21	2	21	3
	5GJ	South East Hertfordshire PCT	25	2	24	2	24	1
	5GK	Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT	9	1	9	—	9	1
	5GV	Watford and Three Rivers PCT	27	8	28	9	28	10
	5GW	Dacorum PCT	21	9	19	6	19	5
	5GX	St. Albans And Harpenden PCT	14	—	13	—	13	—

			2003		2004		2005	
			GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider	GP partnerships	Single handed GP provider
Q03	Essex		275	102	273	106	277	95
	5AH	Tendring PCT	20	5	20	6	20	4
	5AJ	Epping Forest PCT	18	5	18	6	18	5
	5AK	Southend on Sea PCT	38	24	38	25	39	24
	5DC	Harlow PCT	12	4	10	3	10	1
	5GL	Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	14	5	15	5	15	5
	5GM	Colchester PCT	23	4	24	7	24	3
	5GN	Uttlesford PCT	11	—	11	—	11	—
	5GP	Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	21	8	20	7	21	8
	5GQ	Thurrock PCT	34	20	32	19	32	17
	5GR	Basildon PCT	22	9	23	11	25	13
	5JN	Chelmsford PCT	17	3	16	2	15	1
	5JP	Castle Point and Rochford PCT	27	12	27	11	28	10
	TAG	Witham, Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	18	3	19	4	19	4

n/a = data not available

[1] A single handed GP Provider is one who has no partners, although a GP Other, GP Registrar or GP Retainer may work in the practice

Note:

Data as at 1 October 1997 to 1999 and 30 September 2000 to 2005

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics

General practitioner (GP) Partnerships and single handed GP Providers[1] for specified organisations, as at 30 September 2006

			2006	
			GP Partnerships	Single Handed GP Providers
England			8,325	2,222
Q35	East of England		778	173
	5GC	Luton PCT	33	12
	5P1	South East Essex PCT	65	34
	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	57	12
	5P3	East & North Hertfordshire PCT	62	5
	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	69	15
	5PN	Peterborough PCT	27	9
	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	74	4
	5PQ	Norfolk PCT	92	3
	5PR	Great Yarmouth & Waveney PCT	26	4

General practitioner (GP) Partnerships and single handed GP Providers[1] for specified organisations, as at 30 September 2006

			2006	
			GP Partnerships	Single Handed GP Providers
	5PT	Suffolk PCT	71	5
	5PV	West Essex PCT	38	10
	5PW	North East Essex PCT	42	12
	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	48	11
	SPY	South West Essex PCT	74	37

[1] A single handed GP Provider is one who has no partners, although a GP Other, GP Registrar or GP Retainer may work in the practice.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics

General Practitioners: Internet

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of GPs who use Internet Explorer. [141976]

Caroline Flint: No information is collected centrally that would enable such an estimate to be made.

General Practitioners: Manpower

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the GP to patient ratio was in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust in England in each of the last five years. [142417]

Andy Burnham: Tables have been placed in the Library showing the number of general practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars), the number of patients and the ratio of one to the other in each strategic health authority and each primary care trust in England in each of the last five years.

For the period 2002-05, the table is based on the 303 primary care trusts which existed before the reorganisation in October 2006.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many E112 authorisations her Department issued in each year since 1997. [135878]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[pursuant to the reply, 18 May 2007, Official Report, c. 1016W]:* Patients may receive treatment in other member states of the European Economic Area and in Switzerland through the E112 referral scheme, in accordance with Regulation (EEC) 1408/71. This Regulation coordinates the social security and healthcare schemes of the member states.

Information about patients from England, Scotland and Wales referred abroad using the E112 procedure is shown in the table (only figures from 1998 were readily available):

	Number of E112s issued
1998	813
1999	861
2000	1,099
2001	1,139
2002	1,120
2003	1,052
2004	353
2005	228
2006	357

Note:
The drop in referrals from 2004 is due to the change in European Commission healthcare rules that took place that year. Since 1 June 2004, patients no longer need an E112 for the on-going care of pre-existing medical conditions. This is now covered on the European Health Insurance Card.

Health: Standards

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what benchmarking she has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated to assess the effectiveness of public health measures in the UK. [143007]

Caroline Flint: The Department has undertaken a range of benchmarking activities to assess the effectiveness of public health measures in the United Kingdom. Such benchmarking has shown that public health interventions can be effective in improving the health of the population and is provided through the national health service local delivery plan performance assessment system, nationally available public health data, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence public health evidence reviews, and public health research and evaluation evidence.

Hearing Aids: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the reasons are for the delay in commencing routine hearing aid assessments in Stoke-on-Trent by Mercury; what services she expects to be provided; what the timescale is for that provision; at what venues services will be provided; and if she will make a statement. [143945]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Mercury Health has a contract with the Department to provide a range of mobile diagnostic services for national health service patients, including audiology, at Stoke-on-Trent and another 50 sites across the West Midlands. Mercury has been working closely with local authorities across the West Midlands to achieve a number of planning consents to enable them to commence a service that offered the required geographical coverage.

The West Midlands diagnostic scheme is aimed at reducing waits and increasing choice for NHS patients. Service is due to commence in late June with the first audiology appointments in Stoke-on-Trent soon after. The service will include the assessment and fitting of digital hearing aids.

Hearing Aids: West Sussex

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting time is for a digital hearing aid for those resident in the West Sussex area. [143986]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department does not collect data on waiting times for digital hearing aids.

Hearing Impaired: Copeland

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people living in Copeland aged *(a)* under 18 and *(b)* over 18 years are registered as having impaired hearing. [143024]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the format requested. The number of people registered deaf or hard of hearing in Cumbria as at March 2001, the most recent available data, is set out in the following table.

	Number
People registered as deaf by age	
All ages	301
0 to 17	31
18 to 64	172
65 to 74	47
75 or over	51
People registered as hard of hearing	2,456

Source:
People Registered as Deaf or Hard of Hearing year ending 31 March 2001, England. This is available at:
www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/StatisticalWorkAreas/Statisticalsocialcare/DH_4098132

Hospital Beds

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment her Department has made of the effect of bed blocking in the NHS on *(a)* the finances of the NHS, *(b)* operation waiting times and *(c)* the development and spread of hospital-acquired infections; and if she will make a statement; [142902]

(2) if she will publish a list detailing the current level of bed blocking within the NHS by *(a)* strategic health authority, *(b)* primary care trust, *(c)* acute hospital trust and *(d)* local authority area; [142903]

(3) what her estimate is of the cost of bed blocking to the NHS in each year since 1997; [142904]

(4) what steps her Department is taking to stop bed blocking in the NHS; [142906]

(5) how her Department is working with those local authorities which operate care homes for the elderly to reduce bed blocking in the NHS; and if she will make a statement; [142907]

(6) what assessment her Department has made of the effects of hospital bed blocking on *(a)* local authority run elderly care homes and *(b)* privately run elderly care homes in (i) England and (ii) Cumbria. [142934]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government are committed to reducing the number of patients who are delayed in hospital, even though they are fit to be discharged. As part of the strategy to tackle this problem, since January 2004 if a patient is delayed in discharging from acute services solely because community care arrangements are lacking, the culpable local authority will have to reimburse the acute national health service trust.

In order to help councils with social services responsibility, whether or not they operate care homes for the elderly, £100 million has been transferred from the NHS for each year since 2003-04 to defray the cost of any reimbursements. Those councils that reduce the number of such delayed transfers can reinvest the money saved in alternative social services.

We have made no estimate of the cost of delayed discharges to the NHS, the effect on operation waiting times, or the development and spread of hospital-acquired infections.

We have made no assessment of the effect of delayed discharge by either local authority run, or privately run, elderly care homes. The latest available figures, for quarter 4 2006-07, detailing the number of delayed discharge cases for each primary care trust, have been placed in Library.

Hospitals: Mobile Phones

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what research has been carried out to quantify the effect of mobile telephone usage in different areas of the hospital environment; [143079]

(2) what assessment she has made of the areas of a hospital environment in which mobile telephone usage places patient safety at risk. [143270]

Caroline Flint: The Medical Devices Agency (now part of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA)) conducted an extensive study into the effects of a wide range of mobile communication equipment on 178 different models of medical device in 1997. The results indicated that only 4 per cent. of the medical devices tested suffered interference from mobile phones at a distance of one metre, with less than 0.1 per cent. showing serious effects.

The results of this study were published in the Device Bulletin DB 9702 'Electromagnetic Compatibility of Medical Devices with Mobile Communications'. This advice has been reviewed on a regular basis by the MHRA since 1997.

An update document, SN 2001(06) was published in March 2001, which covered the potential interference with medical devices by TETRA radio systems employed by the emergency services and media broadcasts from hospital premises.

Most recently, the MHRA published guidance on its website in July 2004. This guidance advised that healthcare providers should actively manage the use of radio frequency spectrum on their own sites, and consider the potential effects of communication equipment on all medical devices.

The Department issued guidance on mobile phone usage in May 2007, available on the Department's website, which contains suggestions on where mobile phones should and should not be used.

Although each national health service trust must ultimately decide where mobile phones are and are not allowed the Department suggests that their usage, for safety, privacy and dignity and annoyance reasons, are not used in the following areas: on wards; intensive therapy units; operating theatres; maternity wards; special care baby units; children's wards/areas.

Subject to carrying out a risk assessment trusts may wish to consider allowing the use of mobile phones in the following areas: hospital reception and entrance areas; non-clinical communal areas which may including day rooms and cafe areas; specially designated rooms/areas; public corridors.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 149-50, on hospitals: waiting lists, in which month she expects to publish the requirements which will apply to the target date of December. [144133]

Andy Burnham: At the latest, the requirements for December 2008 will be published in December 2007.

Hyperactivity: Medical Treatments

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of treating attention deficit hyperactivity disorder by means of medication alone; [144244]

(2) what clinical guidelines she has issued on the use of Ritalin to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder prior to the publication of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [144245]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Prior to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) issuing its original guideline on the use of methylphenidate (Ritalin) in October 2000 no clinical guidance had been issued, other than the prescribing guidance that comes with a licensed medicinal product.

In March 2006, NICE reviewed its earlier advice on methylphenidate and included in their guideline other drugs used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)—atomoxetine and dexamphetamine. NICE has estimated that around 5 per cent. of school-aged children meet the diagnostic criteria for ADHD, equivalent to 366,000 children and adolescents in England and Wales, but not all these children will require medication.

Drug therapy should only be part of a comprehensive treatment programme that includes a range of social, psychological and behavioural interventions. These are mainly aimed at the child, but sometimes involve the parents and/or teachers. NICE has recommended that drug treatment for ADHD should only be initiated by an appropriately qualified healthcare professional with expertise in ADHD and should be based on a comprehensive assessment and diagnosis. Continued prescribing and monitoring of drug treatment may be performed by general practitioners, under shared care arrangements.

NICE is currently developing a clinical guideline on both the pharmacological and psychological interventions to treat ADHD. Publication of the guideline is expected in July 2008.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether she plans to make rulings of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel binding; [144044]

(2) if she will make it her policy to allow local overview and scrutiny committees to refer plans to reconfigure local NHS services directly to the Independent Reconfiguration Panel. [144045]

Andy Burnham: The Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) is an advisory non-departmental public body. The panel provides advice to Ministers on proposals for national health service change in England that have been referred to the Secretary of State by overview and scrutiny committees (OSCs).

The Government's response to the recent Health Select Committee report on patient and public involvement in the NHS states:

"it is for the Secretary of State to determine when she wishes to seek independent advice from the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP)".

The IRP is also available to provide informal advice to organisations involved in developing proposals for NHS service change and is contacted each year by a number of NHS organisations, OSCs and other interested parties. In its informal role, the panel supports organisations in developing proposals for NHS service change and implementing good practice, thereby avoiding cases being contested and referred formally to the Secretary of State at a later date.

There are no plans to change the arrangements for handling referrals to the Secretary of State, nor the role of the IRP.

Infant Foods: Labelling

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action she is taking to encourage relevant authorities to prosecute companies that continue to make claims on infant formula labels and promotional material for baby milk which are non-compliant with current legislation. [143720]

Caroline Flint: The local authorities coordinators of regulatory services issued updated guidance in late 2006 to clarify the types of claims about infant formula that are prohibited. All local authority enforcement offices have been made aware of the new guidance and encouraged to enforce the United Kingdom legislation to ensure companies comply with the rules on claims.

IVF

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance she has issued to primary care trusts on the provision of at least one cycle of IVF treatment in the case of individuals who meet the appropriate criteria for treatment; and if she will make a statement; [142437]

(2) what work has been undertaken between her Department and the Infertility Network UK to improve the extent of IVF treatment provision in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement; [142438]

(3) whether she intends to review the operation of the social access criteria in the provision of IVF treatment by primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement; [142439]

(4) how many primary care trusts in England will provide *(a)* one, *(b)* more than one and *(c)* no cycle of IVF treatment to patients meeting the criteria for treatment; and if she will make a statement; [142440]

(5) what recent estimate has been made of the effect of primary care trust deficits on the local provision of IVF treatment to eligible patients; and if she will make a statement; [142441]

(6) whether she plans to publish a written response to the recent findings of the Infertility Network UK questionnaire to primary care trusts; and if she will make a statement. [142597]

Caroline Flint: In welcoming the clinical guideline published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in 2004, we advised that the Department would be looking to primary care trusts (PCTs) who provided no in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment to meet a minimum level of one cycle of IVF by April 2005, and to make progress to the full implementation of the guideline in the longer term. We are funding the patient support organisation Infertility Network UK (I N UK) to help primary care trusts share best practice and engage with fertility patients in the planning and prioritisation of fertility services. The questionnaire issued to PCTs by I N UK will help to inform that work and we are discussing the findings with them. The primary responsibility for the provision of fertility services, including the application of social access criteria, rests with the national health service at local level and we have not collected data centrally. The need to restore financial balance has meant that a small

number of primary care trusts have suspended the provision of IVF, and the reinstatement of the service is a matter for them, taking account of local circumstances.

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if she will publish the minutes of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation Human Papillomavirus sub-group held on 28 February; [143326]

(2) if she will publish the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation held on 14 February. [143327]

Caroline Flint: Copies will be placed in the Library when they have been agreed.

Junior Doctors: Pay

Mr. McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether she plans to make available financial support to compensate junior doctors put at a financial disadvantage by the problems with the modernising the medical careers scheme. [143613]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The Secretary of State has given a commitment to support doctors whose contracts come to an end during round two recruitment by ensuring that all applicants in substantive NHS employment will continue to have employment while they progress through the next round. Strategic health authorities have been asked to work with trusts and draw up plans to deliver this commitment.

Learning Disabilities: Life Expectancy

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the cost of a confidential inquiry into mortality of people with learning disabilities as suggested in "Valuing People" in 2001; and what assessment she has made of the merits of an inquiry into understanding and addressing health outcomes for people with a learning disability. [143303]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Valuing People" included a commitment to explore the feasibility of establishing a confidential inquiry into mortality among people with a learning disability.

The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) was commissioned by the Department to carry out this scoping study and did so during 2005-06. The NPSA presented the Department with a number of scenarios for carrying out a confidential inquiry, with estimated costs ranging between £2 million and £5 million over a three-year period.

Since that work was carried out, the Department has established an independent inquiry into the deaths of the six people named in Mencap's report, "Death by Indifference". In addition to the six cases, the independent inquiry will be identifying the action required to ensure that people with learning disabilities receive appropriate health care. The findings and recommendations of that inquiry will be used to inform a decision on whether to take forward a full confidential inquiry into mortality.

Macular Degeneration: Drugs

Martin Salter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will overrule the draft National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines approving the use of the drug Lucentis for only a limited proportion of the patients who suffer from wet age-related macular degeneration; and if she will make a statement. [143825]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is an independent body, established to issue evidence-based advice to the national health service on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of new and existing treatments. NICE has published for consultation its preliminary recommendations on the use of Macugen and Lucentis for the treatment of wet age-related macular degeneration. Stakeholders have until 5 July to submit comments to NICE, following which NICE's Appraisal Committee will formulate its final advice for the NHS.

The Department is a stakeholder in the guidance development process and will be submitting a response to NICE's consultation, but it would not be appropriate for Ministers to intervene in the conduct of a NICE appraisal.

Pending final guidance from NICE, NHS bodies should continue to make local decisions on the use of Lucentis and Macugen, taking account of the available evidence.

Maternity Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what date each primary care trust must have produced their local strategy for meeting the guarantees made in maternity matters; if her Department will require that these local strategies are *(a)* placed on the internet and *(b)* otherwise made available to the public; and what assessment her Department plans to make of these strategies. [143626]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In maternity matters, we state that primary care trust (PCT) prospectuses would be published in autumn 2007. These prospectuses should include the PCT proposals for increasing choice and improving maternity services. It is for strategic health authorities (SHAs) to ensure that PCTs complete their prospectuses and publish them. Although the documents will be readily accessible to the public there is no requirement to publish on the internet. However, we understand that a number of PCTs plan to do so.

We have no plan to make any assessment other than to ensure that, via SHAs, the strategic needs assessments are completed.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 584W, on mothers: home help, how many hours per week of support the intensive nurse-led home visiting programme provides for each family. [144491]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Nurses in the family nurse partnership intervention pilot project visit each client

during pregnancy and until the child's second birthday. Prenatal visits occur once a week for the first four weeks after enrolment, usually between 16 and 28 weeks into the pregnancy, then every other week for the rest of the pregnancy. After the baby is born, visits are increased again to once a week for the first six weeks, then level out at every other week until the child is 21 months old. Visits then continue once a month until the child's second birthday. Each visit is expected to last from one to one and a half hours.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 584W, on mothers: home help, on what date her Department *(a)* first announced and *(b)* first started testing the intensive nurse-led home visiting programme. [144492]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In "Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion" (September 2006) the Government announced a proposal to establish 10 pilot projects to test a specific model of intensive home visiting for vulnerable first time young mothers. The 10 sites began testing this model of intervention from April 2007.

Maternity Services: Banbury

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department expects the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust to issue guidance to GPs in Banbury on which hospitals to refer expectant mothers. [144084]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: "Maternity Matters: Choice Access and Continuity of Care in a safe environment" has introduced a new national choice guarantee for women. This means that by 2009 all women will have choice in where and how they have their baby, and what pain relief to use, depending on their individual circumstances.

I understand Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals National Health Service Trust will work in accordance with the guidelines of "Maternity Matters" to ensure there is a clear understanding of the choice of local midwifery and obstetric services.

Maternity Services: St. Mary's Hospital

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what extra funding has been allocated for the Recurrent Miscarriage Unit at St. Mary's Hospital over the next 10 years; [143259]

(2) if she will make a statement on the future of the Recurrent Miscarriage Unit at Paddington Hospital. [143260]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information requested is not held centrally. It is for primary care trusts to commission services to meet the needs of the communities that they serve.

The miscarriage unit at St. Mary's Hospital NHS Trust continues to provide this vital service.

Medical Treatments: British Nationality

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what entitlement British citizens who have recently returned from overseas have to treatment at GP surgeries. [144638]

Andy Burnham: The national health service is intended first and foremost for the benefit of people living in the United Kingdom. General practices have discretion over whom they register as a patient but people who are living lawfully in the UK and for a settled purpose, are entitled to register with a practice. This includes British citizens who have recently returned from overseas and who intend to settle here.

In addition, anyone, whether they are a UK resident or from overseas, who requires treatment which, in the clinical opinion of a general practitioner or health care professional, is an emergency or immediately necessary is entitled to receive that treatment free of charge irrespective of whether the person is registered with that practice.

Medicine: Training

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the Medical Training and Application Service's website in facilitating the application process for ST1-4 positions. [124741]

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment she has made of the operation of the Medical Training Application System; and if she will make a statement. [125093]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 7 March 2007]:* On the 7 March we announced that a review of the recruitment processes into specialty training and the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) would be undertaken by Professor Neil Douglas, Vice President of the Academy of Royal Colleges. Members of the review group included representatives of the Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association, the four United Kingdom Health Departments and NHS Employers.

In March we also conducted a high level review of the functionality of the MTAS system and whether it was delivering what it was designed to deliver. The conclusion was that the system met its specification, was stable, performed acceptably and contained the necessary functionality to be fit for the purpose for which it was designed.

The Review Group made a number of recommendations about the 2007 recruitment process after listening to concerns from doctors and in the light of its own work. These have been implemented including:

- giving all applicants in England at least one interview;
- making technical enhancements to MTAS;
- improving the helpdesk;
- improving the business processes within deaneries;
- establishing a deanery based process for matching applicants to training posts in Round 1, and
- that Round 2 should be managed locally.

After the security breaches in April we changed the way MTAS was used. Once a full security review deemed the MTAS site to be secure, it was re-opened on 4 May and restricted to postgraduate deaneries

only, to support the next steps in the recruitment process. The system will continue to be used for national monitoring to ensure that training post are filled efficiently.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applicants for ST1-4 positions were appointed to such positions through the late application process in the latest period for which figures are available. [124742]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not collected centrally because we have not separately identified those applications that were part of the late application process.

Mental Health Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many secure places for psychiatric patients there are in hospitals in England. [137019]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data collected records the numbers of mental health and learning disability secure unit beds in national health service units, not the numbers of psychiatric secure unit beds.

In 2005-06 (the latest period for which figures are available), there was an average daily number of 2,807 mental illness secure unit beds, and 526 learning disability secure unit beds in NHS units in England.

The source for these figures is the Department of Health Dataset KH03 and the definitions for the purposes of this collection are as follows.

These figures do not represent the full level of secure services available to the NHS. Low secure mental health services are not consistently defined and may well fall outside the following definitions. This means that the aforementioned figures mainly show the numbers in high and medium secure mental health services in NHS units. These figures also only show NHS beds and not those commissioned by the NHS and provided by independent sector providers.

The definitions of mental health and Learning Disability Secure Unit Beds, for the purposes of the KH03 annual beds collection, are:

Mental illness - other ages, secure unit

an age group intended of National Code 8 Any age, a broad patient group code of National Code 5 'Patients with mental illness' and a clinical care intensity of National Code 51 'for intensive care: specially designated ward for patients needing containment and more intensive management This is not to be confused with intensive nursing where a patient may require one to one nursing while on a standard ward'.

Learning disabilities—Other ages, Secure unit

an age group intended of National Code 8 'Any age', a Broad Patient Group Code of National Code 6 'Patients with learning difficulties' and a clinical care intensity of National Code 61 'designated or interim secure unit'.

Mesothelioma: Drugs

Mr. Doran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the likely cost per patient of providing the drug Alimta (Pemetrexed). [144018]

Andy Burnham: During the course of its appraisal of Alimta for malignant plural mesothelioma, the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimated the average cost of treatment at around £8,000 per patient, assuming five treatment cycles and based on the drug's published list price.

We have made no separate assessment.

Mr. Doran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget has been allocated by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for its appraisal of the drug Alimta (Pemetrexed). [144019]

Caroline Flint: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) does not allocate specific budgets for the conduct of individual appraisals. NICE's business plan for 2007-08 indicates that it has allocated around £3.3 million to its Centre for Health Technology Evaluation in the current financial year. In addition, NICE's appraisal work is supported by the National Health Service Health Technology Assessment programme, which is funded separately by the Department.

Midwives: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual cost was to the public purse of training a midwifery student in each year since 1997. [141185]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated average tuition costs for training midwifery students in each year since 1997-98 are shown in the following table, although the data collected have been based on different methodologies, therefore making comparisons difficult.

Average midwifery tuition costs from 1997-98 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Average midwifery tuition costs (£)*
1997-98	[1, 2]4,688
1998-99	[1]5,375
1999-2000	5,430
2000-01	5,877
2001-02	6,051
2002-03	6,315
2003-04	6,649
2004-05	[2]6,489
2005-06	[2]6,442
2006-07	[3]7,632
2007-08	[3]7,838

[1] 1997-98 and 1998-99 figures are calculated using estimated bursary rates.
[2] 1997-98, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are forecasts (actual outturn was only collected from 1999 onwards and the last data collected was in November 2004 covering 2003-04 outturn).
[3] 2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are taken from the Benchmark Price .

In addition to tuition costs, midwifery trainees are entitled to either a bursary or salary support funding. The bursaries in 2007-08 outside London are £6,372 for diploma students and £2,231 for degree students.

Students may be entitled to other payments such as allowances for dependant children and the cost of national health service employees seconded onto midwifery training programmes will include a proportion of their salary costs.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on midwifery training in each year since 1997; and how many students who qualified in each year are employed as midwives. [142319]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 12 June 2007]*: The total cost of training student midwives for each year since 1997 is set out in the following table.

Total cost of training student midwives for each year since 1997

Financial year	*Total cost (£ million)*
1997-98	42.6
1998-99	34.6
1999-2000	45.6
2000-01	51.4
2001-02	58.7
2002-03	59.0
2003-04	65.8
2004-05	79.4
2005-06	82.2

Notes:
1. 1997-98, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are estimates (actual outturn was only collected from 1998-99 onwards). No data is available for 2006-07.
2. Data in the above time series is not strictly comparable due to changes in the way data was collected.
3. Average bursary costs for nurses and midwives added to tuition costs from 2000-01 onwards.
4. The Department does not collect centrally the number of students who qualified as midwives in each of these years.

Musculoskeletal Disorders

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what outcomes data underpins the musculoskeletal system problems (excluding trauma) category of the National Programme Budgeting Database; what proportion of expenditure in the category is covered by those outcomes; and whether additional outcome measures for musculoskeletal system problems are planned. [143328]

Andy Burnham: At present, no health outcomes data are provided in the musculoskeletal system problems section of the programme budgeting database. Two potential outcomes measures are under consideration for this programme: death within 30 days of admission and emergency readmission to hospital within 28 days of discharge.

Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: Teesside

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients suffering from myalgic encephalomyelitis were referred to treatment centres in other areas of the UK by primary care trusts on Teesside in the last 12 months; [143432]

(2) what specialist services are provided by primary care trusts on Teesside for people suffering from myalgic encephalomyelitis; [143433]

(3) what assessment she has made of the adequacy of services for myalgic encephalomyelitis sufferer in Teesside. [143434]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the number of patients suffering from myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) that were referred to treatment centres in other areas of the United Kingdom is not collected centrally.

It is the responsibility of local primary care trusts to commission services, including chronic fatigue syndrome/ME services, according to the health needs of their populations and taking into account the resources available. It is for strategic health authorities to performance manage and ensure the development of well planned, good quality health services that meet the needs of local people.

NHS Alliance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding was provided to the NHS Alliance from *(a)* her Department's budget and *(b)* the NHS budget in each financial year since 1997-98. [112387]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 156W.

NHS Confederation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which projects the Government is co-operating with the NHS Confederation. [118923]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 February 2007]*: The Department has a wide range of contacts with the NHS Confederation as a major stakeholder in the development of the national health service and NHS policy.

The Department has a contract with NHS Employers, which is part of the NHS Confederation, to provide employers' organisation services such as pay negotiations for NHS staff and the provision of guidance and support on good employment practice.

NHS: Armed Forces

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors and *(b)* other medical staff from the NHS are currently serving in the armed forces. [142128]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

As of the 12 June 2007 there were 15 doctors and 59 other medical staff from the NHS who are also members of our reserve forces and mobilised.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost to the NHS is expected to be of implementing agenda for change in each of the years to 2011-12. [135767]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The estimated cost to the national health service of implementing agenda for change in each of the years up to 2007-08 is:

	£ million
2004-05	590
2005-06	1,060
2006-07	1,390
2007-08	1,780

Estimates beyond 2007-08 are not available at present.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of funding for the NHS was spent on staff whose roles do not involve providing care for patients in the latest period for which figures are available. [139800]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not collected in the format requested. However, it is possible to illustrate the total amount spent on the pay of non-clinical national health service staff as a percentage of the total NHS budget. The total pay bill for non-clinical staff in 2005-06 (the latest year for which we have data) was £6,824 million which was 9.3 per cent. of the total NHS net spend of £73,677 billion for that year.

NHS: Homeopathy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients used NHS homeopathic services in each primary care trust in each year since 1997. [144640]

Caroline Flint: This information is not collected centrally as the Government consider that decision-making on individual clinical interventions, whether conventional, or complementary/alternative treatments, have to be a matter for local national health service providers and practitioners as they are best placed to know their community's needs. In making such decisions, they have to take into account evidence for the safety, clinical and cost-effectiveness of any treatments, the availability of suitably qualified practitioners, and the needs of the individual patient.

The Department recognises that the health needs of a community can differ from area to area and primary care trusts would reflect these needs in developing policies on the commissioning and funding of any treatments or services.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 372W, on NHS: procurement, how many NHS Supply Chain clinical councils there are; and what areas of healthcare procurement they advise on; [143935]

(2) what criteria are used for the appointment of members of NHS Supply Chain clinical councils; and what appointments have been made; [143936]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 16 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 372W, on NHS: procurement, what *(a)* resources and *(b)* information are available to members of NHS Supply Chain clinical councils in their evaluation of the product requirements of the NHS. [143937]

Andy Burnham: NHS Supply Chain is currently devising product councils that will cover its major product categories. The first two councils will cover the areas of theatre and nursing and it is expected that they be set up towards the end of this year.

No appointments have been made yet. The appointment criteria for product council members will cover the level of experience of each applicant, including both academic qualifications and clinical experience in the field. Decisions will be made based on the application form and curriculum vitae of each applicant.

As the product councils are not yet operating, resources and information about the evaluation of national health service product requirements are not yet available.

Mr. Havard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 341W, on NHS: procurement, what non-financial aspects of quality assessment are used by NHS Supply Chain in tender evaluations in addition to National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. [143938]

Andy Burnham: NHS Supply Chain employs a number of qualitative measures during the tender evaluation process. Owing to the complexity and variety of products and services within the NHS supplies market, these are determined on a case by case basis against the background of the specific category market. As a rule the measures will include requests for evidence of quality testing that meets relevant British, European or international standards, independent testing, product evaluation by clinicians, caterers or other end users. NHS Supply Chain will also facilitate product trials with national health service trusts where possible.

Evidence of suppliers' quality control systems are also reviewed and NHS Supply Chain actively monitors existing suppliers' delivery performance and product quality during the life of the contract to ensure that the NHS secures reliable and consistent supply of effective, value for money products for use in patient care.

NHS: Stoke-on-Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will review the adequacy of *(a)* the pool budget allocation for Stoke-on-Trent and *(b)* the formula on which the funding is allocated. [143347]

Caroline Flint: Decisions regarding pooled drug treatment budget (PTB) allocations beyond 2008 have yet to be made.

The allocation process for 2007-08 involved an element of re-distribution to narrow the differing PTB spend per head within each drug partnership area. Stoke-on-Trent were allocated a 7 per cent. PTB increase from 2006-07, an overall increase of 35 per cent. in the last two years.

NHS: Surrey

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment her Department has made of the impact which the NHS funding formula has had on NHS deficits within Surrey; and if she will make a statement. [143281]

Caroline Flint: The Department's director general of finance commissioned a report from the chief economic adviser to consider potential causes for the emergence of national health service deficits. The report "Explaining NHS Deficits 2003-04 to 2005-06" was published on 20 February 2007.

The report discusses purported explanations for the timing, geographical patterns and organisational structure of NHS deficits. The report shows that the resource allocation funding formula did not play a significant role in causing aggregate NHS deficits in the years in which this formula was used to allocate funding.

Copies of the report are available in the Library.

NHS: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how her Department monitors spending on training for NHS staff. [144043]

Andy Burnham: The Department monitor spend on training for national health service staff via biannual monitoring returns.

The returns are completed by strategic health authorities (SHAs) at the end of quarter two and outturn at quarter four. They include information on how much each SHA spends on training medical and dental undergraduates, medical and dental postgraduates and their non-medical professional workforce.

This monitoring process only covers posts that are funded from the multi professional education and training budget and NHS trusts will also invest in training their own staff, however, this information is not held centrally.

Nurses: Redundancy

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS nurses applied for voluntary redundancy in 2006; and what the cost of those redundancies was. [134781]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not collect centrally the number of nurses who apply for voluntary redundancy.

However, since April 2006 we have collected information centrally on the number who were offered and have taken voluntary redundancy.

There were 118 nurses who decided to take voluntary redundancy in the 12 months to 31 March 2007.

The cost of these redundancies was not collected centrally.

Palliative Care: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the timetable is for publishing her Department's response to the independent review of children's palliative care services; and if she will make a statement. [141678]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will publish a response later in the year.

Palliative Care: Finance

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much her Department provided in exceptional allocation monies for specialist palliative care in Gloucestershire in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [143696]

(2) what steps she is taking to ensure that exceptional allocation monies for specialist palliative care services are spent on those services; and if she will make a statement. [143697]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answers 18 June 2007]:* Ministers set up a central budget of £50 million per annum for specialist palliative care for the three years beginning 2003-04. Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust (PCT) is part of the Three Counties Cancer Network which received £928,000 per annum between 2003-04 and 2005-06. The Department does not have figures for individual PCTs. The £50 million was made recurrent in PCT baseline allocations from 2006-07.

PCTs are responsible within the national health service for commissioning and funding services for their resident population, including end of life care. It is for PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to meet the healthcare needs of their local populations.

Pregnancy: Stress

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* funded and *(b)* carried out by her Department into stress in unborn children; when her Department last undertook an evidence review on the issue that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if she will make a statement. [142834]

Caroline Flint: The Department's National Institute for Health Research has recently awarded funding for a trial of the use of the hyperemesis impact of symptoms score for individualised assessment and management of the symptoms of hyperemesis gravidarum. Research on fetal and birth stress also forms part of the work programme of the Hammersmith and St. Mary's and Imperial College Biomedical Research Centre which the Department is funding from April 2007.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number concerned with fetal stress are available on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

The Department has not undertaken an evidence review of the sort to which the hon. Member refers.

Pregnant Women: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the new advice on pregnant women and alcohol was submitted for ministerial approval. [142071]

Caroline Flint: I have agreed the new advice on pregnant women with four United Kingdom chief medical officers.

Prescriptions: Carlisle

Mr. Martlew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for *(a)* diamorphine and *(b)* methadone were dispensed in Carlisle constituency in each year since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [143217]

Caroline Flint: The information is not available in the requested format. The data provided in the following tables are for the number of items prescribed for diamorphine hydrochloride and methadone hydrochloride in the former Carlisle and District Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Cumbria PCT (after October 2006).

Diamorphine hydrochloride (British National Formulary (BNF) codes 3.9.1 and 4.7.2)

	Prescriber name	*Total items diamorphine hydrochloride*
2003	Carlisle and District PCT	467
2004	Carlisle and District PCT	489
2005	Carlisle and District PCT	343
2006	Carlisle and District PCT	292
2006	Cumbria PCT[1]	424

Methadone hydrochloride (British National Formulary codes 3.9.1 and 4.7.2 and 4.10)

	Prescriber name	*Total items methadone hydrochloride*
2003	Carlisle and District PCT	1,436
2004	Carlisle and District PCT	1,466
2005	Carlisle and District PCT	1,622
2006	Carlisle and District PCT	1,331
2006	Cumbria PCT[1]	4,342

[1] Cumbria PCT was formed in October 2006 and consists of Carlisle and District PCT, Eden Valley PCT, West Cumbria PCT and part of Morecambe Bay PCT.

ePACT Data

This information was obtained from the prescribing analysis and cost tool (PACT) system, which covers prescriptions prescribed by general practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and others in England and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom. For data at PCT level, prescriptions written by a prescriber located in a particular PCT but dispensed outside that PCT will be included in the PCT in which the prescriber is based. Prescriptions written in England but dispensed outside England are included. Prescriptions written in hospitals/clinics that are dispensed in the community, prescriptions dispensed in hospitals and private prescriptions are not included in PACT data. It is important to note this as some BNF sections have a high proportion of prescriptions written in hospitals that are dispensed in the community.

For example, BNF chapter 4, Central Nervous System, has a fair proportion of items written in mental health clinics that are dispensed in the community—these prescriptions are not included in PACT data.

Prescription items

Prescriptions are written on a prescription form known as a FP10. Each single item written on the form is counted as a prescription item.

PCT level data

A PCT will only appear in the PACT system if a prescription has been made within the time period that the data spans. Hence, the total number of PCTs will vary for different BNF chapters/sections. Blank fields are indicative of PCTs which have ceased to exist (or come into existence) either because they have merged with one or more other PCTs or have been officially renamed during the time period for which data has been requested.

The sum of the data for all PCTs does not equal the total England figure, because the total England figure includes unidentified Doctors (not possible for the Prescriptions Pricing Division to allocate to a PCT).

BNF classifications

The prescription cost analysis system uses the therapeutic classifications defined in the BNF. No information on why a drug is prescribed is available and since drugs can be prescribed to treat more than one condition it is impossible to separate the different conditions that a drug was prescribed for.

Psychology: Waiting Lists

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will take steps to reduce the waiting time for primary care psychological therapy services for residents of Altrincham and Sale West to less than 6 months. [139187]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Trafford Primary Care Trust (PCT) is putting in place a range of measures to reduce waiting times for psychological therapy services. These include establishing joint working practices across primary care mental health services and primary care psychology services, setting up a single point of access to services and introducing an improved waiting list management service.

We made a manifesto commitment in 2005 to increase the provision of psychological therapies. This followed 2001 Department guidelines on treatment choice in psychological therapies and 2004 guidance, "Organising and Delivering Psychological Therapies", to help local services to understand best practice and how to organise local services to support access. Last year we embarked on a new programme, Improving Access to Psychological Therapies, to provide more effective and timely access to psychological therapies for people with mild to moderate mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression.

Research: Heart Diseases

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department spent on research into *(a)* coronary heart disease, *(b)* cancer and *(c)* stroke and stroke related problems in each of the last 10 years. [144055]

Caroline Flint: The available information is shown in the table.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have since 2001-02 accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on a number of national priority areas, including cancer and coronary heart disease.

The Department does not routinely collect expenditure data at the level that would be required to answer the third part of the hon. Gentleman's question.

Details of individual projects supported in the NHS can be found on the national research register at www.dh.gov.uk/research.

	£ million	
	Cancer[1]	*Coronary heart disease*[2]
1997-98	53	n/a
1998-99	75.4	n/a
1999-2000	77.4	n/a
2000-01	83.8	n/a
2001-02	113.4	n/a
2002-03	124.1	55
2003-04	139.8	53
2004-05	150.3	59
2005-06	168	59

n/a = not available
[1] Spend as reported by national health service organisations and by the Department's national research programmes
[2] Spend as reported by NHS organisations.

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme: Pre-School Education

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will extend the National School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme to children in *(a)* pre-school and nursery environments and *(b)* formal education beyond the age of six years. [144164]

Caroline Flint: The school fruit and vegetable scheme (SFVS) is a school-based scheme, which provides a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day to children aged four to six years (and any other children in the same class) attending a participating local education authority maintained infant, primary or special school.

In setting the eligibility criteria, we sought to draw the lines in a way which are fair and practical focusing on the first years of education in school The decision to base eligibility by class or school grouping and not strictly by age has the key benefit that all children in a class participate.

The SFVS is part of a wider strategy to improve children's diets, supporting the improvements we are making to school food and the healthy eating theme of the healthy schools programme . We have no plans to extend the SFVS at present.

Sight Impaired: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in West Lancashire constituency were registered as blind in each year since 1997. [143523]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is not available in the requested format. Data are collected from councils with social services responsibilities and are not available at constituency level. The number of severely sight impaired people registered is collected every three years. The information for those registered as severely sight impaired in Lancashire county council and successor organisations since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Number of people registered as severely sight impaired in Lancashire from 1997 to 2006

				Rounded numbers
	1997	*2000*	*2003*	*2006*
Lancashire[1]	5,100	5,050	5,070	4,910
Lancashire (remaining)	—	3,930	3,920	3,750
Blackburn and Darwen	—	570	550	530
Blackpool	—	540	600	640

[1] In 1997 Lancashire consisted of Lancashire, Blackburn and Darwen, and Blackpool. Figures have been provided on a consistent basis for comparison.

Notes:

These data are compiled from the triennial return SSDA 902 submitted by councils to the Information Centre for health and social care. There has been a change in the terminology of the registers, blind and partial sight should now be expressed as severely sight impaired (blind) and sight impaired (partially sighted).

Registration of blindness is voluntary. However, it is a pre-condition for the receipt of certain financial benefits. It is this factor which gives greater credibility to the "Register of the Severely Sight Impaired" than to the "Register of the Sight Impaired" and to other disability registration records maintained by councils, where the voluntary principle also applies. Registration is not, however, a pre-requisite for certain social services concessions and this factor, combined with uncertainties about the regularity with which the councils review and update their records, makes it difficult to assign a degree of reliability to either of these registers.

For people to be registered as severely or partially sight impaired they must first undergo an examination by a consultant ophthalmologist. The consultant records his or her findings on the Certificate of Visual Impairment (CVI) formerly the BD8, on which the consultant also certifies whether or not the person meets the statutory definition of blindness or the non-statutory definition of partial sight.

The statutory definition of blindness is that a person should be "so blind as to be unable to perform any work for which eyesight is essential".

Smoking

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines have been issued on how funding allocated to local authorities for extra activity brought about by the smoking ban should be spent. [144172]

Caroline Flint: The anticipated costs and benefits of smoke-free legislation is set out in the Departments final Regulatory Impact Assessment published in December 2006. Copies are available in the Library.

I refer the hon. member to the answer given on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1698W for details on funding for local authorities.

The Government provide funding for local authorities' new responsibilities to build compliance and, where necessary, enforce smoke-free legislation under the principles of the New Burdens Doctrine by way of a non-ringfenced grant. The grant has been

made in line with the Government's commitment to provide freedom for local authorities in the allocation of their budgets.

South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what level of *(a)* weighted and *(b)* unweighted funding per patient (i) South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust and (ii) Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust received in the last year for which figures are available. [144083]

Andy Burnham: The Department makes revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs), but not to national health service trusts. South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust is in Warwickshire PCT and Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust is in Oxfordshire PCT. The weighted and unweighted revenue allocations per head of population for Warwickshire PCT and Oxfordshire PCT in 2007-08 are provided, therefore, in the following table.

	2007-08	
	Allocation per unweighted head (£)	*Allocation per weighted head (£)*
Warwickshire PCT	1,241	1,355
Oxfordshire PCT	1,171	1,389

Standards: Pharmacy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many medicine use reviews were undertaken in each of the last 10 years, broken down by primary care trust. [142487]

Caroline Flint: Medicine use reviews (MURs) were introduced on 1 April 2005 as an advanced service within the new contractual framework for community pharmacy, provided by accredited pharmacists in premises that had been accredited. Data on the number of MURs that pharmacists provided in the first year of the schemes operation, April 2005 to March 2006, were published in table 10 of the bulletin "General Pharmaceutical Services in England and Wales 1996-97 to 2005-06" published by the Information Centre for health and social care in 2006. A copy is available in the Library. Similar data for the period April 2006 to March 2007 will be published later this year. An advance copy is being placed in the Library. The total number of MURs for 2005-06 and 2006-07 were 150,000 and 560,000 respectively.

Tomography: Waiting Lists

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time was for patients to receive *(a)* CT, *(b)* MRI and *(c)* PET scans in each year since 2000, broken down by health authority. [142978]

Andy Burnham: Collection of data on waiting times for 15 key diagnostic tests began in 2006. Median waiting times for MRI and CT scans in April 2006 and April 2007 are shown in the table. The heading CT includes PET CT.

Commissioner based median waiting times (weeks) for MRI and CT scans

	Test			
	MRI		*CT*	
Strategic health authority	*April 2006*	*April 2007*	*April 2006*	*April 2007*
North East	5.7	3.1	2.3	1.6
North West	5.3	4.1	3.1	2.1
Yorks and the Humber	5.4	3.5	2.6	1.7
East Midlands	4.1	2.9	1.8	1.6
West Midlands	4.5	3.0	2.2	1.5
East of England	5.2	4.0	2.7	1.9
London	6.2	4.3	2.9	2.2
South East Coast	6.3	3.7	3.0	1.8
South Central	5.4	3.0	3.0	1.9
South West	5.8	3.9	3.3	1.9

Source:
Department of Health, DM01

Vaccinations: Side Effects

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for how many past years her Department holds records of numbers of *(a)* reported adverse reactions to vaccines and *(b)* deaths attributed to vaccinations. [143200]

Caroline Flint: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (formally known as the Medicines Control Agency, and previously the Medicines Division of the Department of Health) has been collecting reports of suspected adverse reactions (ADRs) to medicines and vaccines and any deaths associated with them for 43 years via the Yellow Card Scheme. The scheme records information from health care professionals and patients with a suspicion that an ADR may be related to a drug or vaccine, and has been in operation since 1964.

CJD: Blood

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many blood samples from haemophiliacs have been made available to the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control for research into prototype vCJD blood tests; on what dates such samples were made available; and if she will make a statement. [142986]

Caroline Flint: None.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many samples of blood from haemophiliacs are being used in research to test for vCJD; and if she will make a statement. [142987]

Caroline Flint: We are not aware of any blood samples from haemophiliacs currently in such use. No

samples would be used without ensuring compliance with appropriate ethical and legal processes.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will list the batches of blood products administered to patients in the UK that are known to be at risk from vCJD contamination; and if she will make a statement. [142988]

Caroline Flint: In September 2004 selected groups of patients were informed about the results of a risk assessment exercise for blood plasma products, undertaken by the Health Protection Agency. As part of this exercise, the batch numbers for plasma products implicated with variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease were sent to national health service trusts, primary care trusts and to the United Kingdom Haemophilia Centre Doctors Organisation.

X-rays

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of strategic health authority mergers on *(a)* access to and *(b)* use of, the £3 million capital allocation to purchase dual X-ray absorptiometry scans from the private sector; and if she will make a statement. [140505]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made an assessment of the impact of strategic health authority mergers on the access to, and use of, the £3 million capital allocation to purchase dual X-ray absorptiometry scans from the private sector. The Department no longer views the detailed monitoring of cash allocations as the best way forward. Instead, we are focusing on benefits to patients and the national health service, and in terms of DEXA scanning this has meant activity to reduce waiting times.

Information on how many people are waiting for a range of diagnostic tests, and for how long they are waiting has been published since January 2006. It is available at:

www.performance.doh.gov.uk.

It shows that the number of people waiting more than 13 weeks for a DEXA scan has fallen from 9,356 in January 2006 to just 683 in April 2007, including a fall in the number of people waiting over 26 weeks from 3,837 to 14.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many families in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland have been involved in the Family Intervention Project. [143421]

Mr. Coaker: On 19 June 2007 there were 16 families working with the Middlesbrough Family Intervention Project (FIP). This project covers the constituency area of Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland.

Asylum

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1351W, on asylum, what the normal criteria are for the allocation of cases between regions; what the regional strategic co-ordination arrangements are; and who makes the decisions on allocation. [130034]

Mr. Byrne: In each case, the Border and Immigration Agency first establishes whether there are special circumstances that would require an applicant to be housed in London or in a specific location outside London (for example if a medical condition was treatable only in a limited number of hospitals in the UK). If no such circumstances exist, asylum applicants who require accommodation are allocated to a case owner in one of the Border and Immigration Agency's regions outside London. This reflects the Border and Immigration Agency's policy of housing destitute asylum seekers away from London and the South East in places where accommodation is more freely available and in a manner which represents better value for money for the taxpayer.

Once any special circumstances have been ruled out, the decision to allocate to a particular region is made by the Border and Immigration Agency staff and is based upon a complex algorithm incorporating information on the availability of accommodation, the numbers of asylum seekers already housed in that region, the need to ensure each accommodation provider receives an equitable share of the Border and Immigration Agency business and the availability of the Border and Immigration Agency caseowner resource in that region.

Once an applicant has been allocated to a particular region, the accommodation provider then has some latitude as to in which town or city in that region the applicant is housed. The Regional Strategic Coordination Groups are a forum through which local authorities, accommodation providers, the Border and Immigration Agency and other key players should be able to influence, over time, the spread of the available accommodation within that region.

Asylum: Afghanistan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Afghanistan in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142790]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Afghan asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Afghanistan are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are living in Bassetlaw constituency. [138823]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives.

As at the end of March 2007, there were no asylum seekers recorded as receiving asylum support in the Bassetlaw constituency. This figure excludes those asylum seekers who are living in the Bassetlaw constituency but are not receiving support from Border and Immigration Agency.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support from Border and Immigration Agency, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Further breakdowns of those in receipt of support from Border and Immigration Agency by parliamentary constituency are also available from the Library of the House.

Asylum: Belarus

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Belarus in each year since 1997; and how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations. [143361]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on the number of Belarusian asylum applications received in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

Applications[1] received for asylum in the UK, excluding dependants, for nationals of Belarus, 1997 to 2006

	Number of applications
1997	35
1998	110
1999[2]	600
2000[2]	580
2001	80
2002	110
2003	120
2004	45
2005[3]	60
2006[3]	55

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5.
[2] May exclude some cases lodged at local enforcement offices between January 1999 and March 2000.
[3] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people against whom removal proceedings were commenced were detained in an immigration centre prior to their removal in each month of the last two years; and what percentage this represents of the total number of people against whom removal proceedings were commenced in each month. [123535]

John Reid: The accompanying tables show the number of persons recorded as leaving detention solely under Immigration Act powers in order to be removed from the UK in 2005 and in each of the first three quarters of 2006.

Data on the total number of persons against whom removal proceedings were commenced are not available; they could be obtained through examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Copies of statistics publications are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds.

Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, 2005, by reason for leaving detention[1,2,6] (excluding Oakington and Harwich Abbey)

Number of individuals

		of whom:				
Reason for leaving detention	*Total persons*	*asylum seekers*	*Q1 2005*	*Q2 2005*	*Q3 2005*	*Q4 2005*
Removed from the UK	20,420	9,975	4,845	4,995	5,095	5,480
Granted leave to enter/remain[3]	130	20	25	35	40	30
Granted temporary admission/release[4]	7,290	5,720	1,640	1,800	1,710	2,140
Bailed[5]	1,370	1,090	270	285	395	415
Other	5	5	*	*	*	—
Total leaving detention	29,210	16,805	6,785	7,115	7,245	8,065

[1] Figures exclude persons recorded as leaving detention from police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.
[2] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.
[3] Short or long term stay in the UK has been granted.
[4] Decision on case has not been made.
[5] Detainee has applied for, and been granted, bail at a bail hearing.
[6] Provisional figures.

Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, Quarter 1 2006, by reason and place of detention[1,6] (excluding Oakington and Harwich)

Number of individuals

Place of last detention	[2]Total leaving detention	Removed from the UK	[3]Granted leave to enter/ remain	[4]Granted temporary admission/ release	[5]Bailed	Other
Total persons	7,490	5,360	30	1,730	375	*
of whom: asylum seekers	4,445	2,785	5	7,330	325	*

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2 and may not sum due to rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.
[2] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.
[3] Short or long term stay in the UK has been granted.
[4] Decision on case has not been made.
[5] Detainee has applied for, and been granted, bail at a bail hearing.
[6] Provisional figures.

Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, Quarter 2 2006, by reason and place of detention[1,6] (excluding Oakington and Harwich)

Number of individuals

Place of last detention	[2]Total leaving detention	Removed from the UK	[3]Granted leave to enter/ remain	[4]Granted temporary admission/ release	[5]Bailed	Other
Total persons	7,390	5,155	55	1,820	360	—
of whom: asylum seekers	4,360	2,610	5	1,465	280	—

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2 and may not sum due to rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.
[2] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.
[3] Short or long term stay in the UK has been granted.
[4] Decision on case has not been made.
[5] Detainee has applied for, and been granted, bail at a bail hearing.
[6] Provisional figures.

Persons recorded as leaving detention in the United Kingdom solely under Immigration Act powers, Quarter 3 2006, by reason and place of detention[1,7] (excluding Oakington and Harwich)

Number of individuals

Place of last detention	[2]Total leaving detention	Removed from the UK	[3]Granted leave to enter/ remain	[4]Granted temporary admission/ release	[5]Bailed	Other
Total persons	6,165	3,845	30	1,920	370	—
of whom: asylum seekers	3,740	1,970	5	1,545	215	—
of whom: minors[6]	330	165	—	160	10	—

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5, with * = 1 or 2 and may not sum due to rounding. Figures exclude persons recorded as detained in police cells and Prison Service establishments, those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers at time of removal/release and their children.
[2] Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown.
[3] Short or long term stay in the UK has been granted.
[4] Decision on case has not been made.
[5] Detainee has applied for, and been granted, bail at a bail hearing.
[6] Persons recorded as being under 18 at the end of their period of detention.
[7] Provisional figures.

Asylum: English Language

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Work and Pensions on the effect of withdrawing free English classes for asylum seekers on the level of support such people will need in finding employment once leave to remain has been granted. [125547]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office was naturally consulted by the Department for Education and Skills on the proposals to vary the Learning and Skills Council's funding criteria for ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes. While most asylum seekers are not granted leave to remain, we have recently consulted widely on new arrangements to help those who are accepted as refugees to integrate into British life, including acquisition of English language skills and entry into employment.

Asylum: Iran

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Iran in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142791]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Iranian asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Iran are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi asylum seekers, who have been unsuccessful in their appeal to remain, remain in this country. [142466]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 June 2007]*: As the Home Secretary set out in his evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee on 23 May 2006, following the dismantling of embarkation controls beginning in 1994, no Government have been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally, and that remains the case. The Home Secretary has set a clear goal of reintroducing systems to count everyone in and out of Britain.

Furthermore, those making an asylum claim can leave the country voluntarily at any stage of their claim without informing the authorities.

It follows that we cannot know the number of Iraqi asylum seekers who have been unsuccessful in their appeal who remain in the UK.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum

were received from nationals of Iraq in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142788]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Iraqi asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Iraq are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many decisions were taken by the Government on asylum applications by Iraqi nationals in 2006, broken down by *(i)* Geneva convention status, *(ii)* humanitarian status and other authorisations to remain and *(iii)* rejections. [143971]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals for nationals of Iraq is shown in the following table. Initial decisions do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same period. Appeal determinations do not necessarily relate to initial decisions made in the same period.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals for nationals of Iraq is, however, published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, 2006, nationals of Iraq

Principal applicants

Iraq	Total applications	Initial decisions				
		Total decisions	Grants on asylum	Grants on humanitarian protection	Grants of Discretionary leave	Total refusals
2006[3]	950	730	30	—	60	640

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five.
[2] Information is of initial determination decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions. Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in the same period.
[3] Provisional figures
Source:
Immigration Research and Statistics 20 June 2007

Appeals outcomes determined by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal[1], excluding dependants, nationals of Iraq, 2006

Number of principal appellants

		Appeals determined[2]					
		Allowed[4]		Dismissed[4]		Withdrawn[4, 5]	
	Total determined[3]	Total	As percentage of Determined	Total	As percentage of Determined	Total	As percentage of Determined
2006	755	115	15	600	79	40	5

[1] Provisional figures rounded to nearest 5 (except percentages). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by Immigration Judges.
[3] Based on information supplied by the Department for Constitutional Affairs.
[4] Between January and March 2006 based on Immigration and Nationality electronic sources. From April 2006 based on information supplied by the AIT.
[5] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.
Source:
Immigration Research and Statistics 20 June 2007.

Asylum: Russia

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Russia in each year since 1997; and how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations. [143359]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Russia is, however, published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Serbia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Serbia (including Kosovo) in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142787]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Serbian (including Kosovans) asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Serbia and Montenegro are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Somalia

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Somalia in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142792]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Somali asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Somalia are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Sudan

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Sudan in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142789]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Sudanese asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Sudan are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Asylum: Ukraine

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Ukraine in each year since 1997; and how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations. [143360]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Ukraine is, however, published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Asylum: Vietnam

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many refugees from Vietnam were granted asylum in each of the last five years. [142700]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the number of Vietnamese cases recognised as refugees and granted asylum in each of the last five years are shown in the table.

Information on asylum initial decisions for nationals of Vietnam is published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Cases[1] recognised as refugees and granted asylum, excluding dependants, for nationals of Vietnam, 2002-06

	Number
2002	25
2003	10
2004	5
2005[2]	*
2006[2]	*

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five with * = 1 or 2.
[2] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for asylum were received from nationals of Zimbabwe in each year since 1997; how many of these applications were *(a)* approved and *(b)* refused and resulted in deportations; and if he will make a statement. [142786]

Mr. Byrne: Information on how many Zimbabwean asylum applications received in each year since 1997 that have been subsequently approved, rejected or deported is not available.

Information on asylum applications, initial decisions, appeals and removals for nationals of Zimbabwe are published quarterly and annually. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Bichard Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the 2004 Bichard inquiry. [143724]

Mr. McNulty: The Bichard inquiry (2004) was an independent public inquiry chaired by Sir Michael Bichard. Sir Michael stated the cost of his inquiry to be of the order of £2 million.

Budd Inquiry

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the 2004 Budd inquiry. [143725]

Mr. Byrne: A total figure for the cost of the 2004 Budd inquiry was not recorded.

The Home Office provided Sir Alan Budd with secretarial support, an official at higher executive officer level and any material that he requested.

Sir Alan was not remunerated for his investigation but the Home Office did reimburse him for expenses related to the conduct of it.

The final report was printed and published by the Stationery Office under the authority of the House of Commons. The Home Office paid for the printing of the report and copies.

Burglary

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many domestic burglaries there were in *(a)* Bridgend constituency, *(b)* the South Wales Police Authority area, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* England in each of the last 10 years. [144295]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following tables. Statistics for Bridgend relate to the Bridgend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area.

Table 1: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police, 1996 and 1997

Number of offences

	Bridgend	*South Wales*	*Wales*	*England*
1996	n/a	12,472	20,511	581,617
1997	n/a	10,687	18,001	501,264

n/a = Not available

Table 2: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

	Bridgend	*South Wales*	*Wales*	*England*
1998-99[1]	n/a	9,239	16,038	457,311
1999-2000	662	8,383	14,446	428,156
2000-01	483	6,685	12,150	390,834
2001-02	500	6,845	12,526	417,821

n/a = Not available

[1] Using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998. Figures after that date are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 3: Offences of domestic burglary recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Number of offences

	Bridgend	*South Wales*	*Wales*	*England*
2002-03[1]	659	8,060	14,954	422,617
2003-04	505	7,275	13,902	388,431
2004-05	378	6,477	11,697	309,762
2005-06	404	5,747	10,009	290,542

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced nationally in April 2002. Figures after that date are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Burglary: Convictions

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many burglaries were committed in each year since 1997; and in how many of these cases a conviction was secured. [144135]

Mr. McNulty: The statistics are not available in the form requested. Recorded burglary statistics relate to offences and convictions data relate to offenders. In addition, recorded crime data are published on a financial year basis and conviction data are published on a calendar year basis. For these reasons, the two data sources are therefore not directly comparable.

Figures for burglary offences recorded by the police are published in Table 2.04 of "Crime in England and Wales 2005/06" and can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1206chap2a.xls

Data on the number of defendants found guilty of burglary, for the years 1997 to 2005 in England and Wales, have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and are given in the following table. Information for 2006 will be available in the autumn.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for burglary, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

Number

1997	31,703
1998	30,769
1999	29,261
2000	26,222
2001	24,802
2002	26,691
2003	25,726
2004	24,252
2005	22,951

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to supply a sample of data for magistrates' courts proceedings covering one full week in each quarter for 2000. Estimates based on this sample are included in the figures, as they are considered sufficiently robust at this high level of analysis.

Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Ministry of Justice.

Closed Circuit Television

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when his Department plans to publish its report on future CCTV strategy. [143190]

John Reid: The National CCTV Strategy is currently planned for publication during the summer of 2007.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons are for the delay in publishing the report on the future CCTV strategy. [143191]

John Reid: The publication of the CCTV strategy has been delayed because of the need for further consultation with key stakeholders; in particular to allow them to comment on the draft report and for those comments to be properly considered.

Community Support Officers: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how (1) many police

community support officers are assigned to each ward in each London borough; [143019]

(2) how many police community support officers have been assigned to each London borough without safer neighbourhood teams; [143022]

(3) how many police community support officers have been *(a)* requested by and *(b)* assigned to each London borough. [143036]

Mr. McNulty: Data on police strength are not available at the ward level. The available data for police community support officer (PCSO) strength for each London borough are by basic command unit (BCU) of the Metropolitan Police Service (MRS). These data are given in the table. The boundaries of London boroughs are coterminous with those of the BCUs within the MPS.

Every BCU in the MPS has safer neighbourhood teams (SNTs). There are 630 SNTs in the MPS covering all 624 wards across the MPS. Every team has at least one sergeant, two constables and three PCSOs.

The number of PCSOs requested by each London borough is not collected centrally within police personnel statistics. The number of PCSOs assigned to each London borough is available in the form previously described, and is given in the following table.

Police community support officer strength for Metropolitan Police Service by basic command unit, as at 31 January 2007[1]

Basic command unit	*PCSO strength*
Kensington and Chelsea	104
Westminster	300
Camden	62
Hammersmith and Fulham	67
Hackney	67
Tower Hamlets	85
Waltham Forest	67
Redbridge	80
Havering	69
Newham	88
Barking and Dagenham	63
Lambeth	101
Southwark	75
Islington	59
Lewisham	69
Bromley	109
Harrow	66
Brent	64
Greenwich	77
Bexley	81
Barnet	92
Richmond upon Thames	64
Hounslow	77
Kingston upon Thames	53
Merton	71
Wandsworth	76
Ealing	77
Hillingdon	74
Enfield	94
Haringey	66
Croydon	109
Sutton	64
Borough total	2,668

[1] Table has been provided by the Metropolitan Police Service and the Home Office Police Productivity Unit.

Crime

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the recorded level of crime was in *(a)* Bridgend constituency, *(b)* the South Wales police authority area, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* England in each of the last 10 years. [144294]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is given in the following tables. Statistics for Bridgend relate to the Bridgend Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area.

Table 1: Offences recorded by the police, 1996 and 1997

Number of offences

	Bridgend	*South Wales*	*Wales*	*England*
1996	n/a	141,578	246,246	4,790,307
1997	n/a	130,886	236,936	4,361,391

n/a = Not available.

Table 2: Offences recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

	Bridgend	*South Wales*	*Wales*	*England*
1998-99[1]	n/a	134,820	261,994	4,847,095
1999-2000	n/a	127,040	255,487	5,045,698
2000-01	10,162	111,131	238,449	4,932,394
2001-02	10,530	116,708	241,432	5,283,592

n/a = Not available.

[1] Using the expanded coverage and revised counting rules which came into effect on 1 April 1998. Figures after that date are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Table 3: Offences recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2005-06

Number of offences

	Bridgend	*South Wales*	*Wales*	*England*
2002-03[1]	13,167	143,372	294,780	5,602,916
2003-04	12,182	137,113	289,263	5,645,314
2004-05	10,787	124,162	267,642	5,295,042
2005-06	10,811	123,942	258,309	5,221,819

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced nationally in April 2002. Figures after that date are therefore not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crime: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Alleygate scheme in Middlesbrough towards reducing crime. [143565]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office has not undertaken an assessment of the contribution of the Alleygate scheme in Middlesbrough towards reducing crime. Alleygating schemes are local initiatives, implemented based on local priorities and therefore an assessment of the contribution of such a scheme is a matter for local agencies.

Alleygating is one of a number of ways of incorporating crime prevention measures into existing environments. We are also working with a range of partners including Communities and Local Government, local authorities, architects, designers, builders and others to ensure that when new buildings or communities are planned they are well designed places where crime prevention is taken into account

from the outset so that crime and disorder or the fear of crime do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion.

Departments: Internet

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions he has held on changes to the *(a)* design and *(b)* layout of his Department's website. [143246]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office site was redesigned 18 months ago and has subsequently been successful in two pan-government web awards.

However, we are reviewing design and information architecture as part of our response to the Varney report, which made recommendations for the better delivery of Government web services.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps he is taking to improve the *(a)* quality and *(b)* quantity of information provided on his Department's website. [143247]

Mr. Byrne: The Home Office site was redesigned 18 months ago and has subsequently been successful in two pan-government web awards.

However, in line with the Varney report, which made recommendations for the better delivery of Government web services, we are reviewing content with a view to moving appropriate content to the Direct.gov and Business link sites.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of his Department's special advisers were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* unpaid leave in order to assist with party political matters under section 22 (iii) of the code of conduct for special advisers on 16 May; and how many days' leave each adviser was granted. [140116]

Mr. Byrne: None of the special advisers was on leave on 16 May.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141958]

Mr. Byrne: No Ministers in the Home Office are allocated a ministerial residence.

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate has been made of the value of the Department's property portfolio. [139376]

Mr. Byrne: Asset valuations are carried out at five-yearly intervals in accordance with Government accounting requirements. The estimate applicable on 1 April 2007 was £5,931 million based on valuations carried out from 31 March 2004 to 1 April 2007. This includes property transferred to the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007. The estimated value of the Home Office estate that did not transfer to Ministry of Justice was £209 million.

Home Office estate estimated values—March 2007

Type of property	*£ million Estimated value*
Home Office excl. NOMS	209
NOMS Prisons including married quarters and farms	5,479
NOMS Other	243
Total	5,931

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143056]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is given in the following table:

Working days lost to sickness per FTE staff per year

Business area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Central Home Office	6.7	6.1	6.3	5.2	5.4
BIA	8.5	8.7	9.5	10.3	10.8
HMPS (Prison Service)	14.7	13.3	12.7	12.2	11.64
CRB (Criminal Records Bureau)	11	9.4	9.6	8.8	8.6
IPS (Identity and Passport Service)	10.9	11.1	11.4	10.3	10.1

Deportation

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been deported under section 97A of the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006. [143604]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* No one has yet been deported following certification under this provision.

Deportation: Afghanistan

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many case studies were carried out monitoring the safety of women deported to Afghanistan in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [142272]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no enforced removals of women to Afghanistan in the last five years so no case studies have been undertaken.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment he has made of the safety of single women whose asylum

claims have failed and who have no family ties who have been deported to Afghanistan. [142273]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no enforced removals of single women without family ties to Afghanistan in recent years so no such assessment has been made.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many single women whose asylum claims had failed were deported to Afghanistan in each of the last five years for which records are available. [142275]

Mr. Byrne: There have been no enforced removals of single women to Afghanistan in the last five years.

Detainees

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries have been passed information about detained asylum seekers originating from those countries in the last 12 months. [141404]

John Reid: The Border and Immigration Agency does not disclose information to other countries which would identify someone as an asylum applicant.

When communicating with foreign embassies for the purpose of re-documentation the Border and Immigration Agency will only inform them that we believe the person to be one of their nationals and they have no legal basis to be in the United Kingdom.

Detention Centres: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his Department has a target for the staff-to-detainee ratio in immigration removal centres. [138200]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency does not have a target for the staff-to-detainee ratio in immigration removal centres. Staffing levels are a key area of evaluation during the competitive tender process for the operation of removal centres. All contractors are required however to provide a safe environment at all times to detainees, staff and visitors.

The Border and Immigration Agency does not have a target for the staff to detainee ratio for Immigration Removal Centres run by HM Prison Service as they have vast experience in operating custodial environments.

Driving Under Influence: Sentencing

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* women, *(b)* men, *(c)* women under 30 years old and *(d)* men under 30 years old who committed drink driving offences in each of the last 10 years were given (i) a prison sentence, (ii) a mandatory disqualification from driving and (iii) a fine. [142587]

Mr. Coaker: Information for the period and at the level of detail requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following table gives information for 1995, 1998, 2001, 2003, and 2004 (the latest available).

Data for 2005 will be available later in the year.

Table A: findings of guilt, immediate custody and number fined at all courts for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], females by age of offender, England and Wales

Number of offences

	1995		1998		2001		2003		2004	
	All ages	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*
Total findings of guilt at all courts	6,793	2,636	8,509	3,014	8,402	2,949	10,112	3,513	10,765	3,863
of which:										
Immediate custody[2]	105	31	171	48	179	57	172	54	196	55
Fine	5,510	2,206	6,650	2,509	6,404	2,379	7,701	2,806	8,059	3,036

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2), 5 (a) and (b), 6 (4), 7 (6) and s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s. 56.
[2] Immediate custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

Notes:
1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

Table B: findings of guilt, immediate custody and number fined at all courts for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1], males by age of offender, England and Wales

Number of offences

	1995		1998		2001		2003		2004	
	All ages	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*
Total findings of guilt at all courts	85,693	37,226	84,604	36,451	76,346	35,280	83,588	38,380	85,473	38,700
of which:										
Immediate custody[2]	6,178	2,809	6,757	3,002	6,442	3,010	6,136	2,927	5,863	2,755
Fine	63,747	27,513	60,631	26,194	53,512	24,932	57,838	26,447	58,374	26,543

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2), 5 (a) and (b), 6 (4), 7 (6) and s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s. 56.
[2] Immediate custody = Detention and Training Order, Young Offender Institution and Unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.
Notes:
1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

Table C: driving licence disqualifications[1] imposed at all courts for the offence of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[2], England and Wales, 1995-2004

Number of offences

	1995		*1998*		*2001*		*2003*		*2004*	
	All ages	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*	*All ages*	*Aged under 30*
Females	6,299	2,469	8,010	2,862	7,945	2,805	9,542	3,332	10,186	3,660
Males	77,595	33,483	78,178	33,687	71,332	33,021	77,470	35,558	80,122	36,288

[1] Disqualifications given as a secondary dispesal. This covers cases where a disqualification from driving was given instead of a licence endorsement.
[2] Offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 ss. 4 (1) and (2), 5 (a) and (b), 6 (4), 7 (6) and s.7A as added by the Police Reform Act 2002 s. 56.
Notes:
1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete. Work is under way to ensure that the magistrates courts case management system being implemented by the Ministry of Justice reports all motoring offences to the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. This will enable more complete figures to be disseminated.

Entry Clearances

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many enforcement actions for breach of *(a)* UK visitor, *(b)* resident and *(c)* overseas status limitations on working his Department and its agencies undertook in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [140179]

Mr. Byrne: This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum, including enforcement activity are available on the Home Office's research, development and statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

In January of this year Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union. Bulgarian and Romanian nationals are the only European economic area (EEA) citizens to have their access to the UK labour market restricted; all other EEA citizens have the right of movement as workers or in case of A8 nationals via the worker registration scheme.

If individuals from Romania and Bulgaria are caught working illegally they are liable to a fixed penalty notice of £1, 000. Records indicate that since January 77 fixed penalty notices have been served.

Entry Clearances: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for *(a)* leave to remain and *(b)* indefinite leave to remain were (i) granted and (ii) rejected from applicants with addresses in (A) Bexleyheath and Crayford and (B) the London Borough of Bexley in 2006. [127566]

Mr. Byrne: Information regarding the number of people living in the aforementioned constituencies who applied for leave to remain or indefinite leave to remain in 2006 is not available.

Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which officials from his Department sit on the Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies selection panel; what specialist training they receive; and if he will make a statement. [143241]

Mr. McNulty: The recent Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies selection panel convened in April this year was attended by staff from the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Unit and from the Leadership Academy. All panellists are conversant with interview techniques and questioning and are also briefed on the selection processes adopted by the Fulbright Fellowship.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies scheme for *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civilian staff. [143243]

Mr. McNulty: The National Policing Improvements Agency is supportive of the Fulbright Fellowship in Police Studies and will ensure that a programme is put in place to assess the effectiveness of the scheme for both police officers and police staff.

Genetics: Databases

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* foreign

nationals are recorded on the National DNA Database. [144068]

Joan Ryan: As of 10 June 2007, there were an estimated 3,976,090 individuals on the National DNA Database (NDNAD). The database does not record information on the nationality of those on it.

Identity and Passport Service: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how the Identity and Passport Service will spend the Home Office funding it will receive in 2007-08, broken down by main budget heading. [135915]

John Reid: The allocation of the funding received by the Home Office for the 2007-08 financial year has been broken down in the manner outlined in the following table. Each percentage is based on the total Home Office funding allocated in the budget to date:

	Percentage
Salaries and staff costs	21
Contracted staff and consultancy	56
IT and communications:	5
Other "cash costs" (e.g. rent, maintenance, security)	14
"Non-cash" costs (e.g. depreciation)	4

Identity Cards

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 30 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1407W, on identity cards, how much has been spent since the end of September 2006. [139991]

John Reid: Since the merger of the Home Office identity cards programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects.

Since the start of October 2006 to the end of the 2006-07 financial year, the cost of such development projects was £15.5 million.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

Identity Cards: Passports

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the Identity and Passport Service's planned expenditure of £473 million in 2007-08 will be spent on the *(a)* identity cards scheme and *(b)* development of biometric passports. [135912]

John Reid: Since the merger of the Home Office identity cards programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver biometric passports, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the functionality needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of biometric passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives (e.g. both the implementation of biometric passports and identity cards will require a very similar application procedure as well the procurement of biometric recording equipment, data storage capability for biographical and biometric information and offices to facilitate enrolment).

As a result, much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the introduction of biometric passports or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects.

With regard to future costs, the Identity and Passport Service Business Plan, published in April 2007, indicates that the organisation plans to spend £473 million in the coming year. The estimate of expenditure relating to resource and capital expenditure for the introduction of second biometric passports incorporating fingerprint biometrics, identity cards and associated developments is £80 million.

Even without the introduction of identity cards, a significant proportion of this expenditure would have been required in order to prepare for the introduction of second biometric passports. Overall, it is estimated that around 70 per cent. of the total cost of the scheme would need to be incurred in order to introduce the second biometric passport incorporating fingerprint biometrics.

Illegal Immigrants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were arrested in the joint operation between police and the Immigration Service at the LNG terminal in Pembrokeshire to arrest potentially illegal immigrants earlier in 2007; how many were found to be in the UK without the necessary paperwork; how many were released to attend the Swansea Immigration Office and arrived at that Office; how many were released on police bail and failed to answer that bail; and what the *(a)* location and *(b)* status is of the remainder of those taken into custody. [123878]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 February 2007]*: On 6 February a police-led operation was undertaken at the LNG construction site. The operation was aimed at all road users who use the road illegally. However, intelligence had suggested that some individuals maybe of interest to the Border and Immigration Agency and enforcement staff were made available on the day to support the police.

A number of individuals were found to be of interest to the Border and Immigration Agency and those individuals have been processed by Border and Immigration Agency staff and decisions made in accordance with current policy and guidelines.

The Border and Immigration Agency's enforcement priority is to remove the most harmful people from society first and for this reason and due to detention capacity, it is not always possible to detain individuals, but consider other alternative options such as placing individuals on reporting restrictions, one of a number of initiatives that is proving to be successful in maintaining contact with individuals.

The Border and Immigration Agency announced on 7 March, their Enforcement Strategy Document, 'Enforcing the Rules', which outlines further measures to address public concerns and increase confidence in our immigration system.

Immigrants: Interpreters

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what expenditure in 2006-07 was for interpreters in immigration services; and what expenditure is forecast for 2007-08. [142766]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 June 2007]*: The Border and Immigration Agency's expenditure on interpreters' fees in 2006-07 was £8,835,259. The budget for 2007-08 is £7,158,204.

Immigration Controls: Ministers of Religion

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many extremist imams were denied entry into the UK in each year since 2001. [142125]

Mr. Byrne: 'Extremist imam' is not a category used in Home Office records of individuals denied entry to the UK each year. However, individuals who express views which foment, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs come within the scope of the power to exclude a person because their presence in the UK is not conducive to the public good on grounds listed under the "unacceptable behaviour" provisions announced on 24 August 2005. To date 52 individuals have been excluded from the UK on grounds of "unacceptable behaviour".

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures he has taken to prevent extremist imams coming into Britain. [142126]

Mr. Byrne: On 24 August 2005 the then Home Secretary announced the list of unacceptable behaviours (UB) which set out the grounds for excluding any individual who is considered to be engaging in certain activities and behaviour. Individuals who express views which foment, justify or glorify terrorist violence in furtherance of particular beliefs come within the scope of this measure.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent nurses provided health services at *(a)* Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, *(b)* Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre, *(c)* Dover Immigration Removal Centre, *(d)* Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, *(e)* Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, *(f)* Haslar Immigration Removal Centre, *(g)* Lindholme, *(h)* Oakington, *(i)* Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre and *(j)* Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre in the last year for which figures are available. [136952]

Mr. Byrne: The number of full-time equivalent nurses that provided health services within the detention estate for 2006 is detailed as follows.

Campsfield—six full-time equivalent nurses

Colnbrook—27 full-time equivalent nurses

Dover-12 full-time equivalent nurses

Dungavel—seven full-time equivalent nurses

Harmondsworth—17 full-time equivalent nurses

Haslar—four full-time equivalent nurses

Lindholme—one full-time equivalent nurse

Oakington—10 full-time equivalent nurses

Tinsley House—5.4 full-time equivalent nurses

Yarl's Wood—5.9 full time equivalent nurses

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent general practitioners provided health services at *(a)* Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre, *(b)* Colnbrook Immigration Removal Centre, *(c)* Dover Immigration Removal Centre, *(d)* Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, *(e)* Harmondsworth Immigration Removal Centre, *(f)* Haslar Immigration Removal Centre, *(g)* Lindholme, *(h)* Oakington, *(i)* Tinsley House Immigration Removal Centre and *(j)* Yarls Wood Immigration Removal Centre in 2006. [136953]

Mr. Byrne: Every removal centre is required to have a health care team, at least one member of which must be a doctor trained as a general practitioner, to provide primary health care services to detainees. Removal centre contractors operate healthcare by a mixture of full-time employees and outsourced providers. No centre directly employs a doctor; their services are provided under contract by local practices or the local primary care trusts or health authority, and therefore there are no full-time equivalents. Doctors are required to provide surgeries on site between certain times and for agreed volumes of hours; the rest of the time the centre is serviced by an on call doctor service. The cover provided by general practitioners for each immigration removal centre is as follows.

Campsfield—The GP conducts a two hours surgery Monday to Friday and on-call cover is provided out of hours, at night and weekends.

Colnbrook—There are two GPs conducting surgeries between 8a.m and 5p.m Monday to Friday and Saturday 8a.m. until noon. An on-call service is available at all other times.

Dover—One GP holds a two hours surgery each day (except Christmas day). An on-call service is available at all other times.

Dungavel—One GP provides a daily surgery Monday to Friday (31 hours per week). An on-call service is available at all other times.

Harmondsworth—The GP holds two surgeries each day totalling five hours plus three hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings and Bank Holidays. 31 hours of GP services each week. An on-call service is available at all other times.

Haslar—Three GPs provide daily surgeries and three GPs provide an on-call service at all other times.

Lindholme—One GP provides a daily surgery Monday to Friday. An on-call service is available at all other times.

Oakington—One GP provides a two hour surgery each day plus additional screening of new detainees up to three hours. An on-call service is available at all other times.

Tinsley House—One GP provides a four hour surgery each day and an on-call service is available at all other times.

Yarl's Wood—One full-time GP holds surgery eight hours each day Monday to Friday and for three hours on Saturday and Sundays. An on-call service is available at all other times.

Immigration: Telephone Services

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of the Border and Immigration MPs' Hotline in the latest year for which figures are available. [142675]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The total staffing cost for the financial year 2006-07 was £502,000.

Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the Independent Police Complaints Commission's (IPCC) target is for conclusion of a complaint against the police from the date of registration of the complaint; what the average time taken per case has been since the IPCC was set up; and if he will make a statement; [141454]

(2) how many complaints were referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in *(a)* England and *(b)* Essex since June 2006, broken down by police force; and how many have been upheld in each case; [141459]

(3) what complaints to the Independent Police Complaints Commission have been upheld since June 2006; what action was taken by the relevant police force to implement the relevant recommendations; and if he will make a statement; [141460]

(4) what recommendations of the Independent Police Complaints Authority have not been implemented in each of the last five years; and what the reason was in each case; [141461]

(5) how many serving police officers have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of a criminal offence in each month since June 2006, broken down by (i) sex, (ii) age and (iii) police force; and how many were *(A)* suspended from duty, *(B)* demoted, *(C)* dismissed and *(D)* cautioned. [141480]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) who have oversight of the police complaints system.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation regulates the Independent Police Complaints Commission; what changes have been made to each such instrument since enactment; what further amendments are planned; and if he will make a statement. [141481]

Mr. McNulty: The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) was established under the Police Reform Act 2002, with a remit covering complaints and conduct matters involving persons serving with the police service in England and Wales. The IPCC came into operation on 1 April 2004.

The following regulations were made under the Police Reform Act 2002 in bringing the IPCC into operation:

the Police (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 2004/643), amended by S.I. 2006/1406;

the IPCC (Staff Conduct) Regulations 2004 S.I. 2004/660;

IPCC (Transitional Provisions) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/671;

the IPCC (Forces maintained otherwise than under Police Authorities) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/672 (relating to the MOD police and BTP).

The IPCC (Investigatory Powers) Order 2004 S.I. 2004/815 modifies, in relation to the functions of the IPCC:

Part 3 of the Police Act 1997 (authorisations to interfere with property); and

Parts 2 (intrusive surveillance) and 4(Tribunal) of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000.

Schedule 12 to the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 amended the Police Reform Act 2002, extending the IPCCs remit to cover death and serious injury matters, and to cover complaints against the Serious and Organised Crime Agency.

The Commissioners of Revenue and Customs Act 2005 and the Revenue and Customs (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3311) as amended by S.I. 2006/1748 made under the 2005 Act extended the IPCC's remit in relation to the Commissioners and officers of HM Revenue and Customs.

The Police and Justice Act 2006 will extend the IPCC's jurisdiction to cover specified enforcement functions of immigration officers.

A Statutory Order was laid before Parliament on 5 June 2007 for the purpose of applying the Official Secrets Act to IPCC commissioners and staff.

Further legislation changes affecting the IPCC will be made as part of the introduction of a new simplified and modernised police misconduct system.

Independent Police Complaints Commission: Finance

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding was provided to the Independent Police Complaints Commission in each of the last three years. [143205]

Mr. McNulty: The total Grant-in-Aid provided to the Independent Police Complaints Commission for each of the last three years is:

	£ million
2004-05	27.715
2005-06	29.816
2006-07	33.492

Metropolitan Police: Voluntary Work

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received from the Public Services Union on the use of volunteers by the Metropolitan Police. [143211]

Mr. McNulty: Policy and practice on the use of volunteers in the police service is now a matter for the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). I understand from the NPIA chief executive that no representations have been received from the Public Services Union on the use of volunteers by the Metropolitan Police.

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources are being provided for the tackling of staged and induced motor accident fraud in *(a)* Preston, *(b)* Bolton West, *(c)* Ribble Valley, *(d)* Hazel Grove, *(e)* Blackburn, *(f)* Southampton, *(g)* Bradford South, *(h)* Blackpool, North and Fleetwood and *(i)* Salford constituencies. [144175]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally. The Police Service in England and Wales has benefited from a significant increase in resources over a sustained period. On a like-for-like basis Government grant and central spending on services for the police will have increased from £6.2 billion in 1997-98 to £11.0 billion in 2007-08; an increase of nearly £4.8 billion or a cash increase of 77 per cent. (in real terms over 39 per cent.). Every police authority has received its fair share of resources. The use of these resources is an operational matter for each chief officer to determine in the light of local and competing priorities.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what figures he has for the number of incidences of staged and induced motor accident fraud in the last 12 months, broken down by *(a)* local authority and *(b)* constituency. [144176]

Mr. Coaker: No figures are collected centrally in the recorded crime statistics.

Passports: Biometrics

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of the *(a)* capital costs and *(b)* running costs of the National Identity scheme he estimates will be required in order to implement the biometric passport scheme to cover all ports of entry into the UK. [135830]

John Reid: The estimated cost of introducing passports and ID cards over the next 10 years was published in the Identity Cards scheme costs report which was laid before Parliament on 10 May 2007. However, it was not possible to provide a separate figure for the cost of implementing biometric passports from that of the National Identity scheme as a whole, as many of the costs are applicable to both identity cards and passports.

The Identity Cards scheme costs report also excluded any costs falling to other organisations using passports or ID cards to verify identity. Nevertheless, the Border and Immigration Agency already has equipment in place at the major ports to read facial image biometric e-passports.

Police: Equal Opportunities

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1334W, on the police: equal opportunities, whether the Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police plans to attend the meeting of the Women in Police Steering Group on 28 June 2007; and if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the meeting. [143265]

Mr. McNulty: The next meeting of the Women In Policing Steering Group will now take place on 25 July 2007 rather than on 28 June 2007. The Minister for Security, Counter Terrorism and Police plans to attend the meeting. As the purpose of the Group is to advise the Minister on policy matters it is therefore not normal practice for the minutes of its meetings to be placed in the public domain.

Police: Health

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance his Department issues to police authorities on fitness testing of *(a)* police officers, *(b)* police community support officers and *(c)* special constables. [143253]

Mr. McNulty: Responsibility for the physical fitness of serving police officers, police community support officers and special constables is the responsibility of the chief officer of each force.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers passed bleep and push and pull tests as part of the police entry fitness tests in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [143255]

Mr. McNulty: All serving police officers passed the endurance ('bleep') test and the dynamic strength ('push and pull') tests, as police applicants who fail cannot be appointed police officers.

The most recent figures available are for the 2005-06 period and are shown in the following table:

	Fail	Pass
Endurance	263	7,512
Pull	263	9,529
Push	226	7,478

Note:
The table provides the figures for 38 forces and does not include data for the forces listed as follows as this has not been made available to the Department.
Cheshire
Cleveland
Devon and Cornwall
Dorset, Gloucestershire
Merseyside and West Midlands

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the merits of regular fitness testing for police officers during their police careers; and if he will make a statement. [143256]

Mr. McNulty: A working group of the Police Advisory Board for England and Wales (PAB EW) was recently set up to look at developing national fitness standards for specialist police roles such as firearms officers and dog handlers. This will lead to regular national testing for officers in these roles.

Following the completion of this work on standards and testing for specialist roles, the PAB EW working group will consider regular testing for patrol officers.

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings he has held with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* police staff associations on the physical fitness of police officers. [143266]

Mr. McNulty: The health and safety of police officers, including their physical fitness, is currently the responsibility of the chief officer of each force. Therefore, the development and implementation of initiatives relating to the physical fitness of serving police officers is also a force responsibility. The Police Advisory Board of England and Wales, which advises Ministers and has formal representation from the staff associations, is considering these issues and will in due course provide advice to Ministers.

Police: Road Traffic

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have a dedicated roads policing division; how many officers there are in each such division; and what percentage each figure represents of the force's total number of officers. [142958]

Mr. Coaker: Force organisation and deployment of resources are matters for individual chief officers of police. Information is therefore not available in the form requested. Information on the number of officers in each force whose main function is traffic and the percentage this represents of the force's total number of officers is in the table as follows.

Police officers whose main function is Traffic[1] (FTE)[2] by police force area as at 31 March 2006

	31 March 2006	Percentage of officers whose main function is Traffic from total strength
Avon and Somerset	215	6.2
Bedfordshire	81	6.6
Cambridgeshire	99	6.8
Cheshire	85	3.9
Cleveland	61	3.6
Cumbria	111	8.7
Derbyshire	119	5.7
Devon and Cornwall	215	6.1
Dorset	81	5.4
Durham	105	6.1
Dyfed Powys	143	12.0
Essex	243	7.3
Gloucestershire	73	5.6
Greater Manchester	342	4.2
Gwent	102	7.0
Hampshire	240	6.3
Hertfordshire	149	6.9
Humberside	181	8.1
Kent	116	3.2
Lancashire	197	5.4
Leicestershire	77	3.4
Lincolnshire	102	8.2
London, City of	24	2.7
Merseyside	138	3.2
Metropolitan Police	603	1.9
Norfolk	112	7.1
Northamptonshire	63	4.7
Northumbria	167	4.1
North Wales	81	5.0
North Yorkshire	97	5.9
Nottinghamshire	134	5.3
South Wales	243	7.3
South Yorkshire	141	4.3
Staffordshire	28	1.2
Suffolk	80	6.1
Surrey	99	5.1
Sussex	160	5.1
Thames Valley	236	5.5
Warwickshire	97	9.3
West Mercia	116	4.9
West Midlands	401	4.9
West Yorkshire	343	6.0
Wiltshire	13	1.1

[1] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their primary role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway related duties. This does not include officers employed in accident investigation, vehicle examination and radar duties.
[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items. Includes those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 148W, on the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, if he will place the review of the Act in the Library. [137119]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 14 May 2007]:* Subject to redaction of information which, if disclosed, would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, I will arrange for a copy of the report of the review to be placed in the Library.

Security Measures

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 618-20W, on security measures, what plans he has to proscribe Hizb-ut Tahrir and organisations related to it. [144391]

Mr. McNulty: It is normal Home Office policy not to comment on groups which may or may not be added to the list of proscribed organisations.

Terrorism: Human Rights

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment he has made of the effect of the operation of the Human Rights Act 1998 on the Government's ability to detain or deport terrorist suspects; and if he will make a statement. [135598]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 3 May 2007]:* As my right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister advised the Member for Stratford-upon-Avon (Mr. Maples) on 2 May, the Human Rights Act 1998 does not affect our ability to detain or to deport. The Human Rights Act simply incorporated our pre-existing international obligations into domestic law.

Detention has to be consistent with Articles of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (the European Convention on Human Rights). In deporting someone from the United Kingdom, we have to have regard to our obligations under Article 3 of the ECHR as defined in the case law of the European Court of Human Rights.

The Government are seeking to secure a modification of the current case law through its intervention in two cases currently before the Court.

Yarl's Wood Detention Centre

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received on the treatment of women detainees at Yarl's Wood since Serco took over the management contract; and if he will make a statement. [137995]

Mr. Byrne: Since Serco Ltd were awarded the contract to operate Yarl's Wood there have been representations from detainees at Yarl's Wood concerning rumours about possible changes to procedures and routines at the centre. Detainees were written to by the centre director on 4 and 5 May to address the unwarranted rumours. Representations have been received on the same subject from private individuals and the organisation Black Women Against Rape. My officials have responded with assurances that the rumours concerning possible changes to procedures and routines at Yarl's Wood are unfounded.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 21 June 2007

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Casino Advisory Panel: Expenditure

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total expenditure was of the Casino Advisory Panel. [144724]

Mr. Caborn: When the Casino Advisory Panel submitted its final report to the Secretary of State on 30 January 2007 its total costs were approximately £400,000.

Gambling

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the total cost was of the Budd report on gambling. [144722]

Mr. Caborn: Full details of the total cost are not readily available. However, the cost to DCMS of publication of the report of the Gambling Review Body (the Budd Report) was £12,200, as set out in the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) to the hon. Member for South Suffolk (Mr. Yeo) on 10 April 2002, *Official Report*, column 332W.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what total costs were associated with the White Paper, A Safe Bet for Success—Modernising Britain's Gambling Laws. [144723]

Mr. Caborn: Full details of the total cost are not readily available. However, the cost to DCMS of publication of the White Paper was £12,000, as set out in the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells) to the hon. Member for South Suffolk (Mr. Yeo) on 10 April 2002, *Official Report*, column 332W.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department have had with companies which have bid for the utilities contracts for the Olympic games; [144109]

(2) when *(a)* she and *(b)* a Minister in her Department last had a meeting with (i) Thames Water and (ii) EDF energy to discuss the utilities (A) contracts and (B) requirements for the Olympic games. [144110]

Mr. Caborn: The utilities contracts for the Stratford city and Olympic games sites are being procured under a commercially confidential process by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA). To maximise the commercial benefits of negotiation the names of those organisations that have submitted a bid are not widely known within the ODA and have not been released externally.

I can confirm that no DCMS Minister has held meetings with Thames Water, EDF energy or any of the companies which have bid for the utilities contracts for the Olympic games to discuss contracts and the requirements for the games.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) which bodies will be involved in making the decision on the contractors and companies which are awarded the utilities contracts for the Olympic games; [144111]

(2) what input the Mayor of London will have into the decision making process for the utilities contracts for the Stratford city and Olympic games site. [144112]

Mr. Caborn: The utilities contracts for the Stratford city and Olympic games sites are being procured under a commercially confidential process by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

Tenders are currently being sought and evaluated by the ODA, and in due course their recommendations for award will be considered by the Olympic Projects Review Group (OPRG), which includes representation from the Greater London authority (GLA).

The OPRG may then make recommendations to Ministers for formal approval to award the contracts.

Sports: Governing Bodies

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria she uses to decide which Olympic governing bodies of sport receive funding from her Department. [144596]

Mr. Caborn: Decisions regarding the criteria for and funding of Olympic governing bodies of sport are made by the Sports Councils, not by Ministers.

UK Sport is charged with delivering UK success at the Olympic and Paralympic games. To achieve this it takes a 'no compromise' approach to its investment, targeting resources and activity at those athletes and sports deemed most capable of medal winning performances. Individual sports are allocated their funding through the UK Sport World Class Pathway programme, with the amount determined by a formula that includes results from the previous games and current rankings, as well as future medal potential and the identification of talent.

In addition, some Olympic sports are funded by Home Country Sports Councils in pursuit of their wider aims and objectives; for example, increasing participation in sport. In England, Sport England provides funding to 21 Olympic sports to support delivery of their four-year strategic plans at community level. The sports apply the funding they receive to deliver against a range of key performance indicators (KPIs). These KPIs include increasing the number of accredited clubs, the number of club members and the numbers of coaches and volunteers working within their sport.

Furthermore, as a part of the joint DfES/DCMS National School Sport strategy, Sport England also funds a total of 18 Olympic sports to support delivery of school club links and volunteer and leadership opportunities for young people.

WALES

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143874]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office values diversity and accommodates different work patterns including home working.

Over the past year a number of staff have followed a flexible working pattern, working the occasional day or half day at home, whether to suit personal circumstances or to assist in the completion of a specific task. One member of Wales Office staff has a more formal arrangement for home working.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143904]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not grant contracts of employment. Wales Office staff are either on loan from the Welsh Assembly Government or employed by the Ministry of Justice.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Pay

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of his Department's staff received a bonus in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [142716]

David Cairns: The figure for 2006-07 was 25 per cent. the figure is not yet available for 2007-08.

Elections: Ballot Papers

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 921-22W, on elections: ballot papers, (1) who chaired the Electronic Counting Project Board that negotiated the contract to deliver an electronic counting service; [144350]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract negotiated with DRS for delivery of an electronic counting service, redacted as necessary; [144351]

(3) which individuals were members of the Electronic Counting Project Board that negotiated the contract to deliver an electronic counting service. [144352]

David Cairns: The Electronic Counting Project Board was chaired by the Scottish Executive's Head of Local Governance and Licensing Division.

We do not intend placing a copy of the electronic counting contract with DRS in the Library at present but we will review this after completion of the Electoral Commission's independent review of the May elections. We have made it clear that Mr Ron Gould and his review team will have access to all the documents they require, including those relating to e-counting.

The members of the Electronic Counting Project Board were: the Scottish Executive's Head of Local Governance and Licensing Division, an official from the Scottish Executive's Local Democracy Team, the E-counting Project Manager, the Scotland Office's Head of Elections and Social Policy Branch and the Scotland Office's Elections Policy Advisor, the Returning Officer for East Renfrewshire, the Deputy Returning Officer for Edinburgh City Council, Head of Elections at DRS Data Services Limited, Project Manager from DRS Data Services Limited, and a representative of Electoral Reform Services.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons Commission: Manpower

Mr. Maples: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 20 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1060W, on House of Commons Commission: manpower, if he will list the 85 posts which carry salaries in excess of £60,000; and what the salary is of each post. [144167]

Nick Harvey: Information about senior staff with salaries in excess of £60,277 was placed in the Library in January in response to a question from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford (Mr. Burns), 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 652W. I will write to the hon. Member with further details. Current pay ranges for all staff can be found on the parliamentary intranet.

Parking

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many car parking spaces there are on the Commons part of the parliamentary estate *(a)* in the underground car park and *(b)* elsewhere. [144356]

Nick Harvey: A total of 600 car parking spaces are available on the parliamentary estate, nearly 500 of which are in the New Palace Yard multi-storey underground car park.

Smoking

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission on what date the Commission last discussed implementation of the forthcoming ban on smoking in enclosed public spaces on the parliamentary estate; and if he will make a statement. [145052]

Nick Harvey: As the minutes published on the internet http://www.parliament.uk/about_commons/house_of_commons_commission_hccfm120307.cfm show, the Commission discussed smoking on 12 March 2007. The policy on the subject is set out in a written answer to the hon. Member for Aberdeen, North (Mr. Doran) on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 757W.

The Health Act 2006 introduces a ban on smoking in workplaces and enclosed or substantially enclosed public places from 1 July 2007. While the Act does not formally apply on the parliamentary estate, the Commission, on the advice of the Administration Committee, has decided that the House should comply with the principles of the legislation, as it is not desirable that those who work on or visit the parliamentary estate should be treated differently in this respect than in other workplaces and public places. The Commission recognises, however, that many who work on the estate are unavoidably present for long periods, particularly when the House is sitting. It is therefore desirable to make reasonable provision for those who wish to smoke to do so, provided that the health and safety of other users of the estate is not adversely affected.

With these principles in mind, the Commission has decided that smoking should cease to be permitted from 1 July 2007 in all internal areas of the House of Commons estate, including in bars and private offices. From that date smoking will, however, be permitted in four designated external areas: the Terrace, Commons Court (North West corner), North Terrace (between Portcullis House and Norman Shaw South), and in a designated area on the west side of Canon Row courtyard. Cigarette receptacles will be provided in these areas. "No Smoking" signs will be displayed at entrances to the buildings.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has increased its presence in *(a)* Syria, *(b)* Jordan and *(c)* Egypt to assist Iraqi refugees; and if he will make a statement. [143780]

Hilary Benn: We are very concerned about the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the increasing numbers of people who have been displaced due to ongoing violence.

DFID has not increased its presence in Syria, Jordan or Egypt in response to the refugee crisis. We continue to work closely with international humanitarian partners to ensure agencies are adequately resourced and equipped to respond to needs such as food, water, shelter and medical assistance.

To date, we have contributed £1.5 million to the UN high commission for refugees' (UNHCR) appeal to help refugees in neighbouring countries. This was part of a £10 million package, which we have provided so far this year, to help vulnerable people inside Iraq and those displaced to other countries in the region. In total, DFID has provided £125 million in humanitarian assistance to Iraq since 2003.

Democracy: Expenditure

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on projects promoting democracy in each of the last three years. [142608]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's support to democracy programmes is part of our broader approach to good governance. One of the components of good governance is an open and transparent political system with strong political institutions. This means our democracy work includes support to civil society to improve their capacity to hold Governments to account; initiatives to build accountability into our health and education programmes to improve Government responsiveness to poor people; and work to strengthen political systems more broadly, including popular participation in the decision-making process. The latter includes direct support to elections and Parliaments.

In total, DFID's direct bilateral spend on governance programmes was £212 million in 2004-05, £322 million in 2005-06 and £286 million in 2006-07. Within this DFID spent £14 million directly on democratic elections in 2004-5, £17.1 million in 2005-06 and £15.5 million in 2006-7. Over the next five years, our support to governance will include an additional £100 million for the governance and transparency fund.

The aforementioned figures do not include our support to the UN, EU and other multilateral organisations some of which is used to fund governance and democracy promotion programmes. However, DFID does not hold details of what proportion of these contributions were used to assist with the promotion of democracy.

Note that the figures for 2006-07 are provisional estimates only.

Departments: Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143880]

Mr. Thomas: DFID does not keep records of the number of home workers.

However, DFID operates a 'one machine' policy under which each member of staff chooses to be equipped with either a desktop computer or, subject to the approval of their Head of Department, a laptop computer. The laptop option enables staff to work from home or at other remote locations while travelling on behalf of the Department. Currently, 1,750 staff have been issued with laptops.

DFID is committed to improving work/life balance and accommodates a wide range of different work patterns including the use of home and remote working. DFID's policy is set out both in the staff handbook, which is available to all staff electronically, and in two booklets, "Flexible Working", and "Remote Working" which staff receive on appointment. In a

recent management survey, 84 per cent. of staff strongly believed that their line managers actively support flexible working.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143899]

Mr. Thomas: DFID employs both UK-based civil servants and staff engaged overseas on local terms and conditions of service. I have provided a breakdown of the data for the categories requested for both amalgamated groups in the following tables. Table 1 shows all contracts awarded during the years 2004-06, inclusive, broken down by gender. Table 2 shows the same breakdown across the categories for those in the over 55 age range. During the same period seven staff with registered disabilities were awarded contracts. (One temporary, six permanent—of which one was part-time).

Table 1

	Perm	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Temp*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Totals per year*
2004								
Male	167	167	—	30	29	1	197	
Female	182	173	9	30	30	—	212	409
2005								
Male	108	106	2	16	16	—	124	
Female	97	86	1	22	22	—	119	243
2006								
Male	83	81	2	13	12	1	96	
Female	91	84	7	21	20	1	112	208
Total employees	728			132			860	860

Table 2: Age over 55

	Perm	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Temp*	*Full-time*	*Part- time*	*Total*	*Totals per year*
2004								
Male	5	5	—	4	4	—	9	
Female	4	4	—	—	—	—	4	13
2005								
Male	5	4	1	2	1	—	7	
Female	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	8
2006								
Male	3	3	—	1	1	—	4	
Female	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	6
Total employees	20			7			27	27

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143916]

Mr. Thomas: DFID employs both UK-based civil servants and staff engaged overseas on local terms and conditions of service. The following table shows the information which is available for both groups and for DFID as a whole. Information on gender, disability and age are all provided on a voluntary basis, and is incomplete for those staff engaged locally overseas. The response rate on disability in particular is very low. The percentages quoted are therefore based upon the numbers where we do have the relevant information, and the total percentage with a disability is for only our UK-based staff.

	Male	*Female*	*Disabled*	*Percentage Aged 55 +*
UK-based	50	50	3	12
Locally engaged	50	50	n/a	19
Total	50	50	3	14

n/a = Not available.

Departments: Official Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which destinations he visited in an official capacity between 17 May and 17 June. [144548]

Hilary Benn: I made no regional or overseas visits in an official capacity between 17 May and 17 June.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143099]

Mr. Thomas: The following tables give the number of bonuses awarded to DFID staff in 2006-07. All bonus payments are non-pensionable.

Bonuses awarded to DFID senior civil servants (SCS)

	2006-07
Number of awards	66
Percentage of total SCS workforce	78
Total cost (£)	389,100
Largest single payment (£)	12,000

Bonuses awarded to DFID staff in grades below the SCS

	2006-07
Number of awards	1,020
Percentage of total HCS workforce below the SCS	62
Total cost (£)	558,233
Largest single payment (£)	1,150

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143792]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has had no contracts with Remploy in the last 12 months.

Gaza: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation of the civilian population in Gaza following the takeover of the area's administration by Hamas; and if he will make a statement. [144328]

Hilary Benn: The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) makes regular assessments of the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip. Between 9 and 13 June, OCHA reported that 110 Palestinians were killed and over 550 injured. However, relative calm has now returned. People are out in the streets and shops are open.

The major concern among humanitarian agencies now is the movement of people and goods into and out of Gaza. Israel has allowed some humanitarian supplies to enter. Shortages of basic food supplies are likely to occur within days unless access is restored for private traders. The UK Government have called for the re-opening of the Kami crossing.

Humanitarian Aid: Gaza

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the recent violence in Gaza on the operations of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East; and if he will make a statement. [144329]

Hilary Benn: 70 per cent. of Gaza's population, around 1 million people, are registered as refugees and are eligible for support from the UNRWA. On 13 June the UNRWA suspended all operations in Gaza except for essential medical services and emergency food distributions. This followed the killing of two of its staff in intra-Palestinian violence. On 17 June, the UNRWA returned to full operations, but warned that its support programmes depended on regular humanitarian supplies through Gaza's borders with Israel.

Humanitarian Aid: Sri Lanka

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the murder of aid workers in Sri Lanka; and what guidance his Department is making available for UK aid workers in Sri Lanka. [144482]

Mr. Thomas: We have received several representations from the British and Sri Lankan NGO communities about the murder of two Red Cross workers on 2 June and the deaths of 17 workers from a French NGO in August 2006. We have raised the issue of humanitarian security with the Sri Lankan Government repeatedly and pressed for the perpetrators of these appalling crimes to be brought to justice.

The UK advises British nationals, including aid workers, against all travel to the north and east of Sri Lanka. Ultimately aid workers and the agencies that employ them are responsible for their own security. Staff at the British High Commission in Colombo meet representatives of the British NGO community on a monthly basis to share information on security and other operational issues. Aid workers are also encouraged to register their presence in Sri Lanka with the British High Commission. Where appropriate, the FCO will support British nationals who are caught up in conflict, civil unrest and natural catastrophes.

Iraq: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk of 7 June 2007, official report, column 685W, on Iraq: internally displaced persons, what form he expects the Iraqi Government's lead role in supporting Iraqi refugees outside Iraq to take; and if he will make a statement. [143949]

Hilary Benn: The most important thing that needs to happen in Iraq is an end to the spiralling violence responsible for the deteriorating humanitarian situation and increasing levels of displacement. The Government of Iraq have put dealing with security at the top of their agenda and we will continue to support them. Furthermore, it has primary responsibility to ensure the protection of its citizens.

At the April UNHCR Conference in Geneva, the Government of Iraq made a commitment to take the lead in providing support and security for their citizens, including those who have fled the country. In the first phase, they pledged $25 million to finance the establishment of migration offices in Jordan and Syria. These offices will support vulnerable Iraqis and help alleviate the burden of the influx of refugees on host countries. We will continue to press them to step up their response to the situation and develop their policy on how best to provide assistance.

Mozambique: Health Services

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department has provided to health systems in each of the last five years in *(a)* Mozambique and *(b)* China; and what the (i) objectives, (ii) time scales and (iii) funding were of such programmes. [144348]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has actively supported the health systems in Mozambique for a number of years. DFID Mozambique provided support to the Technical Planning Unit within the Ministry of Health to facilitate development of a national health plan for the period 2000-05. DFID also funded the HIV/AIDS and Maternal Health Programme (2001-07) which aims to increase access to and use of good quality reproductive and sexual health services. DFID funding of the Essential Medicines programme (2000-06) aimed to improve the availability and rational use of essential medicines by strengthening procurement and distribution systems.

DFID is currently supporting the development of a Sustainable Distribution System for Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) for Malaria Prevention. The programme, which has a total allocated budget of £8.6 million, started in 2005 and is due to run until 2010. It builds upon the lessons learnt as a result of a pilot Malaria Prevention and Treatment project. DFID recently agreed a new five-year programme of support to the Ministry of Health for £3.7 million per annum. In 2006, DFID also signed a five-year £215 million programme of direct support to the budget of the Government of Mozambique, which helps provide additional funding for health systems. The total amount of bilateral DFID expenditure in the health sector in Mozambique is shown in the following table. This includes a notional proportion of DFID's general budget support.

DFID bilateral expenditure on health in Mozambique, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Expenditure (£ million)
2002-03	10.2
2003-04	13.3
2004-05	16.3
2005-06	15.9
2006-07	[1]11.9

[1] Provisional.

DFID has been working in the health sector in China since 1999. The focus has been on helping the Chinese Government to control HIV and AIDS, increasing the detection and cure rate for people suffering from tuberculosis, and reforming the health system so that poor people receive basic health services. The total amount of bilateral DFID expenditure in the health sector in China is shown in the following table.

DFID bilateral expenditure on health in China, 2002-03 to 2006-07

	Expenditure (£ million)
2002-03	12.6
2003-04	11.1
2004-05	10.5
2005-06	13.0
2006-07	[1]11.9

[1] Provisional.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to facilitate the provision of health care free at the point of access in *(a)* Mozambique and *(b)* China. [144349]

Mr. Thomas: It is for national Governments to decide their own policies in relation to user fees in health. However, because of our own UK experience and that of developing countries, DFID is committed to helping countries that want to remove charges at the point of delivery. The recent White Paper commits DFID to help partner Governments abolish user fees for basic health services and help them tackle other barriers to access, including discrimination against women.

DFID is working with the Government of China to facilitate the provision of free (or substantially subsidised by the Government) primary health care. China is formulating a major health policy to address inequity in the health system, of which free primary health care for all is likely to be an important feature. Meanwhile various health insurance programmes for urban and rural residents will be improved to provide better financial risk protection and reduce out-of-pocket payments on in-patient services.

DFID has supported China on rural and urban health and health policy capacity building since 1999. Our large and well designed pilots have provided evidence to Chinese policy makers on rural and urban health reform, which is now being used to inform the development of the new policies.

In Mozambique, services are already formally free for malaria, TB, HIV treatment, maternal health services and immunisation for children. The Government of Mozambique have already made a public commitment to look at the case for removing fees, at least for primary health care. DFID is now working closely with the Government of Mozambique to consider the practical implications of removing the remaining user fees. This includes: studying the expected implications for demand; considering how systems will need to be reinforced to support the change; and preventing illegal charging. If the Government of Mozambique make a decision to abolish more fees, DFID will support this, including through our continued financial support to the sector.

Overseas Aid: Corruption

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what occasions and from whom the UK has sought the return of monies misappropriated from UK aid programmes. [140735]

Hilary Benn: DFID is committed to ensuring that its resources are used only for the purposes intended. The Department's Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy aims to ensure that resources lost through misappropriation are minimised, and that appropriate action is taken to recover such funds. A specialist Fraud Response Unit within DFID's internal audit function coordinates DFID's response to allegations of fraud and corruption, and provides support to management to strengthen systems and processes to prevent or detect future losses.

Where a loss relates to activities which are being managed on DFID's behalf by an NGO, an international organisation or a similar partner with whom DFID has an ongoing relationship, the partner concerned will usually be required to absorb the loss and to complete delivery of the agreed development goals without additional DFID funding. Before agreeing to this course of action, DFID will first require adequate assurance that the weaknesses in the partner's systems which allowed the losses to occur have been addressed. In other cases, the Department's practice is normally to seek the repayment of the monies which have been misappropriated.

Where DFID cannot obtain the necessary assurance that a partner's arrangements for preventing fraud and corruption have been strengthened, and hence that UK taxpayers' monies will be properly safeguarded, future funding may be withheld or the relationship with the partner may be terminated.

The following table lists the cases, for the financial years 2004-05 to 2006-07 inclusive, where the UK has sought the return of monies misappropriated from UK aid programmes. This includes instances where there has been full or partial repayment to DFID of misappropriated funds, those where the partner organisation managing the activities on DFID's behalf has absorbed the losses itself, and those where no recovery could be achieved.

	Location	*Party from whom return was sought/circumstances of loss*
2004-05	Uganda	Bank: Unidentified culprit cashed cheque claiming to be working for consultants. Funds recovered in full from bank.
2004-05	The Gambia	NGO: NGO suffered an internal fraud in the Gambia. Individuals were prosecuted and some funds returned.
2004-05	Caribbean	NGO: Misappropriation, including diversion of project salaries funded by DFID. Full amount recovered.
2004-05	DR Congo	International organisation: Financial irregularities within DFID-funded project. Audit undertaken by external auditor. Full funds recovered.
2004-05	UK	Private individual's estate: Pension still being claimed after staff member's death. Money refunded in full.
2004-05	UK	Credit card provider: Unauthorised use of credit card. Full refund made by card company
2005-06	UK	Staff member: Made false claim for payment of travel time. Recovered in full.
2005-06	Rwanda	Staff member: Theft of generators by DFID employee. Generators recovered, and employee dismissed.
2005-06	Malawi	Staff member: Cash received on project had not been banked. Staff member resigned and funds recovered in full.
2005-06	Liberia	Supplier: DFID contractor forging/stealing cheques. Company repaid the monies in full.
2005-06	Southern Africa	Staff members: Money stolen from office safe at project. Two staff dismissed and police notified. Funds recovered in full.
2005-06	Kenya	Contractor: Equipment misappropriated. Culprit absconded before police could act. No recovery possible.
2005-06	Malawi	NGO: NGO discovered that their PAYE contributions had been diverted to pay tax on the importation of cars. Court proceedings have been initiated but not concluded. Monies recovered in full.
2006-07	Kenya	NGO: Double billing of donors. Amounts recovered in full.
2006-07	Kenya	NGO: Procurement irregularities, with work being awarded to relatives at inflated costs. Full recovery.
2006-07	Kenya	NGO: Insecticide-treated nets were sold by staff in medical centres to be used as fishing nets. Some supplies were recovered, others written off. Police involved.
2006-07	UK	Private individual's estate: Pension still being claimed after staff member's death by a relative, who has since herself died. Some monies recovered from the estate and HMRC.
2006-07	Cambodia	International organisation: Cash/cheque fraud by an international organisation's employees. Some monies returned.
2006-07	Somalia	Local community: Misuse of funds on an Accountable Grant funded project. Community members found responsible and funds repaid in full.
2006-07	Malawi	NGO: Over-claiming of school fees by NGO staff member. Funds repaid in full.
2006-07	Ghana	Supplier: Private company had been using a phone number for which DFID paid the bills. Full recovery.
2006-07	Sudan	NGO: NGO identified a fraud on a DFID-funded project and has since repaid the loss in full.

During the same period, 2004-05 to 2006-07, DFID also had a smaller number of instances where misappropriation of UK funds could be proven but where effective recovery action was not practicable due to the particular circumstances of each case—for example, where the culprits could not be identified or subsequently absconded, or where the value of the loss was lower than the cost of any recovery action. For completeness, these cases are set out in the following table.

	Location	*Circumstances of loss*
2004-05	UK	Payments intercepted in the mail.
2004-05	UK	Staff member tried to re-sell DFID-funded travel tickets.

	Location	Circumstances of loss
2004-05	Guyana	NGO worker took unauthorised allowances.
2005-06	Iraq	Over-claiming of project-related salaries.
2005-06	Nigeria	Cash theft.
2005-06	Nepal	Burglary.
2005-06	Iraq	Loss of satellite telephone.
2005-06	Kenya	Equipment purchased without proper authority.
2006-07	Rwanda	Unauthorised use of vehicle.

Palestinians: EC Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of the restored EU funding to the Palestinian Authority will be directed to *(a)* the West Bank and *(b)* Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [144361]

Hilary Benn: On 18 June, EU Foreign Ministers discussed the resumption of assistance to the Palestinian Authority. They concluded that the EU should develop the conditions for urgent practical and financial assistance. The EU has not yet decided how this will be delivered. However, we will wish to ensure that assistance addresses the needs of Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what changes are planned to the operation of the Temporary International Mechanism for the delivery of aid to the Palestinian people following recent events in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [144360]

Hilary Benn: No decisions have yet been taken on changes to the Temporary International Mechanism (TIM) following recent events in Gaza. The TIM continues to provide support for the basic needs of Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Quartet recently extended the TIM until the end of September 2007.

Tanzania: Overseas Aid

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support has been given to the Presidential Parastatal Sector Reform Commission in Tanzania for *(a)* work in the area of water and sanitation and *(b)* other work in each year since 1994; on what dates technical assistance grants were given; what the aid funding was for each grant; and to whom consultancy contracts were awarded. [143944]

Hilary Benn: The Tanzanian Government established the Parastatal Sector Reform Commission (PSRC) in 1993 to reform and privatise loss-making public entities (including ports, railways and airlines). At the time, there were approximately 400 such entities, costing the Government US $100 million annually.

At the request of the Government of Tanzania, DFID provided a total of £7.1 million to the PSRC to support the divestiture of publicly-owned companies in Tanzania between 1992 and the end of our programme of support in March 2007.

DFID's support helped to ensure that the privatisation process was implemented in a fair and transparent manner and that regulatory bodies were established to ensure privatised entities worked for the benefit of Tanzania. The assistance provided was used for the purposes of contracting advisory support for:

- management of the privatisation process
- broadening of share ownership—to afford Tanzanians greater opportunities to own shares in privatised entities
- amendments to relevant enabling legislation and regulations, and supporting the development of suitable local regulatory capacity

Different companies were awarded contracts. All work was procured under prevailing Tanzanian Government procurement regulations. The grants provided were for:

- Technical Assistance—total value of £6.1 million (from 1992-2007)
- Development support—total value of £1 million (from 2003-07)

The contracts that were provided for work in the area of water and sanitation are set out in table 1 as follows.

Table 1: Contracts awarded for water and sanitation work

Date	Contractor	Purpose of work	Total value (£000)
2001	Adam Smith International	Conducting a water privatisation and regulatory study tour	55
2001	Clifford Chance	Provision of legal advice to DAWASA	[1]150
1997	John D. Davies	Provision of short-term advice on achieving an appropriate private sector participation arrangement for DAWASA	31
November 1997	GIBB East Africa Ltd	Facilitation of a DAWASA workshop on privatisation	16
Total	—	—	252

[1] Part of the contract was denominated in US$.

The UK funded 10 contracts valued above £100,000 each in the period from 1992 to 2007 in support of PSRC. An additional 39 contracts of lesser value were awarded for smaller pieces of work—calculating the total value of these contracts would involve disproportionate cost. Table 2 sets out amounts and a description of the main grants and contractors.

Table 2: Contracts of £100,000 or more awarded in support of PSRC

Date	Contractor	Nature of assignment	Total value (£000)
1992-96	Devon Waide	Advisory support to PSRC	846
1998-2000	Cezley Sampson	Provision of advice on reform, divestiture and restructuring	302
1998-2002	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC)	Provision of Utilities adviser to PSRC	697

Table 2: Contracts of £100,000 or more awarded in support of PSRC

Date	Contractor	Nature of assignment	Total value (£000)
1999-2000	Adam Smith International	Establishment of PSRC Information Unit and provision of public relations support	496
2001	GMA Capital Markets Ltd	Conducting a capital markets absorptive study	129
2001	Clifford Chance	Provision of legal consultancy for the privatisation of Air Tanzania Corporation	315
2002	Adam Smith International	Provision of lead advisory support	230
2002	Clifford Chance	Provision of legal advice for the privatisation of Air Tanzania Corporation	210
2002-05	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC)	Provision of Technical Adviser and Utilities Adviser	623
2006-07	PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC)	Provision of Utilities adviser to PSRC	178
Total	—	—	4,026

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* mines, *(b)* mortar rounds, *(c)* projectiles by calibre, *(d)* missiles and *(e)* air dropped weapons were expended by members of UK armed forces as part of the NATO deployment in Afghanistan in each of the last six months. [142850]

Mr. Ingram: I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Aircraft Carriers: Procurement

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the delay in the construction of the two new aircraft carriers for the UK has resulted in job losses at dockyards. [143442]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* No date has been set for commencement of manufacture of the future aircraft carriers and there has, therefore, been no delay. The main investment decision will be taken when we are confident that we have a robust, affordable deal.

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the impact on dockyards in the UK if the Government decide to collaborate with France in the construction of the proposed two new aircraft carriers for the UK; [143444]

(2) what talks have taken place with members of the aircraft carrier alliance on the involvement of France in the construction of the proposed two new aircraft carriers for the UK; [143445]

(3) what discussions there have been with trades unions about the involvement of France in the construction of the proposed two new aircraft carriers for the UK; [143446]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answers 18 June 2007]:* We have always stressed that co-operation with France through industry-to-industry links may offer potential benefits to both nations. This was covered most recently when my noble Friend the Minister of State for Defence Equipment and Support, Lord Drayson met with the trade unions and the Aircraft Carrier Alliance Chief Executive last month. It has been agreed with France that for co-operation to work, it must deliver cost savings and must do so without delaying UK or French programmes.

Armed Forces: Dental Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the duties are of each defence dental personnel role; how many hours per week those in each role are expected to devote to the provision of dental care; and how many patients those in each role saw in each of the last five years. [138790]

Derek Twigg: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* location and *(b)* number of personnel was for each operational deployment in 1997. [119056]

Mr. Ingram: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much HM Treasury has passed to the Ministry of Defence from monies received from Annington Homes in connection with sales of former Ministry of Defence housing and land in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Colchester. [121129]

Derek Twigg: These monies enter a consolidated general cash account and are not paid back to the Ministry of Defence directly by Her Majesty's Treasury.

Armed Forces: Pay

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed service personnel have received a tax-free bonus for service in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Afghanistan and *(c)* the Balkans since October 2006. [142594]

Derek Twigg: The information broken down by operational theatre is not held within legacy service pay systems and the new Joint Personnel Administration system in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

As at 13 June 2007, some 46,333 armed forces personnel had received payment of the tax-free Operational Allowance. This figure includes payments to Army personnel for more than one operational tour and excludes payments after 31 March 2007 to deceased, discharged and special forces personnel for all three services.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research has been undertaken on the vertical and horizontal centre of gravity position of each of the various types of Land Rover used by the armed forces. [141041]

Mr. Ingram: The Department examined centre of gravity issues for Wolf Land Rovers when the Bowman communication system was introduced. The suspension on vehicles fitted for radios and Weapons Mount Installation Kits was improved by the fitment of a rear anti roll bar, which improved the vehicle's stability.

Snatch Land Rovers have also been assessed to examine the effects on stability and performance by the fitment of armour and the variety of potential load configurations.

The latest Land Rovers, like other vehicles procured by the MOD, were subject to rigorous assessment through a military validation and trials period, prior to acceptance into service.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution the UK has made to the study agreed at the NATO summit in Riga in 2006 on a collective alliance territorial missile defence system. [143941]

Des Browne: The missile defence feasibility study that was delivered to the NATO summit in 2006 was financed from NATO common funds to which the UK contributes. QinetiQ were part of the industrial consortium that undertook the work. In common with other NATO nations, the UK reviewed and commented upon the feasibility study, and contributes to the continuing discussions in NATO on the implications of missile defence for the alliance.

Bank of England

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have given authorisations in relation to monies (i) held in and (ii) transferred from a British Aerospace account at the Bank of England since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [143088]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the role of the Paymaster General and her officials was in relation to the Bank of England account used for payments under the support services annexes to the Al Yamamah contract. [143182]

Des Browne *[holding answers 19 June 2007]*: The Department is not aware of any such account.

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the value is of orders for urgent operational requirements placed in the last 12 months; and if he will list those items of equipment costing over £250,000. [143050]

Mr. Ingram: Between 1 June 2006 and 31 May 2007 the total value of approved urgent operational requirements was some £810 million. As the operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are still ongoing, much information regarding specific urgent operational requirements remains operationally sensitive and is withheld as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the security of our armed forces.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much revenue his Department received from advertisements on his Department's *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142729]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144936]

Derek Twigg: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to extend the eligibility for the issue of Veterans lapel badges to former members of the Women's Land Army. [143507]

Derek Twigg: Although the Women's Land Army included the word "Army" in its title, it was a civilian organisation formed to support agricultural production. While the Ministry of Defence acknowledges the importance of the efforts of all those who contributed to the country's war efforts in 1914-18 and 1939-45, it is not responsible for the recognition of those who served in such civilian occupations. Nor would it be appropriate to extend to them eligibility for the armed forces Veterans

badge which was instituted specifically as a mark of recognition of service in the United Kingdom's armed forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the contracts his Department has with private military and security companies for services provided in Iraq; what the value is of each such contract; what contracts are being *(a)* negotiated and *(b)* considered; what the expected value is of such contracts; and if he will make a statement. [132618]

Des Browne: For the purposes of this response I have taken the question to refer to armed security contracts.

The use of private mobility and security companies for the static guarding of empty buildings is currently being considered.

I also refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1657W, to the hon. Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (Derek Conway). No contracts are currently being negotiated between MOD and private military and security companies for services in Iraq.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the hon. Member for North East Milton Keynes's constituent Mr. Ron Nield to be sent a reply to his letter to the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency. [138906]

Derek Twigg: If the hon. Member could provide me with Mr. Nield's personal details (including service number if applicable), the date and subject matter of his letter and the address he wrote to I will be happy to provide him with the information he seeks.

Military Bases: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many years the consortium awarded the private finance initiative for the Colchester garrison will have ownership of the land. [136841]

Derek Twigg: Under the terms of the Colchester garrison redevelopment contract RMPA Services PLC was granted a 150-year head lease over the land that forms the new garrison site. The Ministry of Defence retains overall ownership.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fuel leaks were recorded aboard RAF Nimrod aircraft in the six months prior to September 2006. [142811]

Mr. Ingram: Between the period 1 March 2006 and 31 August 2006 a total of 52 fuel leaks were reported on Nimrod MR2 and R1 aircraft. A fuel leak is defined as any leakage of fuel from aircraft couplings, pipes or fuel tanks. These did not compromise the safety of the aircraft and were rectified under normal maintenance procedures.

North Atlantic Council

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the outcome of the North Atlantic Council defence ministers meeting on 14 and 15 June 2007. [144046]

Mr. Ingram *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* NATO Defence Ministers discussed a range of issues including the continuing transformation of NATO's capabilities, missile defence, and operational commitments in Afghanistan and Kosovo. Force planning issues were discussed at the annual meeting of the Defence Planning Committee in Defence Ministers' Session, and nuclear planning issues at the Nuclear Planning Group.

In addition, Afghanistan's Defence Minister, Abdul Rahim Wardak attended a special session of the North Atlantic Council together with the non-NATO nations contributing to the International Security Assistance Force. Allies underlined their commitment to the mission in Afghanistan, noted the progress that has already been made, and stressed the importance of Afghan ownership of security issues. The Council noted that the UN had been given a wider remit in the current Security Council Resolution and supported the efforts of the UN to maximise its impact and to expand its presence in the provinces of Afghanistan.

The Council also condemned the Taliban practice of deliberately endangering the civilian population of Afghanistan and underlined NATO's commitment to avoiding civilian casualties.

A copy of the final communiqué of the North Atlantic Council in Defence Ministers' Session can be found at:

http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/2007/p07-070e.html

Project Al Yamamah

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funds have been held by the Defence Export Services Organisation in relation to the Al Yamamah defence contract since May 1997; and if he will make a statement. [143089]

Des Browne: The financial arrangements of the Al Yamamah programme are confidential between the two Governments. I am withholding details as they would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations and harm the interests of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to authorise the publication of the Comptroller and Auditor General's reports on the Al Yamamah contract. [142299]

Des Browne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 December 2005, *Official Report*, column 1495W, to the hon. Member for Hornsey and Wood Green (Lynne Featherstone).

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will publish the annexes to the Al Yamamah contract which cover support services; [142301]

(2) what requirement was laid down in the Al Yamamah contract on BAE to inform Ministers of payments made under the support services annexes of the contract; and if he will list all payments reported to Ministers as having been made under those provisions showing *(a)* the date, *(b)* the purpose and *(c)* the recipients of such payments. [142302]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) which Ministers in his Department have been informed of payments made under the support services annexes of the Al Yamamah contract since 1997; [143183]

(2) when Ministers in his Department were first informed of payments being made by BAE Systems under annexes on support services to the Al Yamamah contract; [143005]

(3) what mechanisms were in place in his Department for official authorisation of payments made under the support services annexes of the Al Yamamah contract by BAE Systems before 1 June 2007; [143197]

(4) when the last payment was made by BAE under the support services annexes of the Al Yamamah contract of which his Department was made aware; and what information he has on arrangements for any future payments. [143198]

Des Browne *[holding answers 19 June 2007]:* Agreements reached under the Al Yamamah programme are confidential between the two Governments. I am withholding details as they would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations and harm the interests of the United Kingdom.

RAF Brize Norton

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether landing rights have been provided to Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia at RAF Brize Norton; and if he will make a statement. [143093]

Des Browne: A Saudi Arabian Ministry of Defence and Aviation registered aircraft used by Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia, HZ-124, has been granted landing rights at RAF Brize Norton. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1053W, to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable).

Technology Readiness and Risk Assessment Programme

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the status of the Technology Readiness and Risk Assessment Programme. [144013]

Des Browne *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* The Technology Readiness and Risk Assessment Programme was completed in July 2001; an unclassified summary of the work is available in the Library of the House.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS

Anthony Bailey

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what role *(a)* Anthony Bailey and *(b)* Eligo International played in the Academies programme; and what payments each received. [144543]

Jim Knight: Anthony Bailey is on the governing body for Sheffield Park academy and Sheffield Springs academy, which are sponsored by the United Learning Trust.

Eligo International has no role in the Academies programme.

There have been no payments made by the Department to either Anthony Bailey or Eligo International.

Apprenticeships

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of students entering *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeships were already in employment in each year since 1997. [128574]

Phil Hope: Data on apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships are collected on the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR). The work-based learning (WBL) ILR was collated for the first time in 2002/03 and figures are given from that time. The following table shows the number of learners starting advanced apprenticeships and apprenticeships each year who were in employment on the day before their training commenced as a percentage of all starts.

	Learners in employment		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Total learners*
2002/03			
Advanced Apprenticeship	38,110	57	67,120
Apprenticeship	82,570	61	136,400
2003/04			
Advanced Apprenticeship	38,510	68	56,960
Apprenticeship	95,970	70	136,610
2004/05			
Advanced Apprenticeship	36,020	67	53,920
Apprenticeship	93,590	69	135,120
2005/06			
Advanced Apprenticeship	39,400	76	52,130
Apprenticeship	88,450	72	122,850

Note:
Learners who are not employed on the day before their apprenticeship starts could enter as an employed status apprentice and their employment status then changes because of the Apprenticeship programme.

Children in Care: Standards

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will ensure that Ofsted involve young people with experience of care in its inspecting of care homes. [142311]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 15 June 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked whether Ofsted would ensure that young people with experience of care are involved in its inspection of care homes.

Ofsted involves young people by seeking their views during inspection and through highly focused surveys and consultation exercises. Seeking the views of young people is part of the statutory duties of the new Ofsted and developing this further is explicitly outlined in our new Strategic Plan.

Following the expansion of our remit in April this year, Ofsted is working hard to bring together the very best from all four predecessor organisations. At this stage, we are focusing on creating a high quality inspection programme across our expanded remit. We are also looking to incorporate the changes made to the National Minimum Standards and develop this work further over the next few years. This development work will include a range and choice of different methods for all children in inspected services to feed in their views about inspection outcomes.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

City Academies: Private Sector

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether any city academy school sites are owned by private sector interests. [141025]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 7 June 2007]:* We are aware of one case where the freehold of an academy site is held by a private sector organisation. In this case, the land has been leased to the local authority which in turn has leased it to the Academy Trust.

We do not maintain central records which record whether Academy Trusts have freehold or leasehold interests and who granted them. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, in all cases, the Academy Trust either owns the freehold of the site or will have been granted a lease of either 99 or 125 years. Where academies are being developed as part of the Building Schools for the Future programme, the Academy Trust will be granted a 125-year lease from the local authority which will commence upon completion of the building.

Class Sizes

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of all pupils aged five, six or seven have been taught in classes of 31 or more in each local education authority in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142155]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Class Sizes: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average class size was for *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* primary schools in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland in each of the last 10 years. [143435]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: average class size[2]: Position in January each year 1998 to 2007[3]: Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency

	Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency		England	
	Primary	Secondary	Primary	Secondary
1998	26.4	22.2	27.7	21.7
1999	26.3	22.1	27.5	21.9
2000	26.0	22.1	27.1	22.0
2001	25.4	22.3	26.7	22.0
2002	24.1	21.1	26.3	21.9
2003	24.6	21.5	26.3	21.9
2004	24.0	21.5	26.2	21.8
2005	23.4	23.1	26.2	21.7
2006	23.8	22.7	26.3	21.5
2007[3]	24.0	22.4	26.2	21.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Classes taught by one teacher during a single selected period on the census day in January.
[3] Provisional data
Source:
School Census

Classroom Assistants

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many learning support assistants there were in (a) primary and (b) secondary schools in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [141222]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Tables have been placed in the House Library showing the full-time equivalent number of teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools by local authority in each year from January 1997 to 2006 the latest information available.

Curriculum: Citizenship

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the scope for teaching citizenship outside places of education. [143816]

Jim Knight: The post 16 Citizenship support programme encourages development of relevant curriculum models across a wide range of provider types (including work-based, and youth and community providers). The emphasis is on active participation in young people's own communities. The Ofsted report on Citizenship found that the programme has been successful in showing what can be done in

schools, colleges, youth centres and work-based training and recommended that such examples be shared more widely. This recommendation is being taken forward by the programme.

Degrees: Gender

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men did not complete their degree in each of the last five years, broken down by the number of UCAS points on university entry. [144907]

Bill Rammell: Projected non-completion rates are released by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) each year within the performance indicators in higher education publication.

The latest available non-completion projections are shown in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses in UK higher education institutions (HEIs) who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution:

	Percentage
1999-2000	15.9
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	14.1
2002-03	14.4
2003-04	14.9

Source: "Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The 2004-05 figure will be released by HESA on 19 July 2007. These non-completion rates are not available broken down by gender or entry qualification. Drop-out is more likely to occur during the first year of higher education. The performance indicators also include non-continuation rates, which show the proportion of entrants who are not detected in higher education after their first year. The latest available non-continuation rates are shown in table 2.

Table 2: Proportion of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK HEIs not continuing in higher education after their first year

	Percentage
1999-2000	7.8
2000-01	7.1
2001-02	7.3
2002-03	7.8
2003-04	7.7

Source: "Performance Indicators in Higher Education", published by HESA

The 2004-05 figure will be released by HESA on 19 July 2007. The 2002-03 and 2003-04 non-continuation rates are available broken down by entry qualification, as shown in table 3.

Table 3: Percentage of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degrees in UK HEIs in 2002-03 and 2003-04 not continuing in higher education after their first year

Entry qualification Categories	Tariff points	Entrants 2002-03	Entrants 2003-04
A-levels or Highers:	Unknown	11.3	12.6
	Up to 200	11.7	11.9
	201 to 290	7.9	8.1
	291 to 380	4.9	5.3
	Above 380	2.6	2.8
Other qualifications	—	11.4	11.6
All qualifications	—	7.8	7.7

Source: Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

The 2003-04 non-continuation rate is available broken down by gender, as shown in table 4.

Table 4: Percentage of UK-domiciled young entrants to full-time first degrees in UK HEIs in 2003-04 not continuing in higher education after their first year

	Rate	Benchmark
Female	6.7	7.3
Male	8.8	8.1
Total	7.7	—

Source: Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)

Departments: Compensation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was paid in compensation to *(a)* pupils and *(b)* teachers by his Department in each year since 1997. [132382]

Jim Knight: We have no records of any compensation payments made to pupils by the Department in the period since 1997. In 2003, a payment was made by the Department to a teacher assigned to the European Schools system in respect of the threshold pay that would have been paid had the teacher remained employed in maintained schools in England and Wales. The amount paid was £2,001. This answer has been provided on the assumption that it relates to payments to serving teachers. It therefore excludes any payments made under the Teachers' Pension Scheme to retired teachers.

Departments: Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which Ministers in his Department have been Criminal Records Bureau checked. [139185]

Alan Johnson: No DfES Minister is Criminal Records Bureau checked for holding ministerial office because such an office is not one of the excepted professions, offices, employments, work and occupations listed in the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, as amended.

Education: Capital Investment

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much capital expenditure there was in the education sector in Blackpool, North and Fleetwood in each year since 1997. [143974]

Jim Knight: The Department maintains records of capital allocations on a local authority rather than a

constituency basis, also not on an expenditure basis. This is because local authorities may have access to other capital resources, and they decide locally when and how resources should be spent. Capital allocations by the Department to Blackpool, North and Fleetwood in each year since 1997 are set out in the following table.

	£ million
1996-97	0.00
1997-98	0.00
1998-99	2.81
1999-2000	4.33
2000-01	7.30
2001-02	8.83
2002-03	7.38
2003-04	17.03
2004-05	14.99
2005-06	11.61
2006-07	8.81
2007-08	5.04

The nil figures in 1996-97 and 1997-98 reflect local authority re-organisation.

The drop in 2007-08 is due to the fact that no Targeted Capital Fund (TCF) allocations are being announced this year. However, £3.8 million TCF allocations in 2005-06, and £3.9 million TCF allocations in 2007-08, will result in phased expenditure over a three year period commencing in the year of TCF allocations, including 2007-08. Other changes, from year to year, are affected by local authority forecasts of pupil numbers.

Education: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much capital expenditure there was in the education sector in West Lancashire constituency in each year since 1997. [143526]

Jim Knight: The Department maintains records of capital allocations on a local authority rather than a constituency basis, also not on an expenditure basis. This is because local authorities may have access to other capital resources, and they decide locally when and how resources should be spent. Capital allocations by the Department to Lancashire in each year since 1997 are set out in the following table.

	£ million
1996-07	12.9
1997-08	13.3
1998-09	19.5
1999-2000	36.8
2000-01	42.2
2001-02	36.0
2002-03	55.5
2003-04	62.6
2004-05	44.2
2005-06	38.1
2006-07	54.7
2007-08	46.7

The increase in funding of £16.6 million in 2006-07, compared with 2005-06, is largely explained by Targeted Capital Fund schemes and a maintained boarding schools grant.

English Language: Education

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of English as an additional language pupils in West Lancashire constituency. [143535]

Jim Knight: The information is given in the following table.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1] : number ad percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to e other than English[2]

	Number of pupils[2]	Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[3]
West Lancashire constituency	12,641	6,614	52.3
England	6,574,560	789,790	12.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[4] Figures for England have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Notes:
As at January 2007 (Provisional) West Lancashire Constituency
Source:
School Census

Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant: Peterborough City Council

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he next plans to review the allocation of ethnic minority achievement grant to Peterborough city council; and if he will make a statement. [144094]

Jim Knight: The Government allocate resources to Departments on a three year cycle through spending reviews. DfES received its settlement for 2008-11 in the 2007 Budget. We are currently reviewing the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant allocation for the next spending review period and aim to make an announcement in the autumn.

Every Child Counts Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Every Child Counts initiative, how many children are expected to participate in each tuition programme in each financial year until 2010-11; [144488]

(2) how many hours per week of one-to-one tuition in mathematics he expects to be provided to each child per week under *(a)* the Making Good Progress scheme and *(b)* the more intensive initiative; [144489]

(3) on what date he expects detailed funding allocations for the two schemes to be announced; [144505]

(4) whether his Department received its full allocation of finances for the two programmes within its settlement in the 2007 Budget; [144507]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost of employing new staff to provide the one-to-one tuition in each financial year until 2010-11; [144508]

(6) on what date his Department first announced the more intensive initiative; [144509]

(7) when his Department first started making plans for the more intensive initiative. [144511]

Jim Knight: The Department is planning two separate, but related one-to-one tuition programmes, which will raise standards in maths:

one-to-one tuition to help 300,000 children who have fallen behind in English and mathematics by 2010-11. Such support is being trialled in the 'Making Good Progress' pilot; and

a more intensive initiative specifically designed for early intervention in mathematics; a counterpart to the 'Every Child a Reader' literacy programme, on which we are already committed to nationwide roll-out.

The possibility of establishing a numeracy equivalent to Every Child a Reader was under consideration within the Department early in the new year, prior to the Chancellor's announcement at the Confederation of British Industry on 15 May.

We are currently in the process of planning the scope, resources and roll-out of the early intervention programme and analysing which areas of maths require most support. This will include looking at the numbers of children expected to participate as well as costs of employing new staff.

Under the Making Good Progress pilot children who have been identified for tuition in either mathematics or English will be entitled to up to 10 hours of one-to-one support. We have not recommended a particular pattern of delivery but have suggested that this should be decided on an individual basis. We estimate that the tuition offered through Making Good Progress pilot will reach 10,750 children in each of English and Maths in each of 2007-08 and 2008-09. The comprehensive spending review provides for 300,000 children in each of English and maths in 2010-11. We are currently considering plans on how to build up to that number.

Funding of £20 million for implementation of the Making Good Progress pilot in the first academic year, 2007/08, was announced on 6 June along with details of participating pilot schools. There will be further funding for implementation in the second academic year which will be settled through the Comprehensive Spending Review process.

We will announce detailed allocations for the more intensive initiative in due course.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Every Child Counts initiative, on what date the Making Good Progress pilot was *(a)* first announced and *(b)* started. [144490]

Jim Knight: The initial proposal for the Making Good Progress pilot was set out in the consultation document "Making Good Progress: How can we help every pupil to make good progress at school?" and launched on 8 January 2007. Following the consultation the list of participating schools and further details about the proposed pilot were announced on 6 June. The pilot, which will span two academic years, will begin in schools in September 2007 and finish in July 2009.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Every Child Counts initiative, how much has been spent on the Making Good Progress pilot. [144506]

Jim Knight: Funding of £20 million for implementation of the Making Good Progress pilot in the first academic year, 2007/08, was announced on 6 June along with details of participating pilot schools. There will be further funding for implementation in the second academic year which will be settled through the Comprehensive Spending Review process.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Every Child Counts initiative, what programmes his Department has run since 1997 prior to the two programmes for providing one-to-one tuition in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics. [144510]

Jim Knight: The Department is implementing the Every Child a Reader (ECAR) programme. We are in the third year of a three-year pilot which is helping over 5,000 six-year-olds with significant literacy difficulties to learn to read. It does this by placing highly skilled reading recovery teachers in schools to provide intensive one-to-one or small group support to children most in need.

As a result, we have announced that ECAR will be rolled out nationally from 2008-09, benefiting 30,000 children a year by 2011.

In mathematics, intervention 'Springboard materials' have been used for a number of years to support those children who have been identified as working just below age-related expectations and who, with support, might catch-up with their peers. Although they are more often used in group work, they can be used on a one-to-one basis. Wave three intervention materials have more often been used for individuals as well as small groups. Both these materials offer teachers a tracking chart to audit the child's attainment and to identify where to pitch the support.

The Department is also currently providing funding for reading mentors. We provide funding to Volunteer Reading Help (VRH); a charitable organisation which recruits, trains and places volunteers to give one-to-one help twice a week to children aged 6 to 11-years who find reading a challenge. Currently VRH has around 2,000 volunteer readers working with around 5,000 children.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Every Child Counts initiative, what contents and methods will be used in the *(a)* Making Good Progress pilot and *(b)* more intensive initiative. [144958]

Jim Knight: In "Making Good Progress" the one-to-one tuition will be a programme delivered by a qualified teacher and tailored to meet the needs of each individual child. As such there is no one method or set of materials which will be used. Tutors will liaise with the class teacher to ensure that the tuition that they offer meets the needs of that child and is closely tied in to the work that the child is doing in class.

We are currently in the process of planning the scope and resources of the more intensive initiative. We will make a further announcement in due course.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 365W, on the Every Child Counts initiative, how his Department will determine whether a child has fallen behind in English and mathematics and is therefore eligible for one-to-one tuition. [144959]

Jim Knight: In the "Making Good Progress" pilot teachers will use assessment for learning techniques to make judgments about where a child is in their learning, identifying areas of pupil strength and priorities for improvement. Teachers will use these judgments to assess whether a pupil is falling behind age-related expectations and should be offered one-to-one support.

We are currently in the process of planning the scope, resources and roll-out of the more intensive maths intervention programme, announced by the Chancellor on 15 May. This will include looking at how children will be assessed.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what plans he has to implement the Every Child Counts initiative on a national basis. [140148]

Jim Knight: The Department is planning two related one-to-one tuition programmes, which will raise standards in maths:

one-to-one tuition to help 300,000 children who have fallen behind in English and in mathematics by 2010-11. Such support is being trialled in the 'Making Good Progress' pilot and

a more intensive initiative specifically designed for early intervention in mathematics; a counterpart to the 'Every Child a Reader' literacy programme, on which we are already committed to nationwide roll-out.

We are currently in the process of planning the scope and roll-out of the early intervention programme and we will make a more detailed announcement in due course. Delivery is expected to begin during 2008.

Females: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many girls from maintained schools were accepted to study *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biochemistry, *(d)* psychology and *(e)* sports science at (i) a Russell Group university and (ii) other universities in each of the last five years; [142981]

(2) how many girls from maintained schools applied to study *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biochemistry, *(d)* psychology and *(e)* sports science at (i) a Russell Group university and (ii) other universities in each of the last five years; [142982]

(3) how many girls from *(a)* independent and *(b)* grammar schools applied to study (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biochemistry, (iv) psychology and (v) sports science at (A) a Russell Group university and (B) other universities in each of the last five years; [142983]

(4) how many girls from *(a)* independent and *(b)* grammar schools were accepted to study (i) physics, (ii) chemistry, (iii) biochemistry, (iv) psychology and (v) sports science at (A) a Russell Group university and (B) other universities in each of the last five years. [142984]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the following tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to Higher Education Institutions.

Acceptances from female UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[1] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[2]

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All maintained[3] schools (including grammar schools)					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	230	218	177	232	224
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	153	145	111	136	136
Total	383	363	288	368	360
Chemistry					
At Russell Group Institutions	444	403	409	454	513
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	519	503	486	493	524
Total	963	906	895	947	7,037
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[4]					
At Russell Group Institutions	435	393	374	401	337
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	295	308	335	372	369
Total	730	701	709	773	706
Psychology					
At Russell Group Institutions	1,435	1,338	1,333	1,363	1,396
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	5,375	5,996	5,988	6,746	6,675
Total	6,870	7,334	7,321	8,109	8,071
Sports Science					
At Russell Group Institutions	38	70	72	58	55
Non-Russell Group Institutions[1]	1,813	1,952	2,042	2,412	2,419
Total	1,851	2,022	2,114	2,470	2,474

Acceptances from female UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3]

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Grammar schools					
Physics					
At Russell Group Institutions	41	49	31	39	44
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	18	23	9	13	10
Total	59	72	40	52	54
Chemistry					
At Russell Group Institutions	58	56	62	73	72
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	36	40	33	40	41
Total	94	96	95	113	113
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
At Russell Group Institutions	61	40	47	52	41
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	27	27	36	24	22
Total	88	67	83	76	63
Psychology					
At Russell Group Institutions	235	185	222	231	207
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	314	383	382	445	357
Total	549	568	604	676	564
Sports Science					
At Russell Group Institutions	1	7	9	11	8
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	52	76	83	94	67
Total	53	83	92	105	75
Independent schools					
Physics					
At Russell Group Institutions	77	64	55	48	59
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	26	19	15	22	18
Total	103	83	70	70	77
Chemistry					
At Russell Group Institutions	83	101	87	111	108
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	44	36	36	57	60
Total	127	137	123	168	168
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
At Russell Group Institutions	80	95	99	109	83
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	25	36	34	25	32
Total	105	131	133	134	115
Psychology					
At Russell Group Institutions	260	329	315	288	283
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	386	394	398	420	373
Total	646	723	713	708	656

Acceptances from female UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3]

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Sports Science					
At Russell Group Institutions	12	17	18	25	20
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	107	98	125	150	137
Total	119	115	143	175	157

Applications[1] from female UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3]

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All Maintained[4] schools (including grammar schools)					
Physics					
At Russell Group Institutions	1,358	1,333	1,068	1,292	1,384
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	1,071	1,057	785	1,019	916
Total	2,429	2,390	1,853	2,377	2,300
Chemistry					
At Russell Group Institutions	2,278	2,149	2,202	2,519	2,920
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	3,245	2,983	3,167	2,831	2,879
Total	5,523	5,732	5,369	5,350	5,799
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[3]					
At Russell Group Institutions	2,707	2,459	2,388	2,353	2,166
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	2,132	2,014	2,226	2,285	2,123
Total	4,839	4,473	4,614	4,638	4,289
Psychology					
At Russell Group Institutions	12,505	13,560	12,455	12,455	12,014
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	32,351	36,437	35,564	39,761	39,204
Total	44,856	49,937	48,019	52,276	57,278
Sports Science					
At Russell Group Institutions	288	494	553	572	511
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	10,010	11,274	11,389	12,723	13,313
Total	70,298	11,768	11,942	73,295	73,824
Grammar schools					
Physics					
At Russell Group Institutions	231	283	193	235	253
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	147	186	98	125	112
Total	378	469	297	360	365
Chemistry					
At Russell Group Institutions	362	367	367	440	473
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	210	257	279	284	275
Total	572	624	646	724	748

Applications[1] from female UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3]

Type of school	Year of entry 2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
At Russell Group Institutions	421	319	354	297	271
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	177	166	199	160	173
Total	598	485	553	457	444
Psychology					
At Russell Group Institutions	1,455	1,569	1,546	1,688	1,374
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	2,348	2,443	2,411	2,751	2,371
Total	3,803	4,012	3,957	4,439	3,745
Sports Science					
At Russell Group Institutions	9	39	54	52	29
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	348	481	515	549	470
Total	357	520	569	607	499
Independent schools					
Physics					
At Russell Group Institutions	444	400	320	322	347
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	215	201	151	147	186
Total	659	607	477	469	533
Chemistry					
At Russell Group Institutions	509	545	487	623	653
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	269	315	310	334	337
Total	778	860	797	957	990
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
At Russell Group Institutions	474	593	565	459	466
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	178	262	257	214	226
Total	652	855	822	673	692
Psychology					
At Russell Group Institutions	2,114	2,626	2,318	2,164	1,888
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	2,610	2,846	2,712	2,917	2,578
Total	4,724	5,472	5,030	5,081	4,466
Sports Science					
At Russell Group Institutions	45	84	99	138	116
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	701	634	825	936	824
Total	746	718	924	1,074	940

[1] Applicants to UCAS can submit up to six applications, in this table students have been counted once for each application they submit.
[2] Includes all other HE and FE institutions covered by the UCAS application system, other than Russell-Group institutions.
[3] Excludes a small amount of students with an unknown school type.
[4] Maintained sector institutions are comprehensive schools, further/higher education institutions, grammar schools, sixth form centres, sixth form colleges, other maintained institutions and other institutions.
[5] Subject figures for Biochemistry can only be displayed as the overall group Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Foundation Degrees

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of employers involved in foundation degrees were in the public sector in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many students studied for such degrees with public sector employers in each year. [142157]

Bill Rammell: We do not classify foundation degrees as public or private sector because students are recorded according to subjects studied and many courses would apply to the public, private and third sectors. Foundation degrees graduates are, however, well-represented in education, and subjects allied to medicine (which together amount to around 35 per cent. of all FD graduates) where the employment opportunities are largely in the public sector, and around a third of all FD courses currently running are in the areas of education, health and care, community or public services.

Employer involvement is an essential feature of all foundation degree programmes. Employers can be involved in the design, delivery and regular review of programmes. It is also expected that there will be recognition from employer bodies such as sector skills councils and professional bodies as well as close collaboration between employer and provider institutions—to ensure foundation degrees are responsive to meeting the nation's skill needs.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many foundation degrees were awarded in each employment sector in each of the last five years. [142158]

Bill Rammell: The available information shows the number of Foundation Degrees awarded by subject area of study. The latest figures are shown in the table; comparable information for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Number of students[1] awarded Foundation Degrees by subject area English Higher Education Institutions—Academic years 2002/03 to 2005/06

Subject area	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Subjects allied to medicine	65	270	405	775
Biological sciences	45	85	110	235
Veterinary science	10	0	0	0
Agriculture and related subjects	20	145	255	425
Physical sciences	25	30	50	80
Mathematical sciences	5	0	0	0
Computer science	20	125	370	680
Engineering and technology	140	250	400	525
Architecture, building and planning	15	20	50	165
Social studies	70	350	700	720
Law	0	10	15	40
Business and administrative studies	220	385	745	1,110
Mass communications and documentation	35	85	150	230
Languages	0	20	15	15
Historical and philosophical studies	0	0	0	10
Creative arts and design	285	640	980	1,480
Education	110	445	1,385	2,325
Combined	0	0	0	5
Total foundation degree qualifiers	1,060	2,855	5,635	8,820

[1] Covers students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Free School Meals

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of children qualifying for free school meals had *(a)* one parent, *(b)* two parents and *(c)* neither parent in paid work in each year for which figures are available. [141691]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what percentage of children selected by aptitude to attend *(a)* city academies and *(b)* specialist schools are in receipt of free school meals. [141745]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number and percentage of pupils in academies and specialist schools known to be eligible for free school meals.

Maintained secondary schools and academies[1]: number and percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals: As at January 2007 (Provisional): England

	Number of pupils on roll[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals[2]	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
Maintained secondary schools	3,273,520	429,930	13.1
of which:			
Specialist schools	2,782,620	345,050	12.4
Academies	40,810	13,610	33.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual main registration.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Further Education: Student Wastage

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students in further education in each of the regions failed to complete their course in the last 12 months; and how many of those were in the final year of their course. [132186]

Bill Rammell: Non-completion is not a standard measure used in further education (FE). The standard measure of success used in FE is the success rate, which refers to the proportion of qualifications achieved in each academic year against those who start working towards a particular learning aim. Learners who transfer to alternative provision during their programme of study are excluded from the calculation. The following table shows the regional success rates for 2002/03 to 2005/06—the latest full year for all FE funded courses.

FE success rates by region

Region	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	Percentage 2005/06
East Midlands	69	73	74	76
East of England	67	70	72	75
Greater London	64	67	73	77
North East	68	72	76	77
North West	68	72	75	76
South East	70	73	74	76
South West	68	73	75	76
West Midlands	66	71	75	77
Yorkshire and Humberside	67	71	73	75
England	67	71	74	76

The concept of learners on their final year of a course is also non-standard and is complex to derive and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Further Mathematics

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many students are studying further mathematics A or AS level via the further

mathematics network in *(a)* West Sussex and *(b)* England. [135179]

Jim Knight: The Department does not hold information on the subjects being studied by students at A level. However, data from examination awarding bodies show that 121 students aged 16-18 were entered for GCE A level further mathematics in West Sussex institutions in 2005/06. The number of entrants in England was 6,516. Equivalent figures for GCE AS level entries in further mathematics in 2005/06 were 60 in West Sussex and 4,078 in England. The data do not show how many of these were via the further mathematics network.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students were entered for A level further mathematics examinations in each year since 1997; [135180]

(2) how many students were entered for further mathematics A level in each year since 1997. [135696]

Jim Knight: The figures requested are in the following table.

Table 1: GCE A level entries in further mathematics by candidates aged 16-18 in all schools and colleges

Academic year ending	*Number of entries*
2006	6,516
2005	5,192
2004	5,111
2003	4,730
2002	4,498
2001	5,063
2000	5,015
1999	5,145
1998	5,211
1997	4,999
1996	4,913

GCE A Level: Gender

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys in maintained schools were awarded (i) at least one A, (ii) at least two As and (iii) at least three As at A level in the last period for which figures are available, broken down by (A) parliamentary constituency, (B) local education authority and (C) region. [143358]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* The information requested has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

GCSE: Languages

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils in Shropshire were entered for a modern language at GCSE in each year from 2001 to 2006. [127721]

Jim Knight: The number of 15-year-olds entered for a modern language GCSE in Shropshire for each year from 2001 to 2006 is given in the following table.

	Number of pupils entered for a modern foreign language in Shropshire
2001	2549
2002	2428
2003	2553
2004	2423
2005	2170
2006[1]	[1]1821

[1] 2006 data are based on amended Key Stage 4 data.

GCSE: Mandarin

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many students have taken GCSE Mandarin in each local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [137464]

(2) how many students obtained a grade C or above at GCSE level in Mandarin in each local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [137431]

Jim Knight: This information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

GCSEs

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 15 March 2007 to question 117654, on GCSEs, how many mainstream *(a)* maintained and *(b)* independent secondary schools fell within each percentage point in terms of the proportion of pupils who achieved (i) seven and (ii) nine or more GCSEs at A*-C including English and mathematics in 2006. [132344]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of 15-year-olds attending *(a)* independent mainstream schools and *(b)* maintained mainstream schools achieved five or more GCSEs at A*-C including English, mathematics and science in each year since 1997 (i) in total and (ii) as a proportion of pupils entered for a full GCSE in English, mathematics and science. [143126]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Head Teachers: Science

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what proportion of head teachers have a degree in a science subject. [141488]

Jim Knight: The information is not available in the format requested.

Hearing Impaired: Sign Language

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many lip reading and sign language teachers are employed in Copeland. [143177]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

International GCSEs

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what recent discussions the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has had with Cambridge International Examinations and Edexcel on the accreditation of the international GCSE; and if he will make a statement. [143952]

Jim Knight: As regulators of the public examination system, it is QCA's role to make sure they have reliable, current and comprehensive information on the qualifications market in England. The chairman and chief executive of QCA met Cambridge Assessment's Group chief executive and discussed iGCSEs at a meeting on Tuesday, 13 March 2007.

Languages: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills which foreign languages were studied by pupils in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex for (i) GCSE, (ii) A/S-Level and (iii) A-Level in each of the last five years. [130950]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Maintained Schools: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained schools did not achieve five A*-G grades at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by gender; [132180]

(2) how many and what proportion of pupils in maintained schools obtained A*-G grades at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by gender. [132181]

Jim Knight: This information is available in the Department's GCSE and Equivalent Statistical First Releases which have been placed in the House Library.

Nurseries: Fees and Charges

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what assessment he has made of the impact of increases in business rates on fee levels in *(a)* private day nurseries, *(b)* voluntary day nurseries, *(c)* nurseries located in schools and *(d)* Sure Start children's centres over the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [139717]

Beverley Hughes: No such assessment has been made. Costs and prices in the nursery sector are affected by a wide range of factors.

Some nurseries may be eligible for rate relief to ease the impact of business rates and some voluntary providers, if they pay rates, may be exempt under Schedule 5 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

Nurseries: Finance

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will take action to assist nurseries and childcare organisations which no longer receive funding from the National Nursery Initiative and are ineligible to become children's centres; and if he will make a statement. [145018]

Beverley Hughes: 1,400 Neighbourhood Nurseries were set up under the Neighbourhood Nurseries Initiative (NNI) which ran from 2002 until 2007, in the most disadvantaged areas within local authorities. 774 of these will become children's centres by March 2008 while others will link to children's centres for delivery of childcare places. The remainder will continue to operate as stand alone nurseries.

All NNs were required to develop a five-year business plan, demonstrating sustainability when Government funding ended.

Any Neighbourhood Nursery experiencing difficulty when their Government funding comes to an end, should contact their local authority in the first instance. They can provide support for business planning and marketing and in some circumstances may be able to provide financial support to aid sustainability. From 2008, all local authorities will have a duty to secure sufficient childcare in their areas and former Neighbourhood Nurseries will have a substantial part to play in that.

Nursery Schools: Codes of Practice

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representations he has received on implementing the Code of Practice for Nursery Education in pilot areas; and if he will make a statement; [144893]

(2) when he expects the Code of Practice for Nursery Education to be fully applied *(a)* in pilot areas and *(b)* across England. [144894]

Beverley Hughes: The 2006 Code of Practice on the provision of free nursery education places for three and four-year-olds came into force on 1 April 2006. The Code of Practice is statutory guidance that all local authorities, including Pathfinder local authorities delivering the extended free early education entitlement from April 2007, must have regard to when fulfilling their statutory duty to secure sufficient nursery education for children in their area.

Officials meet regularly with representatives from the 20 Pathfinder local authorities. These meetings are opportunities to review progress and discuss emerging issues relating to the extension of the free entitlement to 15 hours.

Ofsted

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 124W, on Ofsted, how much Ofsted spent on legal advice on the drafting of the answer. [143261]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM chief inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my hon. Friend and a copy of her reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 19 June 2007:

Your recent Parliamentary Question has been passed to me as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked, following our response of 4th June 2007, Official Report, column 124W, how much Ofsted spent on legal advice on the drafting of that answer.

This information is not available as Ofsted obtains legal advice from an in-house Treasury Solicitors team on the basis of an overall monthly charge. Time is not recorded on a topic specific basis.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Ofsted: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what remuneration is received by the Chair of the Ofsted Board for that role. [144544]

Jim Knight: Remuneration for the Chairman of the Ofsted Board is £40,000 per annum.

Personal, Social and Health Education

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the evidential basis was for the statement made by Ofsted in its report "Time for Change? Personal, Social and Health Education" that *(a)* research suggests that education that promotes abstinence but withholds information about contraception can place young people at higher risk and *(b)* school nurses provide a particularly valuable service in providing emergency hormonal contraception to pupils; and if he will make a statement. [141462]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 13 June 2007:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

You asked what the evidential basis was for the statements made by Ofsted in its report, "Time for Change? Personal, Social and Health Education (HMI 070049)", that (A) research suggests that education that promotes abstinence, but withholds information about contraception, can place young people at higher risk; and (B) school nurses are providing a valuable service by offering emergency hormonal contraception to pupils.

Our report states that 'there is no evidence, however, that 'abstinence-only' education reduces teenage pregnancy or improves sexual health. There is also no evidence to support claims that teaching about contraception leads to increased sexual activity. Research suggests that education and strategies that promote abstinence but withhold information about contraception can place young people at a higher risk of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs).' There has been widespread international research in this area, including three pieces of research completed by the National Children's Bureau:

1. Blake, S and Frances, G (2001) Just Say No to Abstinence Education. London

2. Abstinence-only Education, Sex Education Forum, briefing May 2004

3. Swann, C., Bowe, K. MCCormick, G. and Kosmin, M. (2003) Teenage Pregnancy and parenthood: a review of reviews. Evidence briefing. London: Health development Agency. www.hda.nhs.uk/evidence

We found this research persuasive because it reflected our discussions with pupils in 350 inspections who said they valued clear sex and relationship education in school.

Our report states that 'school nurses can also provide a valuable service, particularly in terms of providing emergency hormonal contraception and advising on other forms of contraception'. This is in line with non-statutory guidance published by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The DfES publication "Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies" (2006) sets out the key findings from 'deep dive' reviews carried out by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit to identify factors responsible for the significant variation in performance between local areas, including between areas that are statistically similar. The guidance states:

'Provision of young people focused contraception/sexual health services, trusted by teenagers and well known by professionals working with them.' This was the factor most commonly cited as having the biggest impact on conception rate reductions in the high performing areas. Features of successful services reflected the "Best practice guidance on the provision of effective contraception and advice services for young people" issued by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit in 2000: easy accessibility in the right location with opening hours convenient to young people; provision of the full range of contraceptive methods, including long acting methods; a strong focus on sexual health promotion (as well as reactive services) through, for example, outreach work in schools, work with professionals to improve their ability to engage with young people on sexual health issues; and through highly visible publicity. Effective services also had a strong focus on meeting the specific needs of young men. All high-performing areas also had condom distribution schemes involving a wide range of local agencies and/or access to emergency contraception in non-clinical settings.

Ofsted's own discussions with young people suggest they want and trust services in schools and welcome and recognise the commitment that schools show to meeting their wider health needs.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Pupil Exclusions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils had been permanently excluded more than once in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* sex and *(b)* ethnicity; and how many such pupils had special educational needs. [142549]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* The available information is given in the table.

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Pupils permanently excluded more than once by gender, ethnic group and special educational needs[2]—2000/01 to 2004/05—England

	Number of pupils
Gender	
Boys	1,220
Girls	200
Total	1,420
Ethnic group	
White	1,090
White British	1,070
Irish	3
Traveller of Irish heritage	3
Gypsy/Roma	3

Maintained primary, secondary and all special schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: Pupils permanently excluded more than once by gender, ethnic group and special educational needs[2]—2000/01 to 2004/05—England

	Number of pupils
Any other White background	20
Mixed	70
White and Black Caribbean	30
White and Black African	10
White and Asian	10
Any other Mixed background	30
Asian	30
Indian	10
Pakistani	10
Bangladeshi	[3]—
Any other Asian background	[3]—
Black	80
Black Caribbean	50
Black African	10
Any other Black background	20
Chinese	0
Any other ethnic group	10
Pupils whose ethnicity has been classified under the old ethnic coding framework	50
Unclassified	90
Total	1,420
Special educational needs	
No identified SEN provision	550
SEN pupils without statements	580
SEN pupils with statements	300
Total	1,420

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed. Includes non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[2] This analysis is based on incomplete pupil level data. Any findings based on these figures should be used with caution. Those pupils who have been permanently excluded from more than one different school since 2000/01 to 2004/05 have been selected.
[3] Less than 5 pupils.

Notes:
1. Information presented here has been derived from an extract of the National Pupil Database which has selected pupils with multiple cases of permanent exclusion from different schools collected via the 2002 through to 2006 School Census'. The characteristic data shown relates to information provided for the pupils' most recent exclusion.
2. A new set of codes to record the ethnicity of pupils was introduced in 2002. Schools were initially permitted to report ethnic data using either the old and new set of codes between which there is no direct mapping. This analysis separately shows data for those pupils whose ethnic group has been classified under the old coding framework.
3. The new SEN code of practice came into force in 2002 and introduced new codes for recording stage of SEN. Both the new and old codes have been used here.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.

Source:
National Pupil Database.

Pupil Referral Units

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many pupils ceased attendance at a pupil referral unit because they had been sentenced to a term in a young offender institution in each year for which figures are available; [143806]

(2) what information he has collected on the number of pupils placed in pupil referral units who are later *(a)* sentenced to a term in a young offender institution and *(b)* subject to an antisocial behaviour order. [143807]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* The Department does not collect this information.

Pupil Referral Units: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what proportion of pupils in pupil referral units did not obtain *(a)* five A*-C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE, *(b)* five A*-G grades at GCSE and *(c)* any passes at GCSE in each year since 1997, broken down by ethnic group. [132178]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not held centrally.

Pupils: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the total recurrent funding per pupil was in real terms in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, (e) Hertfordshire and *(f)* Norfolk in each year from 1998-99 to 2007-08. [143926]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged 3 to 19 for Suffolk, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk for years 1998-99 to 2005-06 are provided in the following table:

Local authority	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bedfordshire	2,990	3,110	3,380	3,560	3,670	3,720	3,860	4,060
Cambridgeshire	2,860	3,010	3,210	3,330	3,410	3,580	3,730	3,920
Essex	3,080	3,190	3,420	3,580	3,680	3,770	3,920	4,080
Hertfordshire	3,080	3,180	3,410	3,560	3,670	3,730	3,880	4,030
Norfolk	2,980	3,110	3,340	3,500	3,600	3,680	3,830	4,020
Suffolk	2,900	3,010	3,230	3,370	3,470	3,540	3,690	3,860

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27.09.06
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of Standard Spending Assessment / Education Formula Spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES Departmental Expenditure Limits relevant to pupils aged 3 to 19 and exclude Education Maintenance Allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert m figures to per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC 3 year old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4 year olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the table below are taken from the new dedicated schools grant (DSG) and are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide figures for 2006-07 DSG, the Department has isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the DSG figures provided. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-15.

Local authority	*2005-06 Baseline*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Bedfordshire	3,188	3,407	3,633
Cambridgeshire	3,193	3,407	3,623
Essex	3,300	3,524	3,752
Hertfordshire	3,294	3,507	3,730
Norfolk	3,208	3,423	3,648
Suffolk	3,160	3,372	3,591

Notes:

1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because the Department cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how Local Authorities are funded. The 1998-99 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means that there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department has isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures.

Pupils: EC Enlargement

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many children originally from EU accession states were enrolled in schools in *(a)* Somerset and *(b)* Taunton constituency in (i) 2002, (ii) 2004 and (iii) 2006. [141229]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not held centrally.

Within the School Census (SC), schools are required to record ethnicity data that reflects the main categories used in the 2001 National Population Census. Children from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia are recorded under the ethnic category 'Any Other White Background'.

Following a consultation exercise in 2002, local authorities (LAs) were given the option of using extended ethnicity categories in their schools if they felt that the main ones did not meet their local management needs. However, the extended ethnicity categories do not include separate codes relating to the eight European Union accession countries. They are all included within the 'White Eastern European' code.

Not all LAs have chosen to use the extended categories. The majority of authorities use a mixture of main and extended codes. As a consequence the Department does not hold complete data for the extended ethnic background categories.

Pupils: Languages

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many and what percentage of children in *(a)* Somerset and *(b)* Taunton constituency have English as a second language; and what funding has been made available for individual schools in each area to support those children in each of the last five years. [141231]

Jim Knight: The available information is given in the following table.

The revenue funding that local authorities allocate to their schools is a matter for local authorities to decide locally through their own local funding formulae (subject to satisfying the minimum funding guarantee for schools from 2004-05 onwards). According to their Section 52 Budget Statements, Somerset LA's local funding formula does not allocate any funding to schools via their individual school budget share specifically on the basis of having pupils for which English is a second language attending the school.

However, local authorities do receive additional funding from the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG). EMAG is intended to help local authorities narrow achievement gaps for those minority ethnic groups who are underachieving and to meet particular needs of pupils for whom English is an additional language. It is distributed to local authorities by formula which includes the number of EAL pupils in each LA. For this year, Somerset LA will receive an EMAG totalling £37,585, with locally determined formulae devolving at least 85 per cent. of this to schools. The grant is worth £179 million nationally in 2007-08.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[2], as at January each year 2003 to 2007 (provisional)

	Somerset local authority area			Taunton parliamentary constituency			England[4]		
	Number of pupils[2]	Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[3]	Number of pupils[2]	Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[3]	Number of pupils[2]	Number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English	Percentage of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English[3]
2003	64,968	407	0.6	13,444	93	0.7	6,779,930	657,300	9.7
2004	65,416	473	0.7	13,493	110	0.8	6,752,670	669,480	9.9
2005	65,103	600	0.9	13,468	136	1.0	6,711,420	694,470	10.3
2006	64,366	830	1.3	13,265	197	1.5	6,655,620	734,550	11.0
2007[5]	63,158	1,093	1.7	13,034	240	1.8	6,574,560	789,790	12.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[3] The number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English expressed as a percentage of the total number of pupils of compulsory school age and above.
[4] Figures for England have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] Provisional figures.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how much was allocated per pupil to each local education authority in each of the last five years. [144268]

Jim Knight: The requested information has been placed in the House Library.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what the average education funding was per pupil in West Lancashire in each year since 1997, broken down by age group; [144818]

(2) what the level of funding was per pupil in West Lancashire constituency in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144819]

Jim Knight: The West Lancashire constituency falls within the local authority of Lancashire and the information supplied applies to all of Lancashire. The revenue funding figures per pupil aged three to 10, 11 to 15 and three to 19 for Lancashire for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows:

£

	Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)	Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)	Total (3 to 19-year olds)
1997-98	2,340	3,250	2,860
1998-99	2,460	3,320	2,930
1999-2000	2,630	3,440	3,070
2000-01	2,870	3,710	3,320
2001-02	3,030	3,880	3,470
2002-03	3,090	3,980	3,560
2003-04	3,250	3,990	3,640
2004-05	3,360	4,180	3,790
2005-06	3,570	4,390	4,000

Notes:
1. Price base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DfES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged three to 19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC.
4. Three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding—figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status—some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
7. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government reorganisation in that year have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the new dedicated schools grant (DSG) and are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the

two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures. As the DSG is just a mechanism for distributing funding there is not a primary/secondary split available.

The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 15 years.

	£
DSG 2005-06 (Baseline)	3,317
DSG 2006-07	3,536
DSG 2007-08	3,765

Notes:
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average education funding was per pupil, broken down by age group, in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1979. [140559]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged three to 10 and 11 to 15 for Cornwall, the South West and England for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are provided in the tables below. Comparable figures are not available for 1979-80 to 1996-97. Figures are not available at UK level.

Primary (3 to 10-year-olds)

	Cornwall	South West	England
1997-98	2,310	2,390	2,480
1998-99	2,510	2,470	2,580
1999-2000	2,680	2,620	2,750
2000-01	2,900	2,830	2,990
2001-02	3,070	2,970	3,160
2002-03	3,130	3,030	3,250
2003-04	3,300	3,200	3,450
2004-05	3,370	3,280	3,550
2005-06	3,570	3,480	3,770

Secondary (11 to 15-year-olds)

	Cornwall	South West	England
1997-98	3,310	3,200	3,390
1998-99	3,380	3,280	3,470
1999-2000	3,490	3,390	3,610
2000-01	3,740	3,650	3,900
2001-02	3,900	3,800	4,110
2002-03	4,000	3,880	4,210
2003-04	3,950	3,950	4,280
2004-05	4,120	4,110	4,450
2005-06	4,300	4,290	4,640

Notes:
1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFES departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-10 and 11-15 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LA level.
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three-year-old maintained pupils and estimated three to four-year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest £10.
6. Status: Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.

The figures shown in the following table are taken from the new Dedicated Schools Grant and are in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the earlier years. The DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding and does not include a primary/secondary split. The figures are for all funded pupils aged three to 15. The Department will be announcing DSG figures for 2007-08 shortly.

	2005-06 baseline	*2006-07*
Cornwall	3,150	3,362
South West	3,196	3,411
England	3,411	3,643

Notes:
1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because it is not possible to provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. The DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. There are other grants that support the schools budget, these are not included in the provided DSG figures.

Pupils: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on the provision of careers advice for *(a)* secondary school

and *(b)* post-16 pupils; what steps his Department takes to ensure that provision is met; and what requirement there is for such provision to be inspected. [142976]

Jim Knight: Under section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, the Secretary of State has the power to provide or secure the provision of services which he thinks will encourage, enable or assist (directly or indirectly) effective participation by young people in education or training. This power is discharged through the Connexions service who provide careers advice (among a wider range of services designed to improve levels of participation in education and training) to young people aged 13 to 19.

Additionally, all maintained schools have a statutory duty to provide a planned programme of careers education from years 7 to 11. How schools deliver this requirement is up to the individual school, although the DfES provides a non-statutory framework as a guide. There are no statutory duties on providers of post-16 learning to provide a programme of careers education.

From April 2008, local authorities will have responsibility for the provision of Connexions services.

Connexions services are within the scope of annual performance assessments and joint area reviews of children's services, led by Ofsted.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what records his Department has of the numbers of young people in secondary schools in England who accessed careers advisers in each of the last three years. [142989]

Jim Knight: Personal advisers in the Connexions service provide information, advice and guidance to young people on a range of issues. Information on these interventions is collected centrally, but we do not collect information specifically relating to careers advice given in schools.

Qualifications: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many pupils obtained *(a)* no, *(b)* one, *(c)* two, *(d)* three and *(e)* four GCSEs at grades A*-C in English in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each London borough in each of the last five years; [132137]

(2) how many pupils obtained *(a)* five, *(b)* six, *(c)* seven, *(d)* eight and *(e)* nine GCSEs at grades A* to C including English in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each London borough in each of the last five years. [132174]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Library.

Reading: Mentors

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills pursuant to the answer of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 508W, on reading: mentors, (1) whether it is part of the role of paid support staff acting as learning mentors in schools to provide intensive or one-to-one tuition in mathematics; [144446]

(2) what qualifications paid support staff acting as learning mentors in schools are required to have. [144447]

Jim Knight: Mentors can be used to offer specific support in mathematics as well as offering a wider role in supporting children as learners across a range of subjects. Support of a one-to-one type is more often undertaken by a teaching assistant who, working with the teacher, would identify the specific learning needs of the child. This one-to-one support is a mix of in-class support and out of class focused work.

There are no specific qualifications that support staff acting as learning mentors in schools are required to have. It is for individual head teachers to assess and decide whether staff have the necessary skills and experience to carry out the role and whether they need to access the range of training and support opportunities that exist for support staff acting as mentors.

School Leaving: Qualifications

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils leaving school at 16 there were without *(a)* five GCSEs at A-C, *(b)* five GCSEs at A-E and *(c)* GCSEs in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2005. [143138]

Jim Knight: The answer to parts *(a)* and *(c)* is given as follows:

Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] who did not achieve the above indicators in 2005 and 2006:

	2005	*2006*
Number of 15-year-old pupils[1]	636,771	648,043
Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] who did not achieve 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C	278,173	268,366
Percentage of 15-year-olds pupils[1] who did not achieve 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C	43.7	41.4
Number of 15-year-old pupils[1] who did not achieve any qualifications	23,196	20,398
Percentage of 15-year old pupils[1] who did not achieve any qualifications	3.6	3.1

[1] Aged 15 at the beginning of the academic year, i.e. 31 August

Source:
School Achievement and Attainment Tables

The answer to part *(b)* can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many appeals were lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to *(a)* maintained primary schools and *(b)* maintained secondary schools by Cambridgeshire local education authority in each of the last 10 years; and how many were successful. [142513]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the following table:

Appeals lodged by parents against non-admission of their children to maintained primary and secondary schools: Position in each year 1996/97 to 2005/06: Cambridgeshire local authority

	1996/97[1]	1997/98[2]	1998/99	1999/2000	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Primary										
Admission appeals lodged by parents	178	94	111	196	235	194	112	116	139	151
Appeals heard by an appeals panel	142	77	99	143	181	147	77	88	102	116
Appeals decided in parents' favour	83	59	71	79	108	93	36	63	52	65
Secondary										
Admission appeals lodged by parents	335	164	266	366	269	287	265	182	206	223
Appeals heard by an appeals panel	312	134	251	294	194	231	202	144	177	189
Appeals decided in parents' favour	208	108	138	180	123	138	87	75	125	111

[1] Includes Peterborough local authority as before local government reorganisation (LGR).
[2] From 1 April 1998 : It is expected that the majority of appeals for the 1997/98 academic year will have been lodged prior to April 1998. In some cases these figures
are either included in the original authority totals or were not available.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the total number of places in schools in each year to 2025; [143323]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of surplus places in schools in each year to 2025. [143325]

Jim Knight: The responsibility in law to plan school places is placed on local authorities. Local authorities are expected to take robust measures to remove surplus places and ensure that school places are where parents want them.

The Department collects data on the number of school places and numbers of pupils on roll on a school by school basis, together with LA wide pupil projections via an annual survey. The Department does not collect projections of the capacity of schools or the numbers of school places from local authorities.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of pupils in full-time education in each year to 2015. [143324]

Jim Knight: The Department's estimates for the number of pupils in full-time education in schools in England are shown as follows:

Projected numbers of pupils[1] in all schools

Thousand

As at January each year	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*2011*
All Maintained Schools[2]	7,383	7,300	7,208	7,157	7,076
Non-Maintained Special Schools	5	5	4	4	4
Academies[3]	45	80	134	162	220
City Technology Colleges	11	5	3	3	3
Independent Schools	566	564	561	559	556
All schools	8,010	7,953	7,911	7,885	7,860

[1] Full-time equivalents, counting each part-time pupil as 0.5. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
[2] Pupil numbers in maintained schools includes those in nursery, primary, secondary (including pupils in sixth forms in secondary schools), maintained special schools and maintained Pupil Referral Units.
[3] Projections are based on a target of 200 academies by 2011.

Projections are not shown beyond 2011 because of the increasing degree of uncertainty over time, particularly for post-compulsory schooling.

Schools: Census

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when he expects the January 2007 schools census data to be published; and if he will make a statement. [144095]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* Provisional data from the January 2007 census were published on 16 April 2007 in the Statistical First Release on the Department's website:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000726/index.shtml

Final data will be published in September 2007. The Secretary of State is not expected to make a statement. Final data on special educational needs (also taken from the census) are published on 26 June.

Schools: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were excluded from school for violent conduct in each local education authority in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142147]

Jim Knight: The available information has been placed in the Library.

The Department does not collect data on exclusions for violent conduct. We do have information on exclusions where the reason cited is 'physical assault against an adult' or 'physical assault against a pupil' and this is set out in tables which have been placed in the Library. Further information on reasons for exclusion is contained in SFR 24/2006.

Only two years of data relating to the reason for exclusion are currently available. The first year for which information on the reason for exclusion is available relates to the 2003-04 academic year. Exclusions data for 2004-05 academic year were published in June 2006. Data for the 2005-06 academic year are scheduled for publication on 26 June, 2007.

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many pupil-on-pupil assaults there have been in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in each local education authority in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [142148]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teachers and teaching assistants have been assaulted in the classroom more than once in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [142152]

Jim Knight: The number of incidents of assaults towards staff and pupils in schools is not collected centrally.

From the academic year 2003/04, information is available on the reasons for pupil exclusions. These reasons include 'physical assault against a pupil' and 'physical assault against an adult'.

The tables provide a breakdown of the number of pupils who have been excluded for a fixed period or permanently from maintained primary and secondary schools for physical assault against a pupil or an adult.

Local authority level tables showing the number of permanent and fixed period exclusions by reason have been placed in the Library.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of fixed period exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult 2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Maintained primary				Maintained secondary			
	Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult		Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
2003/04	10,890	26.4	5,190	12.6	55,440	19.2	8,110	2.8
2004/05	11,950	27.3	5,960	13.6	65,790	20.0	9,490	2.9

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Number of fixed period exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of fixed period exclusions.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Termly Exclusions Survey

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: number and percentage of permanent exclusions for physical assault against a pupil or an adult[2] 2003/04 and 2004/05, England

	Maintained primary				Maintained secondary			
	Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult		Physical assault against a pupil		Physical assault against an adult	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
2003/04	290	22.7	290	22.9	1,380	16.6	820	9.9
2004/05	250	22.6	290	26.3	1,500	18.6	900	11.1

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] The distribution of exclusions by reason has been derived from the Termly Exclusions Survey data and applied to the number of permanent exclusions as confirmed by local authorities as part of the school census checking exercise.
[3] Number of permanent exclusions by reason expressed as a percentage of the total number of permanent exclusions.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census and Termly Exclusions Survey

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what funding streams local authorities receive to facilitate the *(a)* expansion of existing schools and *(b)* construction of new schools as a result of a planned increase in (i) population and (ii) housing supply. [143477]

Jim Knight: It is the DfES which provides capital support for local authorities and schools to invest in school infrastructure, including for new pupil places as a result of population and housing growth. Allocations are made over each spending review period, and local authorities and schools plan their investment according to local priorities.

Allocations currently include capital support for new pupil places which takes account of local authority forecasts of pupil growth. Over the current spending review period this has been around £400 million per year. In addition, Building Schools for the Future plans take account of the future need for secondary age pupils; and the Primary Capital Programme from 2008-09 will also do this for primary pupils.

Where there is a clear exceptional demand which cannot be met from existing resources, local authorities can apply to the 'Basic Need Safety Valve' for additional capital.

Schools: Immigrants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will discuss future allocations of funding in respect of the English as an additional language excellence programme with Peterborough city council; and if he will make a statement. [144347]

Phil Hope: It is a matter for each local authority—in consultation with their schools forums—to determine the level of funding between different providers and different programmes based on an assessment of local circumstances.

Schools: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many school places in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland were not filled in 2006-07. [143436]

Jim Knight: The latest available data we have on the number of unfilled school places relate to January 2006, when there were 1,042 unfilled primary school places and 179 unfilled secondary school places in Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland.

Schools: Playing Fields

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills whether there is an appeal process for his decision to grant consent for a school playing fields to be sold off. [143649]

Jim Knight: There is no formal right of appeal other than through the courts.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will make a statement on his plans to expand competitive sport in schools. [143160]

Jim Knight: This Government are committed to the expansion of competitive school sport. The PE National Curriculum requires that all pupils are taught competitive games throughout key stages one to three, and pupils may choose to pursue them in key stage four, if they wish. Competition is also a key component of the National School Sport Strategy. The 2005-06 school sport survey found that:

71 per cent. of pupils are now participating in intra-school competitive activities and 37 per cent. of pupils are taking part in inter-school competition. Both figures have been rising year on year.

97 per cent. of schools held a competitive sports day in the last academic year and the network of school sport partnerships staged over 10,700 festivals of sport—multi-sport events organised by secondary pupils for partnership primary schools.

In addition, the introduction of a national network of Competition Managers, and events like the UK School Games, are building a stronger framework for competitive sport.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what representations he received from *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members, *(b)* schools, *(c)* teachers, *(d)* parents and *(e)* others on the funding position of the Panathlon Challenge in each of the last two years; [143162]

(2) what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effectiveness of the Panathlon Challenge in increasing the involvement of school children in competitive sport; and if he will make a statement; [143163]

(3) if he will make it his policy to offer the Panathlon Challenge further financial support. [144063]

Jim Knight: No such research has been commissioned. In the last two years, the Department has received one representation from a Member of Parliament and one from a teacher.

The Department provided the Panathlon Challenge with £850,000 of seed corn funding between 2003 and 2006 to support competitive sport in schools. It was made explicit that the funding was time limited and would not be extended beyond March 2006. Continued funding would divert resources away from direct investment in competitive sport in schools through the National School Sport Strategy.

Science: Higher Education

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many pupils from maintained schools were accepted to study *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry, *(c)* biochemistry, *(d)* psychology and *(e)* sports science at (i) a Russell Group university and (ii) other universities in each of the last five years; [142159]

(2) how many pupils from *(a)* grammar schools, *(b)* independent schools and *(c)* maintained schools with more than 14 per cent. pupils eligible for free school meals (i) applied and (ii) were accepted to study (A) physics, (B) chemistry, (C) biochemistry, (D) psychology and (E) sports science at (1) a Russell Group university and (2) other universities in each of the last five years. [142160]

Bill Rammell: The available information is shown in the tables. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

(UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

UCAS do not hold details of the level of free school meal eligibility at each school.

Applications[1] from UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3], year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All Maintained[4] Schools (including Grammar Schools)					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	7,096	7,069	6,439	7,028	7,664
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	5,746	5,929	5,024	5,765	5,681
Total	12,842	12,998	11,463	12,793	13,345
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	5,621	5,641	5,762	7,149	7,813
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	7,302	6,898	7,361	7,153	7,353
Total	12,923	12,539	13,123	14,302	15,166
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
at Russell Group Institutions	4,823	4,711	4,465	4,658	4,109
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	3,758	3,810	3,987	4,197	4,039
Total	8,581	8,521	8,452	8,855	8,148
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	15,392	16,641	15,535	15,540	14,937
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	39,898	45,181	44,170	49,562	48,490
Total	55,290	61,822	59,705	65,102	63,427
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	843	1,441	1,404	1,497	1,434
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	29,795	32,367	32,542	36,174	39,626
Total	30,638	33,808	33,946	37,671	41,060
Grammar Schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	888	978	847	919	1,013
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	457	548	434	505	459
Total	1,345	1,526	1,281	1,424	1,472
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	683	785	708	971	1,066
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	415	501	499	556	622
Total	1,098	1,286	1,207	1,527	1,688
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
at Russell Group Institutions	798	603	701	611	527
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	310	273	365	321	312
Total	1,108	876	1,066	932	839
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,900	2,057	1,978	2,189	1,764
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	3,030	3,172	3,038	3,566	3,017
Total	4,930	5,229	5,016	5,755	4,781
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	50	83	130	119	106
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	989	1,306	1,482	1,578	1,521
Total	1,039	1,389	1,612	1,697	1,627
Independent Schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,558	1,607	1,449	1,408	1,439
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	698	882	719	708	703
Total	2,256	2,489	2,168	2,116	2,142
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,452	1,365	1,345	1,557	1,651
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	727	748	817	834	871
Total	2,179	2,113	2,162	2,391	2,522
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,100	1,180	1,166	1,149	1,050
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	428	528	535	476	488
Total	1,528	1,708	1,701	1,625	1,538
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	2,984	3,480	3,242	2,891	2,461
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	3,582	3,934	3,899	3,929	3,461
Total	6,566	7,414	7,141	6,820	5,922
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	130	192	252	299	268

Applications[1] from UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3], year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	2,148	2,113	2,449	2,576	2,353
Total	2,278	2,305	2,701	2,875	2,621

Acceptances from UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3], year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
All Maintained[4] Schools (including Grammar Schools)					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,272	1,238	1,130	1,221	1,283
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	868	842	749	829	865
Total	2,140	2,080	1,879	2,050	2,148
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,061	998	1,048	1,272	1,315
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	1,148	1,130	1,157	1,229	1,301
Total	2,209	2,128	2,205	2,501	2,616
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
at Russell Group Institutions	776	721	682	787	625
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	512	579	605	683	681
Total	1,288	1,300	1,287	1,470	1,306
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	1,717	1,599	1,596	1,655	1,679
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	6,533	7,339	7,291	8,249	8,206
Total	8,250	8,938	8,887	9,904	9,885
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	112	148	171	164	140
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	5,172	5,605	5,746	6,715	7,065
Total	5,284	5,753	5,917	6,879	7,205
Grammar Schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	176	184	149	154	185
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	53	68	56	72	49
Total	229	252	205	226	234
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	122	124	114	166	167
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	64	76	66	86	92
Total	186	200	180	252	259
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
at Russell Group Institutions	122	84	96	101	76
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	44	40	56	47	41
Total	166	124	152	148	117
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	289	230	276	291	252
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	403	497	464	565	458
Total	692	727	740	856	710
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	9	9	25	17	15
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	152	212	223	247	222
Total	161	221	248	264	237
Independent Schools					
Physics					
at Russell Group Institutions	253	250	250	219	242
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	88	112	88	100	79
Total	341	362	338	319	321
Chemistry					
at Russell Group Institutions	263	252	239	290	286
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	93	100	116	120	147
Total	356	352	355	410	433
Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry[5]					
at Russell Group Institutions	190	190	199	221	178
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	48	72	71	56	66
Total	238	262	270	277	244
Psychology					
at Russell Group Institutions	359	422	427	392	357
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	540	541	556	556	490
Total	899	963	983	948	847
Sports Science					
at Russell Group Institutions	29	35	33	50	37

Acceptances from UK domiciled pupils to Russell Group and non-Russell Group[2] institutions in the UK by subject of study and type of school[3], year of entry 2002-06

	Year of entry				
Type of school	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Non-Russell Group Institutions[2]	323	327	356	389	391
Total	352	362	389	439	428

[1] Applicants to UCAS can submit up to six applications, in this table students have been counted once for each application they submit.
[2] Includes all other HE and FE institutions covered by the UCAS application system, other than Russell-Group institutions.
[3] Excludes a small amount of students with an unknown school type.
[4] Maintained sector institutions are comprehensive schools, further/higher education institutions, grammar schools, sixth form centres, sixth form colleges, other maintained institutions and other institutions.
[5] Subject figures for Biochemistry can only be displayed as the overall group Molecular Biology, Biophysics and Biochemistry.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Student Numbers

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students were studying on recognised courses at level (i) 2, (ii) 3 and (iii) 4 in (A) further education colleges, (B) universities and (C) institutions of higher education in each year since 1997. [127842]

Bill Rammell: Figures for those participating in further education (FE) can be derived from the individualised learner record (ILR). The FE ILR was collated for the first time in 2002/03 and figures are presented from that time.

Learners on LSC-funded FE provision analysed by highest qualification level and mode of attendance

	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Thousand Total*
2002/03			
Level 1 and entry	170.7	1,407.7	1,578.3
Level 2	211.8	815.4	1,027.1
Level 3	438.7	426.7	865.4
Level 4, 5 and HE	12	57.3	69.3
Level not specified	94.7	562.4	657.1
Total	927.8	3,269.5	4,197.3
2003/04			
Level 1 and entry,	186.1	1,450.6	1,636.7
Level 2	213.1	843.4	1,056.5
Level 3	439.9	403	842.9
Level 4, 5 and HE	10.2	63.8	74
Level not specified	87.9	457.3	545.2
Total	937.2	3,218.1	4,155.3
2004/05			
Level 1 and entry	180.4	1,433.6	1,614.0
Level 2	218.7	941.1	1,159.8

Learners on LSC-funded FE provision analysed by highest qualification level and mode of attendance

	Full-time	*Part-time*	*Thousand Total*
Level 3	452.5	404.3	856.8
Level 4, 5 and HE	8.6	62.8	71.4
Level not specified	77.7	418.5	496.2
Total	937.8	3,260.3	4,198.1
2005/06			
Level 1 and entry	179.4	1,142.4	1,321.8
Level 2	226.1	887.1	1,113.2
Level 3	460.2	349.8	810
Level 4, 5 and HE	6.7	60.3	67.1
Level not specified	42.4	274.3	316.7
Total	914.8	2,714.0	3,628.7

Note:
Figures are whole year learner numbers relating to the end of the relevant academic year.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Data on students enrolled on level 2 and level 3 courses at universities and institutions of higher education cannot be identified separately; therefore figures have been provided for level 2 and level 3 combined, in the following tables.

Number of UK domiciled students enrolled on courses[1] at Level 2, 3 and 4 in universities, by mode of study English institutions—Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

	Level 2 and 3			*Level 4*		
Academic year	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
1997/98	3,950	19,715	23,665	632,615	313,775	946,390
1998/99	4,600	19,290	23,890	642,450	326,305	968,755
1999/2000	6,550	34,140	40,690	638,945	331,785	970,730
2000/01	6,765	35,590	42,355	645,250	354,480	999,730
2001/02	14,175	28,470	42,645	670,660	366,755	1,037,415
2002/03	6,515	29,545	36,065	692,750	390,570	1,083,320
2003/04	9,065	35,700	44,770	717,400	423,470	1,140,870
2004/05	14,505	39,110	53,615	762,615	453,670	1,216,285
2005/06	9,110	33,720	42,830	787,420	438,655	1,226,075

[1] Covers students enrolled on any course at level 2, 3 or 4.
Notes:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 of December and have been rounded to the nearest 5; therefore components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Number of UK domiciled students Enrolled on Courses[1] at Level 2, 3 and 4 in institutions of higher education[2], by Mode of Study English Institutions—Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

	Level 2 and 3			*Level 4*		
Academic year	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Total*
1997/98	5,985	6,220	12,205	94,465	23,265	117,730
1998/99	5,710	6,725	12,435	93,745	25,030	118,775
1999/2000	5,605	6,900	12,505	93,585	26,515	120,095
2000/01	5,650	8,160	13,805	93,630	26,490	120,120
2001/02	6,075	11,235	17,310	90,130	25,475	115,605
2002/03	8,740	17,885	26,630	95,940	29,130	125,070
2003/04	6,510	9,825	16,340	92,135	31,250	123,385

Number of UK domiciled students Enrolled on Courses[1] at Level 2, 3 and 4 in institutions of higher education[2], by Mode of Study English Institutions—Academic years 1997/98 to 2005/06

	Level 2 and 3			Level 4		
Academic year	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total
2004/05[3]	7,335	9,595	16,935	61,030	18,755	79,785(3)
2005/06	9,140	14,395	23,535	62,655	16,820	79,480

[1] Covers students enrolled on any course at level 2, 3 or 4.
[2] Excludes universities.
[3] In 2004/05 several Institutions of higher education became universities, thus explaining the drop in numbers.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 of December and have been rounded to the nearest 5; therefore components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Students: Loans

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills if he will commission a study of the average number of years a graduate has to work to pay off student debt, basing the calculation on the additional earning power of their degree over the salary of a non-graduate. [143441]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 18 June 2007]:* Graduates earn considerably more than non-graduates. Over their working life, the average graduate will earn comfortably over £100,000 more in today's valuation, than a similar individual who just had A-levels. The benefits of a degree are not just financial: holders of HE qualifications are about half as likely to be unemployed as non-graduates and graduates tend to live longer and be healthier than non-graduates.

The repayments on student loans vary according to the income of the individual borrower. Based on projected lifetime earnings for all graduates, the average time taken by individuals entering HE in 2006/07 who will fully repay their student loans is estimated to be around 13 years.

Sure Start Programme: Health Visitors

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what guidance he gives local authorities on the involvement of health visitors in the provision of services for children and families in Sure Start centres; and what assessment he has made of the nature and extent of that involvement. [139231]

Beverley Hughes: The Government's planning and practice guidance for local authorities and the health service says that in the most disadvantaged areas we expect to see health visitors ideally working from Sure Start children's centres, or at least having strong links with centres.

The health-led parenting support project has been established in 10 areas to test an intensive home visiting programme for young, vulnerable first-time mothers. Visits are carried by health visitors and midwives linked to children's centres.

We do not collect information at national level on the nature and extent of services provided in every children's centre. We have however asked our delivery contractors Together for Children to ensure that LAs and local health partners are working together to plan and deliver children's centres. TfC are also collecting evidence of good practice to share and disseminate with LAs and the health service.

Teachers: Citizenship

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what progress has been made in the training of specialist teachers of citizenship. [143817]

Jim Knight: Since the introduction of citizenship education in 2002, over 800 teachers have completed Initial Teacher Training courses to become specialist citizenship teachers. In addition, places are available to train up to 1,200 existing teachers on the Citizenship Continuing Professional Development programme over the next two years which will allow citizenship teachers to broaden and deepen their subject knowledge.

Teachers: Pay

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what the average *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school teacher's wage was in the last 12 months in West Lancashire constituency. [143683]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available at constituency level.

In March 2005 the provisional average salary of full-time regular qualified teachers employed in Lancashire local authority maintained schools was £31,670 in nursery and primary and £33,360 in secondary schools. This information is from the Database of Teachers' Records which is maintained primarily for pensions administration purposes and is the latest available.

Teachers: Science

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of (i) physics, (ii) chemistry and (iii) biology teachers holding a degree from a Russell Group university, broken down by age group. [142601]

Jim Knight: This information requested is not collected centrally.

The following table shows the number of mainstream science initial teacher training (ITT) trainees who gained qualified teacher status (QTS) in academic year 2004-05 and are known to be in a teaching post six months after they gained their QTS. It also shows the number of these science trainees who completed their training in Russell Group universities and the proportion of all newly qualified teachers (NQTs) in science in 2004-05 that completed their training in a Russell Group university.

Number of final year science ITT trainees from Russell Group universities in 2004-05 known to be in teaching posts six months after gaining qualified teacher status (QTS)

Age of final year trainees	*Science NQTs known to be in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS*	*Science NQTs from Russell group universities known to be in a teaching post six months after gaining QTS*	*Percentage of all science NQTs known to be in teaching posts six months after gaining QTS who are from Russell Group universities*
Under 25	830	280	33
25-34	750	190	25
35 and over	280	50	18
Total	1,860	520	28

Notes:
1. Those in teaching post include those in the maintained sector and non-maintained sector as well as those where the sector is unknown.
2. Figures include those qualifying from secondary science courses and key stage 2/3 courses.
3 Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Russell group universities include, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Cambridge, Kings College London, University of Leeds, University of Manchester, Newcastle University, University of Nottingham, University of Oxford, University of Sheffield, University of Southampton and University of Warwick.
5. Science figures are for Mainstream ITT trainees and includes those trained though SCITTs, but excludes completers through employment based routes.
6. In addition to those known to be in employment there are an additional 230 science NQTs with unknown destinations across all ages, 50 of these NQTs are from Russell Group Universities. There were also 60 science NQTs who were seeking teaching posts six months after gaining QTS, of which 28 per cent. trained in Russell group universities.
Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

The break down of science courses in to the individual specialism is not available.

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of *(a)* physics, *(b)* chemistry and *(c)* biology teachers who qualified in each year since 1990 who are teaching in 2006-07 in (i) independent schools, (ii) maintained schools, (iii) grammar schools and (iv) city technology colleges and academies. [142602]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Teachers: Termination of Employment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what his estimate is of the number of newly qualified teachers (NQTs) who left the profession within three years of obtaining NQT status in each of the last five years. [142523]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the number of teachers who had left service from the maintained sector in England by March in each of the last five years for which information is available having entered full or part-time regular service three years previously and having qualified during the year prior to that. This is the latest information available. It is not known how many of these teachers have left the teaching profession permanently and it is difficult to determine the number of those who have subsequently returned to service.

Full and part-time[1] teachers entering maintained sector service in England the year after attaining qualified teacher status who were no longer in such service three years later[2] by year

Year of qualification	*No longer in service by March*	*Number of NQTs*
1997	2001	3,880
1998	2002	3,640
1999	2003	3,860
2000	[3]2004	3,530
2001	[3]2005	3,520

[1] Part-time service may be under-recorded by between 10 and 20 per cent. and therefore these figures may be slightly underestimated.
[2] For example teachers qualifying in calendar year 1997 who have been recorded as in service in March 1998 and out of service in March 2001. Teachers may have returned to service since the date where they are shown as no longer in service or may have moved to teaching service outside of the English maintained sector.
[3] Provisional estimates.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records.

Teachers: Training

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps he plans to take to secure recognition of employment-based teacher training programmes in countries outside the European economic area. [138847]

Jim Knight: It is not in our gift to secure recognition of employment based teacher training programmes in countries outside the European economic area. However in the light of a range of inquiries from teachers seeking to work in Commonwealth countries, I will be sending a letter to Commonwealth Education Ministers underlining the fact that, irrespective of the route by which teachers are trained—whether undergraduate, post-graduate or school-based—qualified teacher status is conferred only on the basis of rigorous assessment against an agreed set of professional standards.

Teaching Methods

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what steps his Department is taking to encourage place-based learning. [135216]

Phil Hope: There are two major areas of workplace training supported by Government to achieve an increase of employer engagement in training. Firstly, the number of young people participating in apprenticeships is at a record level with more than a quarter of a million now in learning involving 130,000 employers across 80 sectors. Secondly, from August 2006, "Train to Gain" was rolled out nationally. It is a new service to help businesses get the training they need to succeed including offering free training for low skilled employees. It offers employers impartial advice and easy access to quality training, matching training needs with training providers and ensuring that training is delivered to meet employers' needs. In its first year it has engaged more than 40,000 employers and over 150,000 learners in learning.

Both these approaches follow a structured training programme leading to qualifications with learning in the workplace being a key factor.

To encourage further training, the Government launched the "Skills Pledge" on 14 June. The Skills Pledge—open to all employers—is a voluntary public commitment by the leadership of an organisation to ensure that all staff are skilled, competent and able to make a full contribution to the success of that organisation.

Teaching Methods: Bedfordshire

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills when Stratton Upper School and Community College in Bedfordshire adopted the Students As Learning Partners scheme at Key Stage 4; what results were achieved in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics and *(c)* other GCSEs in (i) the year before this approach was adopted and (ii) each year since this approach was adopted. [130316]

Jim Knight: Stratton Upper School adopted the Students As Learning Partners Scheme in the summer of 2003. The information requested for the years 2002-2003 to 2005-2006 can be provided only at a disproportionate cost. However indicators on the percentage of pupils to achieve five or more A*-C at GCSE including English and Maths GCSE, and the percentage to achieve five or more A*-C at GCSE for the years 2003 to 2006 can be found in the House Libraries in the Secondary School (GCSE and equivalent) Achievement and Attainment Tables 2006.

Thomas Telford School: Admissions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills what discussions he has had with Thomas Telford school in Shropshire on its admissions policy. [144279]

Jim Knight: Discussions are taking place with Thomas Telford school to amend its Funding Agreement to reflect a change in its post 16 admission arrangements. The Department has agreed to an increase in post 16 student numbers at Thomas Telford school to provide post 16 education for 100 Madeley academy students as part of Madeley Court school's conversion to an academy.

No discussions have taken place about admissions to year 7 in September.

Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) how many companies have signed a Skills Pledge; how many employees these companies employ; how many employees these companies expect to participate in the Skills Pledge's aim of obtaining a first level 2 qualification; and what proportion of these companies and employees are in the *(a)* public and *(b)* voluntary sector; [144597]

(2) what proportion of private sector companies which have signed the Skills Pledge work with Government agencies in a contractual relationship; and how many employees these companies have. [144598]

Phil Hope: On 14 June 157 employers made the Skills Pledge, which was launched by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Sir Digby Jones, the UK Skills Envoy. Thus far more than 1.7 million employees, of which around 1.1 million are public sector and over a 1,000 from the third sector, are covered by the commitment of these employers.

It is not possible to provide a detailed breakdown of the proportion of employees who will undertake their first full level 2 as each company will be working with the Learning and Skills Council to understand their skills gap and how best to meet that need. We expect that for some companies the gap may translate into higher level skills, as well as supporting those employees to gain basics skills, such as literacy and numeracy. All of these companies have access to the advice and guidance of independent skills brokers, should they need one. For companies with more than 5,000 employees they receive a similar service through the National Employer Service.

Information on which of these companies hold a contract with Government agencies is not held centrally.

Truancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many pupils were persistent truants in schools with *(a)* fewer than 1,000 pupils, *(b)* 1,000 to 1,500 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,500 pupils in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion this represented of all pupils in each category. [142504]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* The Department does not maintain records of 'truancy', as authorised absence rates include lateness and unauthorised holidays during term time.

Information relating to persistent absentees by size of school is given in the table. Persistent absentee pupils are absent (authorised and unauthorised) for 20 per cent. of schooling.

The first year for which information on persistent absentees is available relates to 2005/06 and covers only maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies. For the 2006/07 school year this information will also be available for maintained primary schools and special schools. This is expected to be available in February 2008.

Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: number and percentage of persistent absentees by size of school[2], 2005/06, England

	Schools by size			
	Fewer than 1,000 pupils	*1,000 to 1,500 pupils*	*More than 1,500 pupils*	*Total*
Maintained secondary schools				
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees[3, 4]	91,330	97,640	26,130	215,100
Total number of pupil enrolments[4]	1,233,280	1,390,630	400,830	3,024,730

Maintained secondary schools, city technology colleges and academies[1]: number and percentage of persistent absentees by size of school[2], 2005/06, England

	Schools by size			
	Fewer than 1,000 pupils	*1,000 to 1,500 pupils*	*More than 1,500 pupils*	*Total*
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	7.4	7.0	6.5	7.1
City technology colleges				
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees[3, 4]	x	290	10	300
Total number of pupil enrolments[4]	260	8,120	1,190	9,560
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	1.2	3.5	0.6	3.1
Academies				
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees[3, 4]	800	1,130	70	1,990
Total number of pupil enrolments[4]	8,510	12,150	1,380	22,040
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	9.3	9.3	4.9	9.0
Total				
Number of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees[3, 4]	92,130	99,060	26,200	217,390
Total number of pupil enrolments[4]	1,242,040	1,410,900	403,390	3,056,330
Percentage of pupil enrolments that are persistent absentees	7.4	7.0	6.5	7.1

x = Less than five enrolments.
[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Persistent absentees are defined as having more than 63 sessions of absence (authorised and unauthorised) during the year.
[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools between 1 September 2005 and 27 May 2006. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between five and 15. Excludes boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved school during the school year or are registered at more than one school).
[4] There were some 7,240 cases from maintained secondary schools; 20 cases from CTCs and 370 cases from academies for whom absence data were missing. These cases have been excluded from the total number of pupil enrolments.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Vocational Training

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many individuals in each region are undertaking training as part of the Train to Gain scheme in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [138758]

Phil Hope *[holding answer 14 June 2007]*: Train to Gain is an ongoing service and as such performance is updated on a regular basis. Detailed operational information is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); Mark Haysom as the LSC chief executive has written directly to my hon. Friend and a copy of his reply has been placed in the House Library.

Letter from Rob Wye dated, 21 June 2007:

I am writing in response to your recent parliamentary question to the Secretary of State for Education and Skills, about how many individuals in each region are undertaking training as part of the Train to Gain scheme in 2007-08. I am writing on behalf of Mark Haysom as he is on annual leave.

In the period April 2006 - March 2007, the regional breakdown of Train to Gain learners was as follows

	Number
East of England	9,500
East Midlands	10,440
London	8,340
North East	10,690
North West	21,990
South East	11,640
Southwest	9,120
West Midlands	17,510
Yorkshire and the Humber	16,370

Mr. Boris Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills how many qualifications have been awarded under Train to Gain, broken down by *(a)* sector and *(b)* (i) level and (ii) year awarded. [142161]

Phil Hope: The Train to Gain programme commenced in select regions from April 2006. A full rollout of Train to Gain commenced from August 2006.

To date 38,760 learners have succeeded in gaining their qualifications:

	Number
Skills for Life achievements	3,920
Level 2 achievements	32,800
Level 3 achievements	2,040

Source: LSC Management Information

The LSC is planning to report on Train to Gain success rates, including sector breakdowns, in the 2006-07 learner outcomes statistical first release: Further education and work-based learning for young people—learner outcomes in England, which is expected to be published in April 2008.

West Jesmond School: Newcastle

Mr. Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Education and Skills (1) what advice he has received from the Highways Agency on the proposed temporary relocation of West Jesmond Primary School to the Castle Dene site in the Dene ward of Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend Parliamentary constituency; [143729]

(2) what information he has received from Newcastle City Council about the proposed temporary relocation of West Jesmond Primary School to the Castle Dene site in the Dene ward of Newcastle upon Tyne East and Wallsend Parliamentary constituency. [143730]

Jim Knight: The Department normally allocates capital funding to local authorities, and relies on them to determine how this should be used. Decisions on relocation and reorganisation of the school estate are also made locally, and the Department does not generally receive information on such changes. However, exceptionally Newcastle local authority have been granted additional funding for this off-site decant (£900k), by the Department, after presenting a case based on health and safety concerns. This school is to be rebuilt as part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' Programme. I understand, from an update report published by Newcastle city council, that this decant will take place over Christmas 2007. I have received no information from the Highways Agency.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information: Contracts

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of the 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 590W, on the Central Office of Information (CoI): contracts, if she will list the contracts awarded by the CoI to Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO since 1997; and what the value of each contract was. [142218]

Hilary Armstrong *[holding answer 12 June 2007]*: The contracts awarded to Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO since 1997 are shown in the following list. Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO Contracts

Campaign

Speed reduction
Welsh Speed Reduction
English Heritage
Speed Reduction
Climate Change
Mobile Phone Abuse
Kill Your Speed
Rear Seat Belts
Welsh Rear Seat Belts
Greener Motoring
Climate Change
Welsh Rear Seat Belts
Greener Motoring
Climate Change
Welsh Speed Reduction
Drink Drive
Are You Doing Your Bit
Rear Seat Belts
Y2K Public Awareness
Leaded Petrol
Millennium Drink Drive
Summer Drink Drive
Welsh Drink Drive
Y2K Public Awareness
Anti Smoking
Mobile Phones
Think
Anti Smoking
Welsh Think
Are You Doing Your Bit
Kill Your Speed
Are You Doing Your Bit (Wales)
Welsh Think
Pregnancy and Smoking
Science Year
Local Website Information
Science Year
Think
Tobacco Education
Think (new terms)
Tobacco Education (new terms)
Info 4 Local
National Assembly for Wales Youth Anti Smoking
National Assembly for Wales
National Assembly for Wales—2 (new terms)
Pregnancy and Smoking (new terms)
Think
Welsh Assembly Government Think
Are You Doing Your Bit
Tobacco Information
Pregnancy and Smoking
National Assembly for Wales Anti Smoking
Welsh Assembly Government Anti Smoking
Tobacco Information
Welsh Assembly Government Anti Smoking
Tobacco Information
RAF Recruitment
Tobacco Second Hand Smoke
Tobacco Education—Cessation
Tobacco Education—Support
Smoking—Motivations that Matter

The total amount of fees paid to Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO since 1997 are shown in the following table.

	Total fees paid (£)
1997-98	447,776
1998-99	550,632
1999-2000	1,445,695
2000-01	1,540,870
2001-02	1,775,134
2002-03	903,873
2003-04	1,204,042
2004-05	1,360,997
2005-06	1,359,547
2006-07	248,883

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in her Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144934]

Hilary Armstrong: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list

of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code", the "Ministerial Code" and "Travel by Ministers".

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by her Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144933]

Hilary Armstrong: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Visits

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister without Portfolio which destinations she visited in an official capacity between 17 May and 17 June. [144550]

The Minister without Portfolio: On Friday 25 May, I visited St. John's Church of England Primary School in Croydon to participate in "The Big Stand", an event organised by the charity "Beatbullying".

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* services and *(b)* products her Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143801]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office has not procured any services or products from Remploy in the last 12 months.

Peninsula Business Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Peninsula Business Services since May 1997. [144534]

Hilary Armstrong: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to Peninsula Business Services since May 1997.

Voluntary Organisations: Public Service

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of the use of third sector organisations to undertake public functions. [143868]

Edward Miliband: In December, 2006, the Government published "Partnership in Public Services: An action plan for third sector involvement". The plan notes that third sector organisations are particularly effective in delivering services where the high levels of public trust, confidence and affection they enjoy are most important. From enabling patient self-care to engaging parents in their children's education, third sector organisations' strengths often lie in developing services that empower people and which are tailored to their needs. In addition, third sector organisations play a highly effective role as a catalyst for service improvement. However, the plan also notes that there is variation in the performance of different organisations across all sectors and that opportunities should be open to all without bias to one sector.

Voluntary Work

Ann Keen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* volunteer week in raising awareness of the role volunteers play in local communities and *(b)* measures taken by local authorities to harness third sector public service provision. [144151]

Edward Miliband: Volunteers' week (1-7 June) is the UK's annual celebration of the work volunteers do and is co-ordinated by Volunteering England (VE). VE assess the effectiveness of the week by analysing media coverage and data collected via a questionnaire given to those who participated in the week. The closing date for this year's survey is 20 July therefore the analysis is not currently available.

The Government are committed to working with local government to enable the third sector to make an effective contribution to better public services. One mechanism for this is through the Compact. 99 per cent. of local authorities have local compacts in place or under development with the third sector. These provide the basis for partnership working within the sector and support local area agreements by setting out priorities for improving public services in local areas.

Third sector organisations still face barriers to delivery of public services. However, the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and Communities and Local Government are taking steps to address these barriers through OTS action plan: "Partnership in Public Services". This includes a programme to train 2000 of the most significant public sector commissioners, many of whom will be drawn from local authorities.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister how many memorandums of understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144473]

The Deputy Prime Minister: My Department has not agreed any memorandums of understanding with foreign Governments.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to him; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141974]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Lady to the answer given to her by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W, and to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Doncaster, North (Edward Miliband) on 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 1637W.

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on his departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142498]

The Deputy Prime Minister: Following the recognition of British Sign language (BSL) as a language in its own right in March 2003, the Government committed £1.5 million funding for 10 projects designed to improve the infrastructure supporting BSL tutors and to raise awareness of the communication needs of Deaf BSL users among employers, service providers and in the wider community. The aim is for the outputs from the projects to have a lasting and sustainable impact. There are no videos on my departmental website.

Government Departments: Health

Mr. Bone: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent steps he has taken to improve the coordination of the work of Government Departments on health matters. [143962]

The Deputy Prime Minister: I am Chair of the Cabinet Committee on Public Health (DA(PH)). Its terms of reference are to co-ordinate and monitor the implementation of the Government's policies to improve public health and reduce health inequalities.

Co-ordination across Government has been necessary to address a range of public health issues, including reducing smoking rates, tackling obesity, reducing teenage pregnancy rates, promoting sport and physical activity, developing Healthy Schools, and tackling drug and alcohol abuse and misuse. Owing to these developments, our reform programme and the fact that 10 years of economic prosperity, we have been able to treble the health budget in cash terms between 1996-97 and 2007-08. This has allowed us to employ over 79,000 more nurses and over 36,000 more doctors, significantly to reduce waiting lists (the average wait for inpatient treatment is now 6.4 weeks) and to regenerate the NHS estate (with 150 new hospitals open, under construction or in procurement).

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Homeworking

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143879]

Paul Goggins: Some members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office work from home from time to time on an ad hoc basis, with agreement from their local management. We do not record these details centrally.

The Department is currently examining whether it would be possible to expand these arrangements to allow people to work from home on a more regular basis, bearing in mind cost, security, and health and safety issues.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many officials work in his Department. [143175]

Paul Goggins: As at 1 June 2007 the Northern Ireland Office employed 2,172 officials; this figure includes non-uniformed staff in the Northern Ireland prison service, staff within Youth Justice Agency, Compensation Agency and Forensic Science Northern Ireland.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143917]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office:

	Percentage of staff
Male	39
Female	61
Registered disabled	4
Aged 55 years or over	11

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid was; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143095]

Paul Goggins: The information set out as follows comprises bonuses paid under the special bonus scheme, and the performance arrangements for all NIO staff at senior civil service level and below. Performance bonuses are paid subsequent to the reporting year. Bonuses relating to the 2005-06 reporting year were paid in 2006 and were as follows:

Number of staff receiving a bonus: 1,024

Proportion of total work force: 49.2 per cent.

Total amount of bonuses £686,425

Largest single payment: £11,000

Statistics are not yet available for the 2006-07 reporting year, as decisions on performance are currently being taken.

All of these bonus payments are non-consolidated and non-pensionable and therefore do not have associated future costs for paybill.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143083]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the average number of days per year taken as sick leave by staff in the Northern Ireland Office in the last five years.

	Days lost per staff year
2000-01	12.8
2001-02	13.4
2002-03	13.7
2003-04	14.0
2004-05	12.6
2005-06	11.2

Driving Offences: Convictions

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of driving offences in *(a)* each constituency and *(b)* each council area in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [142633]

Maria Eagle: Conviction data are not available by Northern Ireland constituency. The statistics included within the response are based on the 12 police divisions for the years 1996 to 1999 and the 29 police district command units (DCUs) for the years 2000 to 2005. It is not possible to disaggregate data by DCU for years prior to 2000.

With the exception of overall totals, figures in Table 1 should not be compared with those in Table 2, as Table 1 figures relate to the police division to which an offence was reported, while those in Table 2 relate to the police district command unit in which an offender's address falls.

Data are collated on the principal offence rule; thus only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Table 1: Convictions for motoring offences by police division 1996-99[1,2]

Police division	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*
A (Musgrave Street)	1,574	1,621	814	901
B (Grosvenor Road)	1,742	1,799	1,371	1,282
D (Antrim Road)	2,932	2,933	2,290	2,449
E (Strandtown)	1,638	2,137	1,437	1,360
G (Newtownards)	1,246	1,312	902	750
H (Armagh)	1,097	1,064	987	1,107
J (Portadown)	1,477	1,652	1,284	1,528
K (Dungannon)	1,352	1,327	1,018	969
L (Enniskillen)	1,261	1,457	1,982	1,809
N (Strand Road)	1,468	1,441	1,438	1,335
O (Coleraine)	1,419	1,083	1,039	1,240
P (Ballymena)	971	944	735	1,024
Missing	0	0	72	28
Total	18,177	18,770	15,369	15,782

[1] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom police division information is not available.
[2] Police stations included within brackets are the Divisional Headquarters.

Table 2: Convictions for motoring offences by District Command Unit 2000-05[1]

District command unit	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Antrim	436	385	379	402	522	397
Ards	574	492	485	544	612	587
Armagh	493	473	464	629	554	508
Banbridge	312	258	287	275	290	305
Belfast East	584	494	522	585	779	753
Belfast North	863	773	723	963	1,307	1,016
Belfast South	464	507	437	520	671	463
Belfast West	611	552	669	665	844	681
Ballymena	459	463	499	487	484	421
Ballymoney	213	195	235	296	229	232
Carrickfergus	310	330	278	286	395	301
Coleraine	405	354	407	451	501	501
Cookstown	273	289	271	347	285	294
Craigavon	655	632	658	826	712	725
Castlereagh	449	406	387	424	546	489
Dungannon and South Tyrone	557	578	410	509	439	467
Down	477	453	447	562	641	519
Fermanagh	540	536	598	641	446	349
Foyle	1,085	968	837	1,028	954	1,111
Lame	319	241	262	256	274	260
Limavady	281	256	282	338	313	336
Lisburn	862	775	769	919	1,006	943
Magherafelt	303	269	317	291	294	336
Moyle	138	119	174	153	129	84
Newtownabbey	572	586	465	540	733	573
North Down	575	551	672	634	716	556
Newry and Mourne	753	745	611	893	850	900
Omagh	590	601	568	615	490	413
Strabane	405	428	399	437	403	364
Missing	832	757	832	826	796	650
Total	15,390	14,466	14,344	16,342	17,215	15,534

[1] Missing data relate to those offenders for whom DCU information is not available

Juvenile Justice Centre

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what academic qualifications were attained by juveniles detained at the Juvenile Justice Centre in each of the last six years; and what steps he is taking to increase the numbers. [143301]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Qualification type	Subjects covered	Number of young people	Number of qualifications attained
2002			
GCSE	English; Maths; Science	1	1
	Food Hygiene	12	12
2003			
AQA	Maths; Art; Home Economics; PSHE; Business Studies; Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene	24	50
NSP	Number Skills; Communication Skills; ICT	25	29
2004			
AQA	Maths; English; Geography; Art; Home Economics; PSHE; Business Studies; Music; Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene	65	94
NSP	Number Skills; Communication Skills; ICT; Personal Skills	65	94
GCSE	English; English Literature; Maths; Child Development	5	14
2005			
AQA	Maths; English; Geography; Art; Home Economics; PSHE; Business Studies; Music; Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene; Car Mechanics; Swimming; Kayaking	56	226
NSP	Number Skills; Communication Skills; ICT; Personal Skills	41	124
GCSE	English; English Literature; Maths	4	[1]—
2006			
AQA	Maths; English; Geography; Art; Home Economics; PSHE; Business Studies; Music; Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene; Car Mechanics; Swimming; Kayaking; Cartooning; Life Skills	62	121
NSP	Number Skills; Communication Skills; ICT; Personal Skills	39	97
GCSE	English; English Literature; Maths; RE; ICT; Science; German	3	[1]—
2007			
AQA	Maths; English; Geography; Art; Home Economics; PSHE; Business Studies; Music; Foundation Certificate in Food Hygiene; Car Mechanics; Swimming; Kayaking; Cartooning; Life Skills	[2]140	Pending
Essential Skills	Number Skills	[2]40	Pending
Essential Skills	Communication Skills	[2]40	Pending
Occupational Skills	Vehicle Studies (entry level GCSE equivalent)	[2]4	Pending

[1] Results not forwarded to Juvenile Justice Centre as the young person had been discharged from custody by the time results were published.
[2] Figures for 2007 show those entered for examinations to date—results are pending.
Key:
AQA—Assessment and Qualifications Alliance
NSP—National Skills Profile

There has been a steady growth in academic qualifications taken and achieved over the last six years. A culture of learning is well established amongst staff and young people and the centre will seek further to strengthen this ethos by continuing to motivate, encourage and promote the value of education in improving the life chances and opportunities for young people. Service delivery is regularly reviewed and additions to the curriculum will be made in response to the requirements of custody and community plans.

Roads: Accidents

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured as a result of road traffic accidents in Northern Ireland, broken down by (i) council area and (ii) constituency in each of the last 10 years. [142603]

Paul Goggins: This information is not collated in the format requested but is available by district command unit as set out in the following tables. Data are available for the last nine years only.

Table 1 relates to *(a)* persons killed and Table 2 relates to *(b)* persons seriously injured as a result of road traffic collisions during the last nine years for which statistics are available.

Table 1: Number of injury road traffic collision fatalities by district command unit, 1998 to 2006

DCU	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Antrim	6	3	3	12	5	10	7	7	11
Ards	6	5	2	13	4	4	8	5	4
Armagh	12	9	7	7	9	4	8	5	6
Banbridge	7	4	4	5	8	4	6	1	3
East Belfast	4	4	3	3	4	1	0	1	1
North Belfast	6	2	8	1	7	3	2	4	2
South Belfast	1	1	0	0	2	2	3	4	1
West Belfast	6	6	5	7	3	5	3	4	3
Ballymena	9	2	9	4	6	9	3	7	4
Ballymoney	1	7	4	1	6	3	5	5	1
Carrickfergus	1	3	1	0	2	3	1	0	0
Coleraine	7	8	7	7	6	4	3	4	12
Cookstown	7	5	8	4	2	3	2	3	4
Craigavon	2	4	5	7	4	2	1	2	1
Castlereagh	0	2	9	2	7	2	2	3	4
Dungannon and South Tyrone	7	7	10	8	5	8	9	6	8
Down	5	5	9	5	7	6	4	4	6
Fermanagh	8	11	11	14	7	8	14	11	15
Foyle	4	3	4	4	5	4	7	6	3
Larne	2	2	3	5	2	8	3	2	3
Limavady	2	2	5	10	0	4	5	7	1
Lisburn	11	10	10	6	13	12	9	9	6
Magherafelt	5	9	6	4	5	3	5	11	4
Moyle	2	1	0	1	3	1	3	0	2
Newtownabbey	7	4	4	2	4	4	6	4	4
North Down	5	3	3	1	4	5	4	3	4
Newry and Mourne	20	14	22	7	12	19	18	9	8
Omagh	5	4	5	5	6	6	4	8	2
Strabane	2	1	4	3	2	3	2	0	3
Total	160	141	171	148	150	150	147	135	126

Table 2: Number of casualties seriously injured due to injury road traffic collisions by district command unit, 1998 to 2006

DCU	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Antrim	58	44	57	91	59	52	34	21	41
Ards	77	51	75	72	62	48	56	53	45
Armagh	95	60	58	59	68	60	44	48	59
Banbridge	56	32	31	46	37	32	34	27	34
East Belfast	47	47	68	59	56	32	38	38	35
North Belfast	47	59	70	62	63	38	43	57	42
South Belfast	47	54	76	63	55	57	65	37	43
West Belfast	65	67	106	90	72	58	51	28	40
Ballymena	49	60	53	55	64	29	47	52	55
Ballymoney	44	47	41	27	36	26	25	20	26
Carrickfergus	31	18	25	28	19	23	8	22	32
Coleraine	42	75	59	57	58	45	44	20	42
Cookstown	30	50	51	34	30	35	32	26	32
Craigavon	67	43	82	73	54	55	47	53	43
Castlereagh	53	36	55	52	37	35	25	7	24
Dungannon and South Tyrone	60	45	65	59	54	63	47	59	47
Down	41	50	86	82	65	46	40	31	50
Fermanagh	73	73	81	69	81	56	48	67	49
Foyle	80	62	77	59	50	57	61	48	34
Larne	17	33	22	34	32	44	27	21	26
Limavady	34	42	31	40	47	31	48	44	39
Lisburn	90	103	137	153	101	86	76	71	88
Magherafelt	32	46	38	44	45	44	23	36	37
Moyle	16	22	28	11	26	25	17	11	13
Newtownabbey	69	40	76	57	54	28	30	39	67
North Down	34	54	55	40	63	34	41	39	34
Newry and Mourne	93	97	97	82	79	72	67	32	53
Omagh	58	65	49	54	33	42	37	36	33
Strabane	33	32	37	30	26	15	28	30	28
Total	1,538	1,509	1,786	1,682	1,526	1,288	1,183	1,073	1,211

Source:
PSNI Central Statistics Unit.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured as a result of road traffic accidents at the location of static speed cameras in each of the last 10 years. [142635]

Paul Goggins: Data are available for the last nine years only, and are presented in the following tables. The statistics relate to incidents within a 500 m radius of the camera location.

	Fatalities	Number People seriously injured
Antrim Road, Belfast		
1998	0	1
1999	0	4
2000	0	0
2001	0	1
2002	1	0
2003	0	0
2004	0	0
2005	0	1
2006	0	0
Springfield Road, Belfast		
1998	0	0
1999	0	3
2000	0	2
2001	0	2
2002	0	2
2003	0	2
2004	0	0
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
Saintfield Road, Belfast		
1998	0	5
1999	0	6
2000	0	2
2001	0	3
2002	0	1
2003	0	1
2004	0	1
2005	0	0
2006	0	1
Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast		
1998	0	2
1999	1	1
2000	0	1
2001	0	5
2002	0	1
2003	0	2
2004	0	1
2005	0	0
2006	0	0

For speed over distance camera system around Newry: A1 dual carriageway between Sheepbridge and Mourne Country roundabout and between the Cloghue roundabout and the border:

	Fatalities	Number People seriously injured
1998	0	5
1999	2	4
2000	1	1
2001	1	11
2002	5	11
2003	4	3
2004	4	6
2005	1	5
2006	0	0

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many static speed traps are located in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* council area in Northern Ireland. [142636]

Paul Goggins: The locations of static speed traps are recorded by district council area rather than by constituency. The PSNI have advised us that the number of speed traps in each area is as follows:

	Number
Belfast city council	3
Castlereagh district council	1
Newry and Mourne district council	1

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Broadband

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps the Government offices in the regions are taking to expand *(a)* their own broadband use and *(b)* broadband use within their regions. [143155]

Angela E. Smith: I have been asked to reply.

Government Offices are committed to providing staff with remote broadband access to their work systems where there is a justified business need. A number of staff have been provided with broadband access from their homes and further staff will be receiving connections in due course as business needs are identified.

Government Offices have no remit to expand broadband usage through their geographic boundaries.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many Memoranda of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign Governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what executive actions each entails. [144466]

Mr. McCartney: This information is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment his Department has made of the effect of UK implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment on product design. [144039]

Malcolm Wicks: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive encourage producers of electrical equipment to consider design of new products to facilitate environmentally sound treatment and reprocessing when equipment reaches its end of life.

The UK has addressed this issue through regulation 59 of the waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2006 (SI 3289).

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many electronics producers have recycling obligations under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations which come into force on 1 July; and how many of these are registered with a WEEE compliance scheme. [142770]

Malcolm Wicks: The regulatory impact assessment issued alongside the WEEE Regulations estimated that there could be up to 7,000 producers with obligations under the WEEE Regulations which place around 2 million tonnes of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) on the UK market annually.

To date over 3,100 producers have registered in the UK representing all the major producers with a combined sales of just under 2 million tonnes of EEE sales. This total compares well with levels of producers registered in other European member states and we are confident that we have captured the bulk of UK obligated producers in terms of sales.

The Government do recognise that there are a number of small producers who have yet to register. The DTI in conjunction with the environment agencies will therefore continue to promote the WEEE Regulations and encourage these producers into the UK WEEE system.

Energy Supply

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions his Department has had with Ofgem on the information the regulator needs to meet the new role assigned to it in the Energy White Paper of analysing the long term energy outlook in order to address concerns about security of supply. [143864]

Malcolm Wicks: As explained in the White Paper, the new Energy Markets Outlook is to be jointly run by my Department and Ofgem and will draw on analysis from National Grid, the wider industry and other sources. Information gathering and analytical work is now under way for the first report which will be published in the autumn.

Environment Protection

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps are being taken to improve and reinforce consumer and investor confidence in new environmental technologies. [144248]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK has a thriving environmental sector, employing around 400,000 people, and forecast to grow from £25 billion in 2005 to £46 billion by 2015.

Supporting the development of new environmental technologies is key to the Government's aim to enhance the UK's position in worldwide environmental markets and to realise the benefits of the jobs it can create. Engaging the knowledge and experience of business to direct DTI support for new technology will help grow consumer and investor confidence in this area. Through the DTI's technology programme, the Government have ring fenced £20 million per annum between 2005 and 2008 for investment in low carbon energy technologies.

Other investments support innovative technologies that can enhance the efficiency with which materials, energy and water are utilised, and through the minimisation of waste. Examples include lean manufacturing and environmentally-friendly vehicles.

The Commission on Environmental Markets and Economic Performance was established in November last year and intends to publish its report in this parliamentary Session (before 26 July 2007). It will make recommendations for action by Government and business on how the UK can make the most of the opportunity that environmental protection can present for wealth creation and employment growth.

The Commission is jointly-chaired by the Secretaries of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Trade and Industry, and its membership is drawn from business, non-governmental organisations, academia, trade unions and public sector organisations.

Furniture: Imports

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps trading standards enforcement officers take to ensure that furniture imported into the UK from other EU member states meets the safety requirements of the relevant legislation. [143112]

Mr. McCartney: Under single market rules, goods from other EU countries must be allowed to circulate freely. Products accepted for sale in one member state cannot be banned from sale in any other member states, except on safety grounds. How Trading Standards undertake market surveillance with regard to the safety legislation they enforce is a matter for them. I understand Trading Standards liaises with HM Revenue and Customs on furniture imports as appropriate, and that this has resulted in furniture being detained and convictions obtained for non-compliance with the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (FFRs). They also act on tip-offs regarding unsafe furniture being sold door-to-door, at boot sales or at the side of the road, and make routine checks of furniture in retail outlets. In the period 1 April 2003-31 May 2007 there were 48 convictions for furniture not complying with the FFRs. This figure is from the Office of Fair Trading who stress it is based on returns received and that the actual figure is likely to be somewhat higher.

Gardens: Heating

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what his Department's policy is on the labelling of outdoor patio heaters for energy efficiency standards. [140648]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

Mandatory energy labelling in the European Union (EU) is covered by Framework Directive 92/75/EC, which requires that certain appliances display an energy label where they are offered for sale. This does not apply to outdoor patio heaters.

The European Commission has started a review of the EU mandatory energy labelling scheme and the most recent information we have is that it intends to bring forward a revised proposal in early 2008.

The UK supports the extension of the labelling scheme to a much wider range of energy using products.

International Atomic Energy Agency: Recruitment

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what discussions he has had with the International Atomic Energy Agency on its recruitment policy, with particular reference to the advertising of its vacancies; and if he will make a statement. [144001]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 19 June 2007]:* The Government are aware that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) advertises vacancies for Professional and General Service posts on its website. Officials from the UK Mission to the IAEA in Vienna have met several times with the agency's personnel division to discuss their recruitment practices. The IAEA's personnel systems, including their recruitment section, are subject to oversight by the agency's external auditors, the latter are appointed by members of the IAEA board of governors of which the UK is a permanent member. In addition the IAEA division of management publishes a biennial report on human resource management, which is issued to IAEA member states. The Government believe this is an acceptable level of scrutiny for such an organisation and are therefore satisfied that the recruitment policy of the IAEA is fair and transparent.

Internet: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what estimate his Department has made of the losses suffered in each of the last five years by the British film, music, retail and rental industries as a result of internet piracy and the production and distribution of illegal copies of film and music; and if he will make a statement. [143213]

Malcolm Wicks: Industry estimates that in 2005 the worldwide value of trade in pirate music discs was $4.5 billion while 20 billion tracks were illegally downloaded. In the same time the criminal gain in the UK from DVD piracy was estimated at £278 million. The Government are committed to working with industry to address this problem.

Better intelligence is the key work to combating intellectual property crime across the board. We need a better understanding of the criminals involved and their business methods. The Government have been working on this and a number of areas where existing material appears to be deficient. The UK Intellectual Property Office has set up an intelligence hub and is bringing in expert resources. Collaboration is vital, and I call on all sectors to become involved in the important work and to share the information they have.

Nanotechnology

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how much the Government spent on nanotechnology in each of the last 10 years; and how much it plans to spend in the next 10 years. [143207]

Malcolm Wicks: A wide variety of Government supported research activities could to some extent be deemed to embrace nanoscience and nanotechnologies, thus it is not possible to accurately identify all Government funding in this area in the last 10 years.

With this proviso, the estimated Government support committed for nanotechnology work over the last 10 years amounts to about £408 million as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	66.27
2005-06	66.0
2004-05	65.76
2003-04	60.80
2002-03	40.58
2001-02	50
2000-01	35.5
1999-2000	11.00
1998-99	12.39
1997-98	[1]

[1] No data available (as there was no nanotechnology relevant coding at this time).

It is not possible to say precisely how much the Government will spend on nanotechnology over the next 10 years. These decisions will be based on the outcome of the comprehensive spending review and commercial and academic opportunities identified by the DTI's Technology Strategy Board and the Research Councils.

New Businesses: Stafford

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry how many new business start-ups there were in Stafford constituency in each of the last three years; and what estimate he has made of the likely start-up rate in the next three years. [122236]

Margaret Hodge: The figures in the following table reflect the number of business start up activity in Stafford assisted by Business Link funding, they are:

	New business starts
2005-06	150
2004-05	125
2003-04	110

From April this year the five existing Business Link services have been replaced by a single, regionally managed and locally delivered service. As a result there will be no dedicated/targeted services for Stafford/ Staffordshire as we have now set-up a regionally wide consistent service.

Over the same period, Advantage West Midlands (AWM) through its business creation activity has assisted:

	Business creation[1]
2005-06	1,650
2004-05	225
2003-04	864

[1] Businesses created and demonstrating growth after 12 months and businesses attracted to the region.

Disaggregated figures are unavailable on a sub regional basis.

In the current FY 2006-07 AWM, has assisted 1,293 business start ups from a forecast target range of 1,232-1,848. For FY 2007-08 the target range for new business creation is 1,264-1,896.

Forecast estimates over the next two financial years (2008-09, 2009-10) on a sub regional or on a regional basis is not available. The outcome of the comprehensive spending review 2007 will determine how regional development agencies corporate plans, explains what it plans to deliver in return for the resources allocated to it, are being developed and it is difficult at this stage to provide forecasts.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what effect he expects the planned change in funding for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in financial year 2007-08 and subsequent years to have on employment at the UK Atomic Energy Authority's Harwell and Winfrith sites. [142651]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 14 June 2007]:* The outcome of the Government's comprehensive spending review (CSR07) is not expected until autumn 2007. It is for the Site Licence Company to determine what effect CSR07 funding might have on employment at the sites.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 772-73W, on radioactive wastes: waste management, what definition he uses of full share of waste management costs. [143292]

Malcolm Wicks: The reference in the Energy Review report to sharing costs reflects the fact that the storage facilities and deep repository will be primarily for waste that already exists: this will be for the public sector to fund. But we need to decide what contribution owners of new nuclear plant should make to the total costs. Our principle is that they should meet their "full share" of these costs, but we need to do more detailed work on how this should be calculated.

Science: Education

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what steps have been taken to evaluate the 21st century science GCSEs, and other new syllabi. [141468]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given on 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 790W.

Science: Government Assistance

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what mechanisms exist in Government to coordinate, develop and evaluate science centres. [144107]

Malcolm Wicks: DTI supported the start up of Ecsite UK, an umbrella organisation for science and discovery centres, to provide a national voice to the

Government and to be the point of reference for the work of science and discovery centres. The Government have never had any direct responsibility for the set up and development of any individual science centres.

DTI and DfES are funding an Ecsite-UK initiative, totalling £750,000 between November 2006 to March 2008, for work which will enable consortia of science centres to work more effectively together and in collaboration with other organisations, with the objective of achieving financial sustainability.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of science centres in the UK and of their role in science education; and what the Government's plans are for the development of science centres in the next five years. [144108]

Malcolm Wicks: Science centres are one of the many ways in which enthusiasm for science can be generated among young people. DTI and DfES are currently providing £750,000 to Ecsite UK, an umbrella body for science and discovery centres, for work specifically designed to allow science centres to assess how they can work in combination with others, to achieve financial sustainability.

Future development of science centres is a matter for the science centres themselves.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Deportation

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with how many people against whom removal proceedings had commenced the Immigration and Nationality Directorate lost contact in each month of the last two years; and what percentage this represents of the total number of people against whom removal proceedings were commenced in each month. [123572]

John Reid: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which countries received returning failed asylum applicants under the UK enforced returns programme in each year since 2004; how many enforced returnees were sent back to each of those countries in each year; and what packages of assistance were provided in each case; [131570]

(2) which countries have received returning failed asylum applicants under the UK voluntary returns programme since 2004; how many voluntary returnees have been sent back to each; and what packages of assistance were provided by each. [131594]

Mr. Byrne: The first of the accompanying tables shows the number of asylum applicants, including dependants, who were recorded as being "forcibly" removed from the UK since 2004, broken down by destination. These figures include enforced removals, persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them and since 2005 those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

The second of the accompanying tables shows the number of asylum applicants, including dependants, leaving the UK under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration since 2004, broken down by destination. These figures may include some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.

It is not possible to say at what stage in the asylum process people are at the time of their removal, as those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage.

Information relating to the reintegration assistance package provided in each case is not available; it would be available by examination of individual records only at disproportionate cost.

Published statistics on immigration and asylum are available on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Removals and voluntary departures, excluding assisted returns[1,2,3] of asylum applicants[4], including dependants, by destination[5], 2004-06[6]

Destination	*2004*	*2005[6]*	*2006[6]*	*2004-06 total[6]*
Albania	565	490	1,015	2,070
Macedonia	20	30	15	65
Moldova	65	55	40	160
Romania	880	665	375	1,920
Russia	40	45	50	135
Serbia and Montenegro	1,625	1,315	730	3,675
Turkey	255	790	1,610	2,655
Ukraine	150	100	75	325
EU Accession States	—	135	170	305
Other Former USSR	135	135	135	410
Europe other	2,300	2,185	2,005	6,490
Europe total	6,040	5,945	6,220	18,210
Colombia	185	210	145	540
Ecuador	185	155	65	410
Jamaica	465	395	395	1,255
Americas other	170	165	145	480
Americas total	1,005	925	755	2,680
Algeria	155	205	190	550
Angola	80	125	25	230
Burundi	*	15	5	15
Cameroon	55	25	25	105
Congo	30	50	45	125
Dem. Rep. Congo	15	40	90	145
Eritrea	5	*	*	10
Ethiopia	845	25	50	920
Gambia	45	35	65	145
Ghana	245	240	155	635
Ivory Coast	50	10	25	85
Kenya	110	50	100	260
Liberia	45	20	10	75
Nigeria	265	560	640	1,470
Rwanda	35	5	5	45

Removals and voluntary departures, excluding assisted returns[1,2,3] of asylum applicants[4], including dependants, by destination[5], 2004-06[6]

Destination	2004	2005[6]	2006[6]	2004-06 total[5]
Sierra Leone	40	60	70	170
Somalia	15	5	10	30
Sudan	25	35	30	95
Tanzania	20	45	50	110
Uganda	210	235	190	635
Zimbabwe	50	180	50	280
Africa other	245	340	210	795
Africa total	2,585	2,300	2,035	6,920
Iran	75	170	170	410
Iraq	5	45	65	120
Libya	20	40	30	90
Syria	30	25	45	95
Middle East other	115	205	260	580
Middle East total	245	480	570	1,295
Afghanistan	345	485	450	1,280
Bangladesh	375	255	230	865
China	90	215	160	465
India	260	340	485	1,085
Pakistan	505	825	1,000	2,330
Sri Lanka	260	160	410	830
Vietnam	10	45	100	155
Asia other	275	310	405	990
Asia total	2,115	2,635	3,245	7,990
Other, and destination not known	220	165	75	460
Total asylum applicants removed[4]	12,210	12,450	12,900	37,560

[1] Includes enforced removals and those departing 'Voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them.
[2] Removals in 2005 and 2006 include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[3] Excludes Assisted Voluntary Returns.
[4] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.
[5] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with '—' = 0, * = 1 or 2.
[6] Provisional figures.

Asylum applicants[1], including dependants, leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes[2], by destination[3], 2004-06[4]

Destination	2004	2005[4]	2006[4]	2004-06 total[3]
Albania	600	510	330	1,440
Macedonia	5	5	10	20
Moldova	10	5	10	30
Romania	5	5	5	20
Russia	20	35	60	120
Serbia and Montenegro	145	170	125	440
Turkey	25	30	85	140
Ukraine	15	20	30	60
EU Accession States	155	—	5	160
Other Former USSR	25	45	85	155
Europe other	35	25	30	90

Asylum applicants[1], including dependants, leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes[2], by destination[3], 2004-06[4]

Destination	2004	2005[4]	2006[4]	2004-06 total[3]
Europe total	1,040	855	780	2,675
Colombia	60	55	60	175
Ecuador	40	15	35	90
Jamaica	5	10	35	50
Americas other	50	20	55	125
Americas total	160	100	185	440
Algeria	35	40	110	185
Angola	25	40	95	165
Burundi	*	*	5	10
Cameroon	10	10	20	35
Congo	5	10	25	40
Dem. Rep. Congo	*	5	25	30
Eritrea	—	—	—	—
Ethiopia	15	15	35	60
Gambia	*	*	5	10
Ghana	*	5	15	20
Ivory Coast	5	5	10	20
Kenya	15	5	35	55
Liberia	5	5	10	15
Nigeria	10	10	50	70
Rwanda	5	5	10	20
Sierra Leone	10	5	25	40
Somalia	15	15	35	65
Sudan	5	10	45	55
Tanzania	10	—	15	25
Uganda	20	30	45	95
Zimbabwe	60	100	220	385
Africa other	40	55	120	215
Africa total	295	375	945	1,610
Iran	175	220	305	700
Iraq	430	775	1,710	2,915
Libya	*	—	15	15
Syria	*	5	10	20
Middle East other	55	55	70	180
Middle East total	665	1,055	2,110	3,830
Afghanistan	235	425	520	1,180
Bangladesh	*	5	20	25
China	*	30	110	145
India	15	20	70	105
Pakistan	55	85	190	330
Sri Lanka	210	250	280	740
Vietnam	5	10	40	55
Asia other	20	25	65	110

Asylum applicants[1], including dependants, leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes[2], by destination[3], 2004-06[4]

Destination	2004	2005[4]	2006[4]	2004-06 total[4]
Asia total	545	850	1,295	2,690
Other, and destination not known	5	*	20	20
Total asylum applicants removed[1]	2,705	3,235	5,330	11,270

[1] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, including dependants.
[2] Persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organization for Migration. May include some cases where enforcement action had been initiated.
[3] Figures rounded to the nearest five, with '—' = 0, * = 1 or 2.
[4] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Iran

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account is taken of membership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran in assessing applications for asylum in the UK. [141361]

John Reid: Guidance to case owners on the handling of asylum claims made by Iranian nationals on the basis of their membership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran is contained in the Operational Guidance Note on Iran which is published on the Home Office website at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/countryspecificasylumpolicyogns/

Case owners are also able to utilise country information on the Kurdistan Democratic Party of Iran in the Iran country of origin information report also available on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html.

Children: Abuse

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will make a statement on the progress of the Association of Chief Police Officers' review of the guidance for the investigation of historical child abuse. [144166]

Mr. Coaker: We continue to work with the ACPO Working Group reviewing the guidance on the investigation of historic child abuse. The development of practice and guidance from the National Centre for Policing Excellence (NCPE) will also help ensure that there is a consistent approach across the police service and prevent duplication. In the light of this activity, the Working Group is reviewing the work requirements and hopes to be in a position to share the revised document in the autumn.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much revenue his Department has received from *(a)* advertisements on his Department's public information leaflets and *(b)* advertisements on his Department's public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [142531]

Mr. Byrne: In the last 10 years the Home Office has not generated any advertising income from its leaflets or websites.

Departments: Foreign Relations

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Memorandums of Understanding are in force as a result of agreements with foreign governments entered into by Ministers in his Department; and what Executive actions each entails. [144469]

Joan Ryan: The information requested is not held centrally and to obtain would incur disproportionate costs.

Departments: Freedom of Information

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests were made to his Department under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in each month of the last two years; what percentage of requests were responded to within 20 working days of their receipt; how many requests were successful; how many were rejected; and how many are the subject of *(a)* an appeal and *(b)* a complaint. [122053]

John Reid: The following table includes figures for the number of requests received each month in 2005 and 2006. The percentage of requests responded to within 20 working days of their receipt are included in the quarterly statistical reports produced by the Ministry of Justice.

The number of successful and rejected requests are included in the quarterly statistical reports produced by the Ministry of Justice. We have interpreted the request for the number of requests subject to complaint as cases where an internal review has been requested, these figures are included on the following table.

We have interpreted the request for the number of requests subject on an appeal, as cases where a complaint has been made to the Information Commissioner, these figures are included on the following table. These figures relate to cases where the Information Commissioner has advised us that an appeal has been received, and are provided as an annual figure as we are not always informed of the month when a complaint was made to the Commissioner.

There has been one Information Tribunal case.

Freedom of information requests received by the Home Office in 2005 and 2006

	Number received	
	2005	2006
January	299	222
February	230	213
March	188	239
April	155	199
May	99	216

Freedom of information requests received by the Home Office in 2005 and 2006

	Number received	
	2005	2006
June	118	256
July	121	247
August	135	200
September	159	286
October	148	270
November	184	293
December	117	216

Number of internal review requests received by the Home Office in 2005 and 2006

	Number received	
	2005	2006
January	0	9
February	4	13
March	9	10
April	9	7
May	17	6
June	15	10
July	11	9
August	6	19
September	10	9
October	4	15
November	14	6
December	12	10
Total	111	123

Number of cases at the Information Commissioner

	Number
2005	26
2006	40

Departments: Legal Costs

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by his Department on legal fees in each of the last five years. [139398]

Mr. Byrne: The expenditure on legal fees for the Home Office and Borders and Immigration Agency, Identity and Passport Service and the Criminal Records Bureau, for the requested period, is in the following table.

					£000
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Home Office/ BIA	10,067	11,505	17,362	28,075	23,614
IPS	98	292	363	766	1,214
CRB	0	0	8	35	29

The aforementioned table covers external legal fees only. Home Office numbers include the National Offenders Management Scheme and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform which have now transferred from the Home Office to the Ministry of Justice.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* services and *(b)* products his Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143794]

John Reid: From best available records between June 2006 and May 2007 the Home Office procured from Remploy *(a)* no services and *(b)* 1,750 operational and 2,314 training civil responder personal protective ensembles for police officers trained in Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) response at a cost of £3,211,466.36 inclusive of VAT.

Deportation: Afghanistan

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people whose asylum claims had failed were deported to Afghanistan in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [142270]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the destination of persons removed from the UK has only been collated since 2004. The table shows provisional figures rounded to the nearest five persons, who had claimed asylum at some stage, who were removed from the United Kingdom to Afghanistan between January 2004 and March 2007, inclusive.

It is not possible to say what stage in the asylum process people have reached at the time of their removal, because those departing voluntarily can do so at any stage.

Deportations are a specific subset of removals; most illegal immigrants are removed under administrative or illegal entry powers from the UK and not deported. It has therefore been assumed that your question refers to the number of asylum applicants removed to Afghanistan; information on those deported is not separately available.

The information provided comes from published statistics, which are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Removals and voluntary departures[1,2] of asylum applicants, including dependants, to Afghanistan, January 2004 to March 2007

Destination	2004	2005[3,4]	2006[3,4]	January to March 2007[3,4]
Afghanistan	575	910	970	255

[1] Includes persons departing 'voluntarily' after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and removals on safe third country grounds.
[2] Figures have been rounded to the nearest five and may not sum due to rounding.
[3] Figures since 2005 include those who it is established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[4] Provisional figures.
Note:
Destination data as recorded on source database.

Detainees

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances embassy officials from foreign countries are given access to detained asylum seekers before their claims have been refused. [141406]

John Reid: Embassy officials are not given access to asylum seekers before their claims are refused, unless the individual in question makes a specific request for consular access. Asylum seekers will not be prevented from meeting officials from the embassy of their country of origin if they make a specific request for consular access.

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether detained asylum seekers are given a choice whether to meet officials from the embassy of their country of origin. [141407]

John Reid: The Home Office would not ask an asylum seeker to meet officials from the embassy of their country of origin until and unless a negative decision was taken in respect of his claim for protection in the United Kingdom. After that time, refused asylum seekers may be requested to meet officials from the embassy of their country of origin to assist in the process of obtaining documents for their return. Such meetings are not compulsory although refused asylum seekers are expected to co-operate in arrangements for their return.

Domestic Violence: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of domestic violence were recorded in West Lancashire in each of the last five years. [144813]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

Driving Under Influence: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drink-driving tests were carried out in West Lancashire in 2004. [144970]

Mr. Coaker: Data relate to the number of screening breath tests conducted and are available at police force areas only. The number of screening breath tests carried out in the Lancashire police force area in 2004 was 10,200.

Detailed information on screening breath tests is given in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin, Motoring Offences and Breath Test Statistics, England and Wales, 2004. The publication is available in the Library and on the Home Office website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb0506.pdf

Drug Seizures: Serious Organised Crime Agency

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK seizures there were of (i) cocaine, (ii) heroin, (iii) cannabis, (iv) LSD and (v) ecstasy within the responsibility of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07. [143811]

Mr. Coaker: Details of drug interdictions flowing from the Serious Organised Crime Agency's work are provided in the agency's 2006-07 annual report. This was published on 18 May 2007.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the *(a)* date and *(b)* weight was of each individual (i) UK and (ii) non-UK seizure of (A) cocaine, (B) heroin, (C) cannabis, (D) LSD and (E) ecstasy in operations involving the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07; [143812]

(2) which agencies were responsible for each *(a)* UK and *(b)* non-UK seizure of (i) cocaine, (ii) heroin, (iii) cannabis, (iv) LSD and (v) ecstasy in operations involving the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in 2006-07; and in which country each individual seizure is being prosecuted. [143813]

Mr. Coaker: Information on drugs seizures in England and Wales in 2006-07 is not yet available.

Greater Manchester Police: Discrimination

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints of *(a)* racial discrimination and *(b)* sex discrimination have been made against Greater Manchester police by (i) all employees, (ii) all police officers and (iii) officers above the rank of inspector in the last five years. [141353]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The available data on the number of compensation claims are available from 2002-03 onwards and are given in the table. The data are not available by staff type or rank.

Compensation claims brought against GMP by police employees, from 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006

	Race discrimination	*Sex discrimination*
2002-03	2	4
2003-04	3	2
2004-05	1	0
2005-06	0	1

Homicide: Females

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the time scale is for the internal police inquiry into the handling of honour killings; whether the results of the inquiry will be made public; and if he will make a statement. [143862]

Mr. Coaker: After an internal review by the Metropolitan Police Service's Professional Standards Directorate, the recent honour killing case involving Miss Banaz Mahmod was referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) for investigation on 13 June 2007.

It would be inappropriate to commit to time scales as this stage. The IPCC will, where appropriate, make their findings public at the conclusion of their investigation.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the right hon. Member for Birmingham Hodge Hill will attend a meeting of the all

party group on trafficking in women and children with Ms Liz Hermer, Head of Immigration Services, as requested in the letter from the hon. Member for Totnes of 16 April, to give a presentation on child asylum seekers and their traffickers. [142455]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The letter of 16 April was delayed in reaching my office. I wrote to the hon. Member on 19 June to advise that Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the Border and Immigration Agency, will attend on my behalf and her office will be in touch to arrange a suitable date and time.

Immigration Controls: Biometrics

Richard Younger-Ross: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what response he has made to the conclusions of the Joint Committee on Human Rights on the decision to bring in biometric immigration documents for all non-EU nationals in the UK next year. [141105]

Mr. Byrne: I have written to the Joint Committee on Human Rights in response to their Report on the UK Borders Bill. My response addresses all the points raised by the Committee, including those on biometric immigration documents.

Internet: Counterfeit Manufacturing

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans his Department has to improve data gathering capabilities on internet piracy. [143189]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The National IP Crime Strategy, led by the UK Intellectual Property Office, aims to co-ordinate the work done by the range of government enforcement agencies and industry bodies in order to tackle the problem posed by counterfeiting and piracy. One of the key priorities of the strategy has been to develop a national intelligence database, to share information and better join up enforcement strategies. The UK-IPO will continue to work with industry, police, customs and others to ensure that the database effectively facilitates information collection, sharing and effective targeting of resources.

Ministerial Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to answer the letter dated 11 April from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mrs P. Akhtar. [140582]

John Reid: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 31 May 2007.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of stabbings in each of the last three years. [143449]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for stabbings is not available because the individual circumstances of offences are not centrally collected. As a result, data on convictions for offences involving stabbings cannot be separated from cases of murder, manslaughter and assaults etc. and cannot be provided.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of knife crime in each of the last three years were suffering from mental illness. [143450]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* It is not possible to identify the number of people convicted of knife crime who were suffering from mental illness because the individual circumstances of offenders are not centrally collected.

Personation: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of *(a)* identity and *(b)* online fraud were recorded in West Lancashire in each of the last five years. [144812]

Joan Ryan: The information requested is not available centrally. The use of another person's identification details (or the use of false identification details), often referred to as identity theft, is not in itself an offence in law. It is the action that is undertaken, using those identification details, that needs to be considered in respect of whether an offence has occurred and should be recorded.

With regard to online fraud, this is not a separately defined offence in law and such instances will be recorded under the appropriate fraud classification depending on the circumstances of the offence.

Police: Boats

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police boats were being operated by each police authority in each of the last five years. [143931]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected by the Home Office in respect of police forces in England and Wales.

Police: Bridgend

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers were based in Bridgend constituency in each of the last 10 years. [144292]

Mr. McNulty: The available data are for the Bridgend Basic Command Unit (BCU) and are given in the following table. Data for police officers are available from 2003 onwards, and for police community support officers from 2005 onwards.

Police officer strength (FTE)[1] for Bridgend Basic Command Unit, as at 31 March 2003 to 31 March 2006[2]

	As at 31 March each year			
	2003	2004	2005	2006
Bridgend	254	280	247	229

[1] This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

Police community support officer strength (FTE)[1] for Bridgend Basic Command Unit, as at 30 June 2005 to 30 June 2006[2]

	As at 30 June each year	
	2005	2006
Bridgend	16	15

[1]. This table contains full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2]. This collection was undertaken by the Home Office Police Productivity Unit and does not form part of the "Police Service Strength" statistical series.

Police: Gender

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research his Department has undertaken to compare the effects of mixed gender and single gender frontline policing in local communities. [144070]

Mr. McNulty: Home Office research programme on policing has not included any research to compare the effects of mixed gender frontline policing in local communities and single gender frontline policing. The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has operational responsibility in this area and I am advised by the NPIA that they currently have no plans to carry out research into effects of mixed gender and single gender frontline policing.

Police: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police response vehicles were in road accidents while on operational duty in each of the last five years; how many injuries were sustained by *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers in such accidents; and if he will make a statement. [143251]

Mr. McNulty: The available data refer to all vehicles being used for a police purpose and to all police personnel, not separately to police officers and police community support officers. They cover the period from 2002-03. The information is given in the following tables.

Number of road traffic collisions on public roads involving police vehicles, from 2002-03 to 2005-06: England and Wales

	Number of accidents
2002-03[1]	18,644
2003-04	20,511
2004-05[2]	19,046
2005-06	19,280

[1] Data not available for Durham and West Midlands.
[2] Data not available for Cleveland, Leicestershire and South Wales.

Number of police personnel casualties resulting from those road traffic accidents during immediate/emergency response, from 2002-03 to 2005-06, England and Wales

	Fatal injury	Serious injury	Other injury
2002-03[1]	2	33	568
2003-04	1	38	765
2004-05[2]	0	25	781
2005-06[3]	3	28	828

[1] Data not available for Durham, Metropolitan police (other injury only), North Yorkshire and West Midlands.
[2] Data not available for Dorset and Leicestershire.
[3] Data not available for Nottinghamshire.

Police: Pay

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the ranges of pay are for all ranks in the police force. [144170]

Mr. McNulty: This information is available in 'the Determinations of the Secretary of State under the Police Regulations 2003' Annex F. This information is too large to be included in the *Official Report*, but I will arrange for a copy of the document to be placed in the House of Commons Library shortly. It can also be found in Home Office circular 014/2007 on the Home Office website under:

http://www.knowledgenetwork.gov.uk/HO/circular.nsfA/iewTemplatepercent20Forpercent20HOCircularsWeb?OpenForm&Start=1&Count=30&Expand=1&Seq=1

Police: Protective Clothing

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of police officers are provided with stab-proof vests while on duty in *(a)* the United Kingdom and *(b)* the South West. [143195]

Mr. McNulty: Decisions about the selection, purchase and issue of body armour are matters for individual chief officers of police.

Police: Uniforms

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* guidance he has issued to police authorities and *(b)* recent discussions he has held with police staff associations on police uniforms style; and if he will make a statement. [143249]

Mr. McNulty: The design of police uniforms is a matter for individual chief constables and their police authorities. A national advisory specification has been provided to forces by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), who have met with police staff associations to discuss this issue.

Police: Weapons

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what non-lethal weaponry is in development for use by the police. [143753]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch (HOSDB) completed a comprehensive survey of less lethal technologies in 2001. That survey, and the work that followed, resulted in the introduction of conducted energy devices to

England and Wales in the form of the Taser M26 in 2003 and the Taser X26 in 2005. Kinetic energy devices were introduced to the United Kingdom in the form of the L21A1 baton round system in 2002. The L21A1 system was replaced by the L60A1 Attenuating Energy Projectile system in 2005.

HOSDB has since been tasked with assessing promising commercial off-the-shelf products against the Association of Chief Police Officers' operational requirement as they become available. Additionally the UK Steering Group on Alternative Policing Approaches Towards the Management of Conflict has put in place a programme to develop a Discriminating Irritant Projectile (DIP) that will provide police with a round that will produce a discriminating cloud of irritant at distances of up to 40 metres.

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what newly-developed non-lethal weapons have been supplied to police officers in the last five years. [143754]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch completed a comprehensive survey of less lethal technologies in 2001. That survey, and the work that followed, resulted in the introduction in England and Wales of conducted energy devices (CED) in the form of the Taser M26 in 2003 and the Taser X26 in 2005. Kinetic energy (KE) devices in the form of the L21A1 baton round system were introduced in the United Kingdom in 2002 in support to firearms. The L60A1 Attenuating Energy Projectile system replaced the L21A1 system in 2005 as part of a cross government development programme to identify a less potentially lethal alternative to the baton round. Water cannon were made available to the Police Service of Northern Ireland in 2004. CS spray was approved for use by the Police Service in Northern Ireland in 2003, having previously been introduced in England and Wales in 1997.

Proceeds of Crime: Wales

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the South Wales police authority recovered under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each year since its introduction. [144310]

Mr. Coaker: The total value of confiscation orders and cash forfeiture orders obtained by South Wales police in each of the last four years under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and earlier legislation is as follows:

	£
2003-04	75,637
2004-05	400,577
2005-06	5,167,828
2006-07	2,392,216

These include cases involving Regional Asset Recovery Teams. Confiscation orders are enforced by the magistrates courts.

Serious and Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police support staff have been reassigned to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency since its creation, broken down by the region and branch from which they were reassigned. [141919]

Mr. Coaker: Prior to the launch of SOCA, police officers who were seconded into National Crime Squad (NCS) and National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) were given the opportunity to become directly employed by the NCS. Most of the police officers took this opportunity. On 1 April 2006 1,104 police officers and 760 non-police staff transferred into SOCA from National Crime Squad as permanent staff. A further 72 police officers retained their secondment status on transfer. Seconded police officers will return to their home force on completion of their period of secondment. No police officers or support staff transferred onto SOCA's staff directly from a police force. Since April 2006 no police officers have been reassigned to SOCA.

SOCA's functions are set out in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. They are to prevent and detect serious organised crime, to contribute to its reduction in other ways and the mitigation of its consequences. All SOCA officers in the UK and overseas are deployed in support of these functions.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* support staff (i) the Sussex branch and (ii) other UK operational regions of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has at its disposal. [141920]

Mr. Coaker: As reported in SOCA's 2006-07 annual report, at the year end actual employment was at approximately 4,400 full-time equivalent staff. These represented a mix of staff from precursor agencies (NCIS, NCS, IND and HMRC), Government Departments, secondees and some new recruits.

SOCA's functions are set out in the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005. They are to prevent and detect serious organised crime, to contribute to its reduction in other ways and the mitigation of its consequences. All SOCA officers in the UK and overseas are deployed in support of these functions.

SOCA is not a police force. Its officers may be designated by the Director General with the powers of a Constable and/or Immigration Officer and/or Customs Officer dependent on operational need and on the basis of the capability, suitability and training of the individual officer. On 1 April 2006, 1,821 SOCA Officers were designated with the power of arrest.

Sexual Offences

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted on charges relating to having sexual intercourse with an underage person in each police force in (i) England and (ii) Wales in each of the last three years; what percentage of these cases resulted in a custodial sentence; and what the average length of the prison term was. [132152]

Mr. Coaker: The number of people *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of charges related to having sexual intercourse with an underage person can be viewed in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court, found guilty at all courts, the percentage of defendants given immediate custody, and the average sentence length given to defendants sentenced at all courts for offences relating to various sexual offences with persons under the age of 16 years old by police force area in England and Wales, 2003 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Prosecuted			Found guilty		
Force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	166	115	108	70	76	47
Bedfordshire	34	54	60	28	25	28
Cambridgeshire	50	58	58	24	35	34
Cheshire	88	79	79	42	48	44
City of London	—	—	2	—	—	1
Cleveland	42	41	49	23	35	26
Cumbria	39	50	40	30	27	25
Derbyshire	104	99	113	57	69	48
Devon and Cornwall	65	68	74	64	79	78
Dorset	37	38	42	27	13	27
Durham	69	65	74	41	47	40
Essex	84	96	65	42	48	46
Gloucestershire	38	39	40	23	15	22
Greater Manchester	301	268	257	172	144	166
Hampshire	205	205	149	98	104	86
Hertfordshire	64	87	69	31	48	30
Humberside	78	85	76	49	55	54
Kent	104	102	80	76	57	71
Lancashire	149	171	165	82	103	82
Leicestershire	84	97	88	52	59	48
Lincolnshire	51	86	64	29	38	32
Merseyside	89	107	73	58	75	53
Metropolitan Police	540	442	462	219	217	176
Norfolk	38	53	54	37	36	45
North Yorkshire	52	52	44	33	42	26
Northamptonshire	47	43	36	37	39	26
Northumbria	128	101	96	78	75	56
Nottinghamshire	120	146	111	59	73	63
South Yorkshire	98	97	96	78	77	72
Staffordshire	127	121	91	63	67	51
Suffolk	51	47	58	24	30	41
Surrey	59	40	63	26	29	16
Sussex	103	82	94	56	46	41
Thames Valley	109	103	138	58	61	60
Warwickshire	29	28	35	22	19	21
West Mercia	97	112	120	65	74	80
West Midlands	339	330	224	168	188	137
West Yorkshire	226	234	188	103	160	130
Wiltshire	52	51	53	37	37	19
England	4,156	4,092	3,788	2,281	2,470	2,148
Dyfed-Powys	34	53	29	19	20	24
Gwent	66	85	86	38	47	37
North Wales	50	74	58	29	25	25
South Wales	129	151	84	68	68	50
Wales	279	363	257	154	160	136
England and Wales	4,435	4,455	4,045	2,435	2,630	2,284

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court, found guilty at all courts, the percentage of defendants given immediate custody, and the average sentence length given to defendants sentenced at all courts for offences relating to various sexual offences with persons under the age of 16 years old by police force area in England and Wales, 2003 to 2005[1,2,3,4]

	Immediate Custody[5] (percentage)			Average sentence length (months)[5]		
Force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	66	69	65	38.9	48.8	35.7
Bedfordshire	79	89	68	32.5	41.7	40.7
Cambridgeshire	64	74	65	31	29.9	37.6
Cheshire	68	64	68	40.7	52.1	49.8
City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	77	66	72	55.7	47	59.3
Cumbria	79	78	57	32.5	34	42.3
Derbyshire	67	68	63	43.2	35.9	42.6
Devon and Cornwall	56	78	65	55.3	37.8	41.3
Dorset	70	69	78	43.7	37.6	29
Durham	50	55	55	28.4	35.5	43.7
Essex	74	65	73	33.6	37	30.7
Gloucestershire	70	63	65	40.9	43.7	25.3
Greater Manchester	62	56	66	39.3	38	38.1
Hampshire	64	64	67	32.6	36	48.2
Hertfordshire	87	69	87	45.6	30.1	45.1
Humberside	63	65	68	34.6	39.8	41.8
Kent	70	72	71	33.6	37.8	42.2
Lancashire	78	71	73	31.1	38.8	50.4
Leicestershire	63	57	61	50.8	45	38.5
Lincolnshire	45	59	69	44.4	38.2	46.7
Merseyside	61	78	76	35.7	43.9	55.2
Metropolitan Police	72	72	74	43.5	46.1	44.1
Norfolk	86	81	77	40.8	31.4	34.1
North Yorkshire	56	74	81	33.2	48.3	51.1
Northamptonshire	84	73	77	44.8	49.2	41.9
Northumbria	50	56	63	48.8	42.5	35
Nottinghamshire	67	58	61	43	39.4	46.1
South Yorkshire	62	74	60	46.3	45.1	61.1
Staffordshire	73	51	55	41.5	35.2	44.2
Suffolk	74	71	67	48.1	35	38.8
Surrey	52	52	63	26.1	20.8	28.5
Sussex	75	78	73	44.4	51.3	41.8
Thames Valley	66	68	69	42.4	41.6	45.8
Warwickshire	54	44	82	39	41	48.2
West Mercia	65	60	61	34.2	27.7	25.6
West Midlands	56	52	64	38.8	39.4	51.4

Force	Immediate Custody[3] (percentage) 2003	2004	2005	Average sentence length (months)[5] 2003	2004	2005
West Yorkshire	49	63	63	34.3	44.8	43.8
Wiltshire	60	64	72	42.8	49.7	22.8
England	65	65	67	39.9	40.5	42.9
Dyfed-Powys	50	65	74	31.6	57.8	39.9
Gwent	62	60	72	51.7	42.6	32.1
North Wales	48	73	68	38.6	39.3	37.2
South Wales	75	70	60	41.3	56	43
Wales	64	67	67	94.3	118.4	104.1
England and Wales	65	65	67	40.1	41.2	42.7

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes data from the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which came into force on 1 May 2003.
[4] Data includes those offences where there has been unlawful sexual intercourse and the age of the victim has been specified as being under 16 years of age in the offence description.
[5] Care should be taken when using the immediate custody and average sentence length data, as in a number of instances force data is based on less than 100 cases. Immediate custody data includes those offenders given life sentences etc. (and may include indeterminate sentences). Average sentence length (months) does not include life sentences and indeterminate sentence lengths.
Source:
RDS—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment his Department has made of the sources of funding for extremist imams in the UK; and which countries have been identified as sources of funding. [142123]

Mr. McNulty: The Home Office has made no assessment about the sources of funding for extremist imams in the UK. However, the Government are undertaking a range of measures to tackle violent extremism, which includes strengthening the role of faith institutions and leaders, further details of which can found in the Communities and Local Government publication 'Preventing Violent Extremism' (http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1506079) and a public consultation, run by the Home Office and HM Treasury, on how charitable organisations can best be safeguarded from exploitation (http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/Charities_consultation.pdf?view=Binary).

Valuation Office Agency: Surveillance

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner has provided to the Valuation Office Agency on the practice of inspections and surveillance for valuation purposes. [141809]

Mr. McNulty: The Office of Surveillance Commissioners has not given the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) any advice or guidance, nor been asked to, in relation to conduct undertaken by the agency for the purpose of valuing properties for council tax. The Agency does not carry out surveillance of individuals and does not operate covertly, and its officers always identify themselves as VOA officers when carrying out their duties.

Warehouse Parties

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans he has to tackle illegal rave activity. [144023]

Mr. Coaker: The Government and the police are clear that illegal rave activity is not acceptable and are committed to tackling the disorder and antisocial behaviour associated with raves which intimidates and alienates local communities.

The police are equipped with a range of powers to deal with raves. Section 63 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 allows police to direct rave goers to leave an event. Following reports of problems with raves in buildings such as barns, the police were given powers in the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 to direct participants at indoor raves to leave buildings where trespass is involved, and to include events of 20 or more people. The Government have also made it a criminal offence for a person on whom a direction under section 63 has been served to attend any rave within 24 hours of the direction being given.

Work Permits: Doctors

Mr. Clegg: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation was carried out with the NHS and its associated bodies prior to the implementation of the new immigration rules on how the rules would affect foreign national doctors employed by the NHS. [122182]

John Reid: On 7 November, the Government announced changes to the Highly Skilled Migrant programme (HSMP). These changes included the removal of a GP Priority category, which awarded points to GPs registered with the General Medical Council, on the strength that the increase in funding for doctors' training has increased the number of qualified GPs available, removing the need for special arrangements to attract GPs from abroad.

The removal of the GPs provision was agreed with the Department of Health and cleared across Government.

It is not the Government's intention to disqualify highly-skilled applicants with medical qualifications, who could still qualify under the new HSMP criteria.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Carbon Dioxide Reduction

11. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the carbon price necessary to achieve the Government's carbon dioxide reduction objectives. [144194]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not set or seek a particular price for carbon allowances under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. As it is a Market Mechanism the Government believe it is the role of the market to establish the carbon price. The Government's role is to ensure sufficient scarcity in the market and its proper functioning.

Biomass Industry

20. **Malcolm Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on Government support for the biomass industry in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [144204]

Ian Pearson: I have regular contact with ministerial colleagues on a range of biomass issues. The Energy White Paper and the UK Biomass Strategy set out the Government's commitment to increasing the use of biomass and the support needed to achieve our goals.

GM and Non-GM Crops

21. **John Penrose:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to modify the minimum separation distances between GM and non-GM crops. [144205]

Ian Pearson: We are still considering the responses to the proposed coexistence separation distances we set out for consultation last year.

Recycling Advice

22. **Ms Butler:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assistance his Department provides to businesses to improve their management of waste, with particular reference to recycling. [144206]

Mr. Bradshaw: DEFRA's Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme is returning £284 million of landfill tax receipts to businesses, over the three years to March 2008, through targeted waste projects designed to help them increase recycling, minimise waste and improve resource efficiency. The Waste and Resources Action Programme is helping businesses in a range of sectors to recycle more and landfill less.

Abandoned Vehicles

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abandoned cars were recorded in *(a)* Suffolk, *(b)* Bedfordshire, *(c)* Cambridgeshire, *(d)* Essex, *(e)* Hertfordshire, *(f)* Norfolk and *(g)* England in each year since 1997. [143927]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data on the number of abandoned vehicles both removed and destroyed by local authorities or their agents are shown in the following table.

Numbers of abandoned vehicles (thousands)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
(a) Suffolk	2.5	4.3	4.8	3.2	3.3	2.0
(b) Bedfordshire	4.4	8.8	9.1	7.3	3.4	2.4
(c) Cambridgeshire	3.2	5.1	5.4	4.9	2.8	2.7
(d) Essex	12.0	14.2	14.0	10.5	5.4	3.9
(e) Hertfordshire	7.0	7.6	9.1	7.3	3.1	2.0
(f) Norfolk	1.4	2.3	2.5	2.1	1.7	1.3
England	223.5	284.4	291.7	221.1	150.2	126.1

Results, which include estimated values for authorities not responding, are available for each year from 2000-01 to 2005-06. Prior to 2000-01, this information was not collected by this Department.

Results are recorded collectively from district councils within each county council area. Results from the four unitary authorities have been included with their county of original origin, hence: Luton DA with Bedfordshire, Peterborough UA with Cambridgeshire and Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock UAs with Essex.

Source:

DEFRA municipal waste statistics.

Agricultural Products: Prices

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average retail price was of *(a)* apples, *(b)* beef, *(c)* cabbages, *(d)* carrots, *(e)* chicken, *(f)* eggs, *(g)* lamb, *(h)* onions, *(i)* pork, *(j)* potatoes, *(k)* tomatoes, *(l)* wheat and *(m)* milk in each year since 1995. [144241]

Barry Gardiner: The retail prices from 1995 up to 2006 for the listed commodities are shown in the following table:

Commodity		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Apples - cooking	p per kg	91	111	120	127	104	107	118	117	148	150	144	144
Apples - dessert	p per kg	100	112	112	105	103	108	116	121	127	125	118	122
Beef — home-killed topside	p per kg	—	543	628	610	637	625	641	660	660	688	663	721
Cabbage hearts	p per kg	70	77	66	66	58	55	67	66	61	60	57	56
Carrots	p per kg	54	56	47	54	49	45	61	55	53	57	64	65
Chicken—fresh/chille	p per kg	—	182	236	226	220	223	227	224	228	232	230	224
Eggs - size 2- (65-70g)	p per dozen	138	158	159	152	161	168	172	172	168	169	171	181

Commodity		1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Eggs -size 4 (55-60g)	p per dozen	119	136	138	131	138	138	152	152	154	155	155	165
Lamb—home-killed shoulder inc bone	p per kg	—	343	371	317	323	340	354	379	426	424	402	423
Lamb—home-killed loin (with bone)	p per kg	—	757	864	792	835	855	893	971	1010	1025	986	1069
Onions	p per kg	76	59	56	65	52	56	65	69	62	62	66	61
Pork—home-killed loin (with bone)	p per kg	—	439	496	436	422	446	455	479	481	506	502	518
Pork—home-killed boneless shoulder	p per kg	—	—	341	286	280	307	336	336	333	341	328	334
Potatoes - old white	p per kg	37	30	35	52	42	32	63	57	52	60	45	48
Potatoes - new loose	p per kg	60	56	54	77	71	70	87	87	89	96	84	80
Tomatoes	p per kg	114	129	117	123	124	150	125	140	149	129	142	132
Flour - self raising	p per kg	38	39	40	41	41	40	40	40	41	45	43	44
Milk - Pasteurised	p per litre	64	63	62	60	60	60	64	64	64	62	61	61

Source: Office of National Statistics, consumer price indices, RPI average retail price of selected items

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of single farm payment scheme claims have been paid for *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 (i) in part and (ii) in full in (A) North West Cambridgeshire, (B) the East of England and (C) England and Wales. [143511]

Barry Gardiner: In England, as of 13 June 2007, 20 claimants have not received a payment for the 2005 Single Payment Scheme (SPS).

As of 13 June 2007, 105,415 farmers have received either a full or partial payment under the 2006 SPS year. This total includes 101,890 full and 3,525 partial payments, representing 96.7 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

RPA's target is to pay 96.14 per cent. of the total value of the fund by 30 June 2007.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the SPS is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

The National Assembly for Wales is responsible for administering the SPS in Wales.

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of farmers are yet to receive their full single payment scheme payment for *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 in (i) the UK, (ii) the South West and (iii) Cornwall. [144230]

Barry Gardiner: In England, as of 13 June 2007, 20 claimants have not received a payment for the 2005 single payment scheme (SPS).

As of 13 June 2007, 105,415 of farmers have received either a full or partial payment under the 2006 SPS year. This total includes 101,890 full and 3,525 partial payments, representing 96.7 per cent. of the estimated total claimant population of 109,000.

RPA's target is to pay 96.14 per cent. of the total value of the fund by 30 June 2007.

Detailed analysis of all the payments made under the SPS is not yet available. Once the remaining scheme payments have been completed, a decision will be taken on the level of detail that will be published.

Carbon Dioxide: Environment Protection

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likelihood of reaching the target of a 60 per cent. carbon dioxide reduction by 2020. [144242]

Ian Pearson: The measures in the Energy White Paper, and those they build on, are expected to achieve a reduction of up to 26 per cent. in carbon dioxide over 1990 levels by 2020. This would put us on track to achieve real progress towards our goal of reducing carbon emissions by at least 60 per cent. by 2050.

Carbon Sequestration

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the development in the UK of technology for carbon capture and storage. [144188]

Ian Pearson: I regularly meet my Cabinet colleague to discuss a wide range of energy and environmental issues—including carbon capture and storage, where DTI and DEFRA both have a strong interest.

Carbon Trading Allowances

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce personal carbon trading allowances. [144195]

David Miliband: The Government are looking at the feasibility of personal carbon trading allowances and a range of other long-term options to help individuals feel more informed and involved in tackling climate change.

Commercial Whaling

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department made at the recent conference of the International Whaling Commission on the moratorium on commercial whaling. [144203]

Barry Gardiner: Since the UK and the anti-whaling bloc had a simple majority at this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), we were able to sponsor and secure a resolution reaffirming the continued need for the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. This resolution subsequently served us well in the conference of parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, enabling us to defeat proposals aimed at eventually allowing trade in whale products to take place.

Consumption: Sustainable Development

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the development of a national sustainable consumption programme. [144250]

Ian Pearson: Action to promote more sustainable consumption by citizens is being taken forward under a range of policies, including the recent Energy White Paper and the Waste Strategy.

In addition, to help develop policies further in future, DEFRA has been working on an environmental behaviour change framework, applying a social marketing approach to major areas of consumption. This work has included workshops organised by Green Alliance and a Stakeholder Forum covering 100 stakeholders from the public sector, business, NGOs, academia and marketing. The outputs from these discussions and further consumer research will help us to further develop this work later this year.

DEFRA has launched an online calculator that enables people to work out their carbon footprint. The calculator is part of DEFRA's Act on CO2 campaign which aims to make people aware of the link between their own everyday behaviour—including the consumption and use of products—and climate change.

Departments: Epilepsy

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people with epilepsy are employed by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [139107]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA does not hold data on the number of employees with epilepsy. DEFRA requests staff to declare types of impairment on a disability declaration but does not keep data of specific conditions.

DEFRA has a Disability Factsheet Series that is available to all staff. One of these factsheets is a specific guide to epilepsy. The guide includes suggestions of what to discuss with a member of staff who has declared the condition and also the types of reasonable adjustments that may be made for individuals. It includes information of the causes and features of the condition as well as advice on what to do if someone has a seizure.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff funded by the public purse in the Rural Payments Agency are classified as people without posts. [141648]

Barry Gardiner: No staff in the Rural Payments Agency are classified as people without posts.

Departments: Public Participation

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of his Department's administration costs was spent on running public consultations in 2006-07; [142738]

(2) how many civil servants in his Department worked on public consultations in the 2006-07 financial year; [142739]

(3) how many public consultations his Department has undertaken since its institution. [142740]

Barry Gardiner: Since its institution in June 2001 until December 2006, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has undertaken 581 public consultations.

The breakdown, per year, is as follows:

June 2001-December 2001	50
January 2002-December 2002	91
January 2003-December 2003	112
January 2004-December 2004	120
January 2005-December 2005	100
January 2006-December 2006	108

Each consultation is worked on by policy staff from the Department but information is not held about the proportion of the Department's administration costs that are spent on running public consultations.

Similarly, information is not held centrally about the number of civil servants in the Department who worked on public consultations in the last financial year. This information could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's employee surveys for *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [142029]

Barry Gardiner: Staff surveys are valuable tools used by Departments to help them improve performance. The results of the 2005 DEFRA survey are available on the civil service website at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/news/staff_survey/index.asp

DEFRA's approach has been to undertake a full staff survey every 18 months. As such, the most recent

published results are for 2005. A new staff survey is planned for June 2007 and these results will be published on the civil service website once the full analysis of data has taken place.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139908]

Barry Gardiner: DEFRA came into being in June 2001. From information held centrally, the amount (including VAT) paid by core DEFRA in travel agencies' fees in each financial year commencing with 2001-02 is shown in the following table.

	£
2001-02	28,256.40
2002-03	49,601.45
2003-04	73,477.45
2004-05	84,238.10
2005-06	133,132.20
2006-07 (April-December 2006)	144,172.50

Expenditure on travel agencies' fees by DEFRA's Executive agencies is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dog Breeders: Regulation

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the monitoring and regulation of dog breeders by local authorities. [144202]

Mr. Bradshaw: Discussions between the Departments in 2005 concluded it was better to see how the Kennel Club's Accredited Breeder scheme progressed before reviewing the existing regulations on dog breeding.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has commissioned or undertaken into the average costs of (i) alternate weekly collection and (ii) weekly collection of household rubbish. [143492]

Mr. Bradshaw: A Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) research project is currently in progress, entitled "Cost and Performance—Collection Systems". Phase 1 is analysing the cost models used by a number of consultants active in the municipal waste management sector, with the aim of comparing and estimating the costs of a number of common waste collection systems, including alternate week collection. Phase 2 will involve a detailed appraisal of the costs and performance of the more common kerbside recycling and collection systems, again including alternate week collection. A full report will be available later this year.

DEFRA and WRAP have also funded work to appraise different waste collection options for particular local authorities, in some cases looking at alternate week collection, following requests from these authorities.

EU Inspire Directive

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the timetable is for the implementation of the EU INSPIRE Directive. [143486]

Ian Pearson: European Parliament Directive 2007/2/EC, establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (INSPIRE), came into force on 15 May 2007. Member states have two years to transpose it into national legislation.

A series of technical implementing rules will accompany the directive. These are currently being developed by several drafting teams under the auspices of the European Commission. They include Implementing Rules on the interoperability and, where practicable, harmonisation of spatial data sets.

The Implementing Rules will be subject to expert and public review. DEFRA and other Government organisations are participating in this process. In addition, as part of the process for developing the interoperability implementing rules, the Commission (with input from member states) will undertake analyses to ensure that the rules are feasible and proportionate in terms of their likely costs and benefits. They will be adopted between 2008 and 2012 and come into force between 2010 and 2019.

On 16 May 2007, the Commission published an INSPIRE Work Programme for development of the Implementing Rules during the transposition phase. This contained a roadmap for the development and implementation of the Implementation Rules.

The Implementing Rules will be adopted through the Comitology procedure. The first meeting of the INSPIRE Committee will be on 26 June 2007.

Fisheries: Bankruptcy

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what proportion of fishermen were declared bankrupt in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1979. [144237]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department does not hold the information requested. Although data on the number of individuals filing for bankruptcy are collected, these are not at a sufficient level of detail to allow for numbers of fishermen to be identified.

Fisheries: National Income

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the gross value added (GVA) and proportion of total GVA of fishing in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* the UK was in each year since 1979. [144234]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department does not hold the information requested.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what arrangements he has made to deal with liability in the event that BASF's genetically modified potato trials cause damage to the local economies, environment or health. [142666]

Ian Pearson: No specific arrangements have been made. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) is satisfied that the trials will not have any adverse effect on human health or the environment. It is also difficult to see how the trials might unreasonably prejudice local economies. A concern has been raised about a possible indirect impact on growers of borage and this is being considered by BASF.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Standards

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evidence he considered before agreeing to the 0.9 per cent. threshold for genetically modified organisms in the new organic standards adopted on 12 June 2007. [143957]

Ian Pearson: We share the view of the Commission and most other member states, that it would be too difficult and costly for organic producers to apply a GM threshold significantly lower than 0.9 per cent. It would imply, for example, that the organic supply chain would need to undertake widespread testing where products were liable to have an unintended GM presence. Such testing is expensive and time-consuming. During discussions, organic stakeholder groups indicated that they did not favour including a threshold below 0.9 per cent. in the EU organic production regulation.

Land: Contamination

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department last assessed the available technologies for cleaning up contaminated land. [144436]

Mr. Bradshaw: The choice of technologies for the remediation of land contamination is a matter for those responsible for taking action at a particular site. My Department has helped fund the Contaminated Land: Applications in Real Environments (CL:AIRE) organisation, which provides independent reports on trials of individual technologies in this field.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has targets for making good contaminated land. [144437]

Mr. Bradshaw: My Department has not set targets for the remediation of contaminated land.

In April 2000, part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 created a new framework for the identification and remediation of contaminated land in England, in circumstances where there has not been any identifiable breach of a current pollution prevention regime.

The framework places a duty on local authorities in England to identify contaminated land in their area, and to ensure that the appropriate remedial action is taken. Where land has been identified as 'contaminated land', the local authority will seek the person who caused or knowingly permitted the presence of the substances causing the problem to carry out any necessary remedial works. Where this person cannot be found, for example because a company is no longer in existence, the landowner may be the appropriate person, subject to detailed rules in the Act and the accompanying guidance (DEFRA Circular 01/2006).

The regime allows for voluntary remediation, and also for the authority to carry out remediation on behalf of those considered liable, allowing the authority to recover the cost. As a last resort, the authority can serve a remediation notice requiring work to be done, subject to the usual right of appeal. The regime also recognises that remediation can also be secured through the planning system in appropriate cases.

Low Carbon Building Programme

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues from the Department of Trade and Industry on the environmental consequences of changes to the Low Carbon Building programme. [144197]

David Miliband: I regularly meet my Cabinet colleagues to discuss policies, including microgeneration technologies and the renewables market, where DTI and DEFRA both have a key role to play in their successful delivery.

Nature Conservation: Severn Estuary

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the merits of designating the Severn estuary as a special area of conservation; and if he will make a statement. [142304]

Barry Gardiner: I am currently considering a proposal from our statutory conservation advisers to notify the Severn estuary to the European Commission as a candidate special area of conservation and hope to be able to make a statement on this soon.

Nuclear Power: Japan

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the joint UK-Japan workshop on achieving a sustainable low-carbon society held from 13 to 15 June included discussion of nuclear power co-operation and development. [143940]

Ian Pearson: Discussions took place on the scale of investment needed for the deployment of cleaner

technologies and on the mechanisms that can mobilise investment. There was no specific discussion on nuclear power co-operation and development.

Packaging: Wastes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what measurements were taken of the amount of packaging waste produced by each of the signatories to the Courtauld Commitment when the Commitment was signed in July 2005; [144353]

(2) what measurements will be used to assess reductions in packaging waste in relation to the Courtauld Commitment. [144354]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each of the signatories to the Courtauld Commitment is an obligated company for the purposes of the Packaging Regulations and declares their total packaging use each year to the relevant regulators.

The Courtauld Commitment objectives relate to primary packaging taken home by consumers. When I met the signatories last November, I asked them to agree a protocol with the Waste and Resources Action Programme for reporting progress in a consistent and transparent way. A draft protocol is currently being consulted on, with a view to it being agreed and implemented in this reporting year.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent by the Government on research and development on deep geological disposal of radioactive waste since (i) the end of the NIREX Inquiry in April 1997 and (ii) November 2006. [143774]

Ian Pearson: The Government spent about £0.5 million on research and development (R&D) on deep geological disposal of radioactive waste between April 1997 and November 2006. We have not spent on R&D in this area since then. However, the main expenditure on deep geological disposal R&D during these periods has been by United Kingdom Nirex Limited (Nirex). The Government owned Nirex from April 2005 until November 2006, when it became part of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). This is funded by Government through the Department of Trade and Industry and, partially, through its commercial activities. During the period of Government ownership of Nirex, the company was largely funded by the NDA, with a small additional percentage coming from the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

The following table shows the expenditure on R&D on geological disposal while Nirex was in Government ownership, and expenditure from November 2006 until end of May 2007 by the NDA following the acquisition and integration of Nirex into the NDA. Prior to April 2005, Nirex R&D activities were funded by its nuclear industry shareholders and the MOD.

From	*Until*	*Approximate expenditure (£ million)*
1 April 2005	31 March 2006	12
1 April 2006	end October 2006	7
November 2006	end March 2007	9
April 2007	end May 2007	2

Recycling: Standards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress he has made on amending the performance indicator applicable to local councils in respect of recycling levels to reflect performance in terms of waste minimisation. [141320]

Mr. Bradshaw: The recently published Waste Strategy 2007 put forward a range of measures to reduce waste arisings and build on recent improvements in recycling. A greater focus on waste prevention has been recognised through a new target to reduce the amount of household waste not re-used, recycled or composted, from over 22.2 million tonnes in 2000 by 29 per cent. to 15.8 million tonnes in 2010, with an aspiration to reduce it to 12.2 million tonnes in 2020—a reduction of 45 per cent. This is equivalent to a fall of 50 per cent. per person (from 450 kg per person in 2000 to 225 kg in 2020).

Waste minimisation is not directly measured by any of the Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI). However, it is reflected in BVPI 84a, which measures kilograms of household waste collected per head of population. In addition, household waste sent for reuse, including items such as furniture delivered to civic amenity sites, would be excluded from the calculation of BVPI 82.

In October 2006, the Government published the local government White Paper, "Strong and Prosperous Communities". This set out a new vision for delivering better public services through a rebalancing of the relationship between central Government, local government and local people. Local public service providers will be given more freedom to bring about the changes they want to see. The White Paper sets out a radical simplification of the local authority performance framework including fewer indicators and centrally set targets. This means that 2007-08 will be the final year of best value indicators and targets.

Indicators in the new framework will reflect national outcomes, to be agreed later this year in the comprehensive spending review 2007, which will be delivered through local area agreements. The future framework will enable local authorities to contribute to an overall waste outcome that leads us towards more sustainable management of waste in England, focused on minimising the amounts of municipal waste produced and landfilled.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made on the development of a renewable energy and efficiency partnership. [144251]

Ian Pearson: The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) was established in 2003 in response to the world summit on sustainable development. REEEP has been recognised by the G8 in the outcomes of Gleneagles, St Petersburg and Heiligendamm as a key delivery vehicle for accelerating the uptake of renewables and energy efficiency in developing countries.

REEEP has over 200 partners, including over 35 governments and a global network of eight secretariats based in leading energy organisations around the world. It has also developed strong links with the private sector, academia and international bodies such as the World Bank, UN agencies and the International Energy Agency.

DEFRA provides funding to REEEP of £2.5 million each year for 2005-08. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provided funding of £1 million each year for 2004-06. Several Governments, notably the US, Australia, a number of EU states and Norway now also provide funding.

REEEP is well positioned to support future action on climate change and is already beginning to scale up and replicate its successful interventions. As the partnership develops it is now able to engage more strategically with key government, international bodies and the private sector in support of UK energy and climate objectives, and act as a platform for international co-operation on these issues.

Waste Disposal: Microprocessors

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action programme has issued on the use of microchips or radio frequency identity tags in domestic rubbish or recycling bins. [142255]

Mr. Bradshaw: No specific guidance on the use of microchips or radio frequency identity tags has been issued by either my Department or the Waste and Resources Action programme.

Microchips installed on wheelie bins are identification tags which allow a bin to be matched to a particular property—they do not record information on what is put into the bin. It is up to local authorities to decide whether to install the chips. Authorities that have installed microchips have used them to identify lost bins or, when used with weighing trucks, to monitor levels of waste created in different neighbourhoods and target information and education accordingly.

Waste Management

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures his Department has put in place to reduce its waste arisings; and what the quantitative impact of each measure has been. [142611]

Mr. Bradshaw: Each site within the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs has a programme of waste reduction measures appropriate to their site in order to enable them to meet the sustainable operations on the Government Estate (SOGE) targets. Performance information is continually monitored and reported quarterly and collated into a central report.

Latest performance data show that the total waste arisings for the Department have decreased by 8.12 per cent. from 5,716 tonnes in 2005-06 to 5,252 tonnes in 2006-07.

In order to further reduce waste arisings, we are about to conduct trials of other measures, which we hope will further reduce our waste output.

Water Companies: Standards

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures he is taking to ensure that water companies reduce leakages from water pipes. [144201]

Ian Pearson: Leakage targets are set, monitored and enforced by the Economic Regulator, Ofwat, which also determines the regulatory action needed when companies fail their leakage targets.

Whales: Conservation

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likelihood of securing a majority in the International Whaling Commission for a complete ban on commercial whaling; [144140]

(2) what measures to protect whales were agreed at the recent International Whaling Commission meeting. [144141]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since the UK and the anti-whaling bloc had a simple majority at this year's meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), we were able to sponsor and secure several key resolutions: calling on Japan to halt its lethal "scientific" research programme; promoting the non-lethal use of cetaceans; and reaffirming the continued need for the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling. This last resolution subsequently served us well in the Conference of Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, enabling us to defeat proposals aimed at eventually allowing trade in whale products to take place.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the internal guidance produced by the Valuation Office Agency on sending questionnaires to householders for council tax valuation purposes. [141813]

Ruth Kelly: The guidance is currently being updated to reflect feedback from customer working groups. A copy will be placed in the Library of the House when it is available.

Departments: Advertisements

Mr. Heath: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much revenue her Department received from advertisements on its *(a)* public information leaflets and *(b)* public websites in each of the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [142339]

Angela E. Smith: The Department's general policy is not to accept advertisements for public information leaflets produced by the Communications Directorate or for its main corporate website. Information on this subject covering our leaflets and the range of our websites over the last 10 years is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In the last year, no advertisements have been accepted for public information leaflets produced by the Communications Directorate or for the corporate website.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people in her Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement on her Department's policy on home working. [143889]

Angela E. Smith: At present no records are kept centrally on requests to work from home for part of the week as this is a local agreement between staff and the line manager.

Communities and Local Government supports all forms of flexible working and is currently reviewing its policy to make it clearer for staff and line managers to understand the balance between the work we need to do and the achievement of a successful work/life balance, including home working arrangements.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in her Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143906]

Angela E. Smith: For staff for whom the information requested is available, the numbers requested are:

	Male	*Female*	*Disabled*	*Aged 55 or over*
2006-07				
Temporary part-time	0	0	0	0
Temporary full-time	28	27	0	4
Permanent part-time	2	10	0	2
Permanent full-time	138	150	7	12
2005-06				
Temporary part-time	1	0	0	0
Temporary full-time	28	16	0	2
Permanent part-time	0	3	0	0
Permanent full-time	61	78	2	4
2004-05				
Temporary part-time	0	0	0	0
Temporary full-time	46	44	0	3
Permanent part-time	2	8	0	3
Permanent full-time	120	135	9	14

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of staff in her Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143907]

Angela E. Smith: At 31 May 2007 percentages of staff, for whom information is available, is as follows:

	Percentage
Male	52.9
Female	47.1
Disabled	6.5
Aged 55 years or over	11.4

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* services and *(b)* products her Department has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143800]

Angela E. Smith: Communities and Local Government has only purchased one service in the last 12 months from Remploy. This was for binding documents and cost £307.80.

Departments: Research

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list all the unpublished research commissioned from *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations outside her Department which was supplied to her Department and its predecessor in each year since 2002. [143638]

Angela E. Smith: Details of projects commissioned by Communities and Local Government research programmes are available from our Research Management Database (RMD) at http://www.rmd.communities.gov.uk.

This includes information about publications associated with individual projects. Research is also funded from non-research budgets.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average number of days per year was taken by staff in her Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143108]

Angela E. Smith: The average working days lost per staff year for four of the past five calendar years are set out in the following table. Information for the calendar year 2006 is not yet available.

	Department identity	*Average working days lost per staff year*
2005	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	5.7
2004	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	5.0
2003	Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	6.0
2002	Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions	7.7

Source:
Figures are taken from the annual series of reports "Sickness Absence in the Civil Service" published by the Cabinet Office at http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/occupational_health/publications/index.asp

Departments: Sign Language

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of providing British Sign Language (BSL) videos on her departmental website for the benefit of those whose first language is BSL. [142489]

Angela E. Smith: The Department would consider the need to provide a version of individual publications in British Sign Language on a case-by-case basis.

Derelict Land: Contamination

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of brownfield sites are on *(a)* contaminated and *(b)* recently decontaminated land in (i) England and (ii) East Anglia. [144438]

Yvette Cooper: Information on the numbers of contaminated sites is not available centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the objectives of energy performance certificates are with regard to the reduction of *(a)* carbon emissions and *(b)* fuel costs. [142777]

Yvette Cooper: Energy performance certificates will give people energy ratings and recommend measures to make improvements to the energy performance of buildings, helping them to reduce fuel bills and cut carbon emissions.

Energy Performance Certificates: EC Law

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which EU directive requires UK homes to have an energy performance certificate, and what its implementation date is. [144183]

Yvette Cooper: The directive that requires UK homes (and indeed other buildings) to have an Energy Performance Certificate is Directive 2002/91/EC on the Energy Performance of Buildings. The implementation date was January 2006. However the directive allows an additional period of up to three years to apply fully the requirements for Energy Performance Certificates where there is a shortage of trained and/or accredited assessors.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Curry: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she intends to require a single enforcing authority for fire safety in residential accommodation under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [144450]

Angela E. Smith: Premises occupied as a private dwelling are not covered by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 and so residential accommodation is not covered unless that accommodation is a workplace. Fire and rescue authorities are the enforcing authority for premises which do not fall within any of the exceptions in article 25 (b)-(e) of the 2005 Order 2005.

Fire Services: Public Appointments

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process will be used to appoint members of the Regional Fire Management Boards. [143542]

Angela E. Smith: It is for Fire and Rescue Authorities to decide the criteria by which representation and appointments will be made, subject to any statutory constraints.

The Department worked closely with the Local Government Association to establish voluntary Regional Management Boards (RMBs) in all English Regions outside London. All were constituted as joint committees under Section 102 (l)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. Under Section 15 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, a Fire and Rescue Authority's appointments to a joint committee must reflect an Authority's political balance where each constituent authority appoints three or more members to the RMB.

Home Information Packs

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the likely effect of the introduction of home information packs on the stability of the housing market. [140454]

Yvette Cooper: We published our assessment of the introduction of home information packs on 11 June 2007.

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the research which her Department or its predecessor has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* undertaken into the effect of introducing home information packs on the economy. [141928]

Yvette Cooper: Communities and Local Government commissioned Europe Economics to carry out independent research into the potential impact of introducing home information packs on the housing market. The results of the research will be published in due course.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what factors were taken into account when deciding whether to undertake a public consultation exercise in relation to the new plans to introduce home information packs on 1 August only for homes with four or more bedrooms. [143474]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Secretary of State to the House on 22 May 2007.

Housing: Armed Forces

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether service personnel may be accepted as having a local connection for the purposes of social housing if they grew up in the same area in which they served; and if she will make a statement. [133145]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the joint ministerial statement laid in the House by the Minister for Housing and Planning and my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Twigg) on 21 June 2007.

Housing: Valuation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings in England are currently assigned the value significant code of *(a)* FC and *(b)* FP in each local authority area for which figures are available. [141738]

Ruth Kelly: The VOA has not undertaken a comprehensive exercise to gather value significant coding information on all domestic dwellings in England.

Land: Databases

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will list the data sources for the National Land and Property Gazetteer database; [143464]

(2) which department or agency is responsible for the National Land and Property Gazetteer. [143472]

Angela E. Smith: The National Land and Property Gazetteer is the responsibility of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). The IDeA is owned by the Local Government Association and belongs to local government.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of implications for Government policy of the High Court judgment on the application of Shrewsbury and Atcham district council for judicial review in relation to local government re-organisation; and if she will make a statement. [144599]

Ruth Kelly: The court has granted permission for a full hearing on three of Shrewsbury and Congleton's four grounds. The court refused their application for interim relief and hence we will be continuing with our original restructuring timetable. As this matter is currently before the courts, it would not be appropriate to say more than that we believe we have acted entirely appropriately and within our powers, and will contest vigorously the remaining elements of Shrewsbury and Congleton's claim.

Rented Housing

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential lettings were marketed in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [143470]

Yvette Cooper: Information on how many residential lettings were marketed in England and Wales is not held centrally.

However the Survey of English Housing (SEH) asks private renters how long they have been in their current accommodation. In 2005-06, 960,000 of the estimated 2.5 million private renters in England had been resident for less than 12 months.

Repossession Orders: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many orders for repossession were *(a)* applied for and *(b)* granted to Eastbourne borough council in each of the last 10 years. [141888]

Vera Baird: I have been asked to reply.

The following table shows the number of orders for landlord possession applied for and granted to Eastbourne borough council for each year since 2001, the earliest year for which we have consistent data.

Number of landlord possession orders[1] applied for and granted to Eastbourne borough council, 2001-06

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Eastbourne borough council						
Applied for	39	44	84	48	66	102
Granted to	22	38	57	52	43	74
England and Wales (Thousands)						
Applied for	175	177	159	154	144	134
Granted to	116	118	107	102	97	89

[1] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

These figures do not indicate how many properties have been repossessed through the courts, since not all orders result in the properties actually being repossessed.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Transport

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of passengers travelling to and from *(a)* Stansted, *(b)* Bristol and *(c)* Manchester airport by (i) private motor vehicles, (ii) taxis, (iii) rail and (iv) coach or bus in each of the last five years. [144804]

Gillian Merron: Information on number of passengers travelling to and from UK airports by each mode of surface transport is published in table 9 of the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) "Passenger Survey Report". Reports for each of the last five years can be found on the CAA website:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=81&pagetype=90&pageid=7640

Stansted and Manchester were surveyed in each of the last five years. Bristol airport was surveyed in 2003 only.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of passengers travelling to and from *(a)* Newcastle, *(b)* Bristol, *(c)* Gatwick, *(d)* Luton, *(e)* Birmingham, *(f)* Cardiff and *(g)* Leeds/Bradford airport by (i) private motor vehicle, (ii) taxi, (iii) rail and (iv) coach and bus in each of the last five years. [144828]

Gillian Merron: Information on number of passengers travelling to and from UK airports by each mode of surface transport is published in table 9 of the Civil Aviation Authority's (CAA) "Passenger Survey Report". Reports for each of the last five years can be found on the CAA website:

http://www.caa.co.uk/default.aspx?catid=81&pagetype=90&pageid=7640.

Gatwick and Luton were surveyed in each of the last five years; Bristol, Birmingham and Cardiff were surveyed in 2003 only; Newcastle and Leeds/Bradford were surveyed in 2005 only.

Aviation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many airports *(a)* which have runway development plans approved in the Future of Air Transport White Paper and *(b)* where land is safeguarded for future development have implemented voluntary plans to tackle generalised blight; [144826]

(2) which of the airports *(a)* which have runway development plans approved in the Future of Air Transport White Paper and *(b)* where land is safeguarded for future development have implemented voluntary schemes to address general blight. [144834]

Gillian Merron: "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper invited airport operators to bring forward voluntary schemes to address generalised blight where new runways are supported by the White Paper or where land is safeguarded for future development. The Government published a progress report in December 2006, reaffirming their commitment to the strategy set out in the White Paper. BAA has implemented voluntary blight schemes at Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick, Edinburgh and Glasgow airports. Schemes have also been introduced by the operators of Birmingham and Luton airports.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK airports have safeguarded land for future development. [144835]

Gillian Merron: This is a matter for airport operators in conjunction with local planning authorities. Airport master plans, encouraged in "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper, do, however, set out airport-specific development proposals in detail. Most airports have now published master plans on their websites.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which UK airports had runway development approved in the Future of Air Transport White Paper. [144837]

Gillian Merron: "The Future of Air Transport" White Paper does not authorise or preclude particular development, but sets out a policy framework against which interested parties can plan ahead and which will guide decisions on future planning applications. The Government published a progress report in December 2006, reaffirming its commitment to the strategy set out in the White Paper. In the South East, the White Paper supports a second runway at Stansted and an additional runway at Heathrow, providing strict environmental conditions can be met. A new runway at Birmingham and the safeguarding of land at Edinburgh for a new runway are also supported.

Aviation: Noise

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many UK airports with over 50,000 movements per year have produced strategic noise maps. [144836]

Gillian Merron: Under the Environmental Noise Directive, airports with over 50,000 movements per year are required to submit noise maps to the Department by 30 June 2007. To date, 12 airports have submitted maps. Outstanding maps for other airports are expected by the end of June. Airports have been encouraged to publish these maps on their websites.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Wilshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the benefits to the UK arising from those additional security restrictions on the number of pieces of hand baggage for passengers departing UK airports which are not applied to passengers arriving in the UK on flights from overseas countries. [143737]

Gillian Merron: The UK limit on the number of items of cabin baggage permitted was introduced as part of a package of security measures which has enabled airlines to keep flying safely in the face of a very serious and continuing threat. Like all security measures, it is being kept under review and will be maintained only for as long as it is necessary.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what comparative research his Department has assessed on the level of security and hand baggage restrictions in place in UK airports and those in *(a)* other EU countries and *(b)* the US. [143966]

Gillian Merron: UK restrictions on the size and number of items of cabin baggage permitted are part of a package of security measures reflecting the higher level of threat currently facing the UK compared to other states. The UK is aligned with other EU member states and the US on the controls limiting liquids being carried through airport search points. Research continues, with international partners, to quantify the security benefits of limiting the size of cabin baggage. Like all security measures, the limit on the number of cabin bags is being kept under review and will be maintained only for as long as is necessary.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what representations he has had from business leaders on the security and hand baggage restrictions on UK air travellers. [143968]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State has received written representations from various business representatives, drawing his attention to the impact the restriction on the number of items of hand baggage is having on UK air travellers. The current security regulations remain under constant review and we have made clear our readiness to remove the one bag limit once the aviation industry has demonstrated its collective ability to deliver effective security without it.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of security regulations for UK air travellers on *(a)* UK business competitiveness and *(b)* London's status as a global financial centre. [143969]

Gillian Merron: The Secretary of State for Transport is in regular contact with all his Cabinet colleagues.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the impact on the UK aviation industry of the additional security regulations for air travellers. [143970]

Gillian Merron: The current security regulations are necessary to manage the very real threat and are kept under constant review to ensure that they remain necessary and proportionate. We are in close consultation with the industry to ensure that the measures are capable of being delivered for as long as is necessary.

Bus Services: North East Region

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of the bus fleet in each *(a)* county and *(b)* district in the north east. [144832]

Gillian Merron: The average age of the bus fleet in the north east at 31 March 2006 was 9.0 years. The average for GB on this date was 8.4 years. Data on the average age of the bus fleet are not available for local authority areas.

Car Sharing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many car-share lanes he has authorised in each of the last five years. [141011]

Dr. Ladyman: Although High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes can be introduced using existing legislation, the associated signs and carriageway markings require authorisation. The Department has authorised two HOV schemes in the last five years (the A256 Sandwich East Kent Access (2004) and the A370 Long Ashton Bypass (North Somerset) (2005 and 2006)).

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many flights to overseas destinations were taken by *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* Ministers in his Department in each of the last three calendar years; and what the total cost of such flights was. [144952]

Gillian Merron: This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Since 1999, the Government have published on an annual basis, a list of all overseas visits by Cabinet Ministers costing in excess of £500, as well as the total cost of all ministerial travel overseas. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. Information for 2006-07 is currently being compiled and will be published before the summer recess. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code, the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Departments: Energy

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many energy saving lightbulbs were purchased by his Department for use on the departmental estate in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [144951]

Gillian Merron: Departmental performance against Government estate targets has been published in annual Sustainable Development in Government Reports. The last report, produced by the Sustainable Development Commission, the independent watchdog, was in March 2006. It covered the reporting period April 2005 to March 2006 and is available at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/watchdog.

Information relating to performance in the 2006-07 reporting period is in the process of being collated and will be published later this year by the Sustainable Development Commission.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143876]

Gillian Merron: The Department has 88 members of staff which it formally recognises as home workers. The Department for Transport's staff may also make individual requests to work flexibly based on a local business case, both to meet their personal needs, such as caring responsibilities, reasonable adjustments under the Disability Discrimination Act and to meet the needs of the Department to have a well motivated and flexible workforce.

The policy on home working is contained in the Departments staff handbooks and staff intranets.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143903]

Gillian Merron: The following tables provide details of responses from DfT (c) and its agencies to the request for information.

Temporary Workers

	Contract type	Male	Female	Disabled	55 or Over
2005	Part-time	21	17	0	15
	Full-time	443	209	0	22
	Total 2005	464	226	0	37
2006	Part-time	21	25	0	18
	Full-time	727	296	0	22
	Total 2006	748	321	0	40
2007[1]	Part-time	21	24	0	11
	Full-time	773	410	0	13
	Total 2007	794	434	0	23

[1] To 31 March 2007

Permanent Workers

	Contract type	Male	Female	Disabled	55 or Over
2005	Part-time	493	2,022	37	361
	Full-time	9,189	5,619	370	2,471
	Total 2205	9,682	7,641	407	2,832
2006	Part-time	586	3,212	33	485
	Full-time	9,497	6,234	370	2,740
	Total 2006	10,083	9,446	403	3,225
2007[1]	Part-time	655	2171	51	541
	Full-time	10,445	6,078	377	2,684
	Total 2007	11,100	8,249	428	3,225

[1] To March 31 March 2007

DVLA note no temporary contracts have been granted.

MCA note no temporary contracts have been granted.

DSA does not employ staff on a temporary contract.

GCDA the information provided corresponds to the period since the GCDA became part of the DfT in November 2005.

DfT (c) Temporary staff were not recorded on PIMS until late 2005 also note that part-time status, disability and age are not recorded for non-employees/temporary workers database.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of staff in his Department are *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* registered disabled and *(d)* aged 55 or over. [143920]

Gillian Merron: Departmental information is that there are currently *(a)* 57 per cent. male staff, *(b)* 43 per cent. female staff, *(c)* 6 per cent. staff who have declared that they are disabled and, *(d)* 16 per cent. staff who are aged 55 and over.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff in his Department received bonus payments in 2006-07; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment was; and if he will make a statement. [143085]

Gillian Merron: In 2006-07 the total number of staff to receive a bonus payment was 7,121. This represents 38.08 per cent. of the total workforce. The total amount of bonuses paid was £3,863,521.76. The largest single payment was £23,575.00.

Departments: Sick Leave

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what average number of days per year was taken by staff in his Department as sick leave in each of the last five years for which records are available. [143062]

Gillian Merron: The Department was formed in May 2002. The information requested is in the following table.

	Average days absent per staff year
2002	9.1
2003	10.2
2004	10.7
2005	10.4
2006[1]	10.2

[1] Data for 2006 is provisional as some data cleansing is still being carried out.

Dial-a-Ride

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he has allocated to dial-a-ride systems operated by local authorities in each of the last three years. [144269]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not allocate funds specifically for dial-a-ride type services.

The majority of support for local bus services, some £350 million a year outside London, is provided by local authorities using the Government's revenue support grant (RSG). As well as conventional bus services, RSG is used by local authorities to support dial-a-ride type services or other demand responsive transport (DRT). Decisions on which services to support are a matter for individual authorities.

The Department also provides support for rural bus services through rural bus subsidy grant (RBSG). The grant to local authorities in England—£55.6 million in 2007-08—can also be used to support DRT type services.

Several DRT services benefited from the department's rural and urban bus challenge programme between 1998 and 2003. In total the challenge provided £160 million to over 400 schemes around the country.

We have also changed the bus route registration rules to encourage flexibly routed, demand responsive bus services and made these services eligible for bus service operators grant (BSOG) from the Department. Community transport organisations are a major provider of dial-a-ride and DRT services and many receive funding through BSOG.

Driving Under Influence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many deaths and serious injuries were attributed to the actions of drivers recorded with *(a)* 140 or more, *(b)* more than 120 but less than 141, *(c)* more than 100 but less than 121, *(d)* 80 or more, *(e)* less than 80 but 50 or more and *(f)* less than 50 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millimetres of their blood in each year from 1997 to 2006; [144853]

(2) how many deaths and serious injuries were attributed to the actions of drivers recorded with *(a)* 80 or more, *(b)* less than 80 but 50 or more and *(c)* less than 50 milligrammes of alcohol in 100 millimetres of their blood who had previous convictions for drink-driving offences in each year from 1997 to 2006; [144854]

(3) how many deaths and serious injuries were attributed to the actions of drivers suspected of drinking but where no alcohol in blood levels was officially recorded in each year from 1997 to 2006. [144855]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many drivers who were killed in each year from 1997 to 2006 were known or suspected to have consumed alcohol in sufficient quantity for their blood levels to be excess of 50 milligrammes in 100 millilitres of blood but less than the current statutory limit; [144908]

(2) how many drivers who were killed in each year from 1997 to 2006 were known or suspected to have consumed alcohol in sufficient quantity for their blood levels to be in excess of the current statutory limit. [144909]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is available in tables (2a) and (2i) of the article Drinking and Driving, published in Road Casualties Great Britain—the annual report. The annual reports for the years 1998 to 2005 contain the information requested and are available in the Libraries of the House.

2004 is the most recent year for which the information requested is available.

Driving Under Influence: EC Action

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what *(a)* oral and *(b)* written representations he has received from (i) European Union and (ii) other European authorities on the harmonisation of a statutory blood alcohol level limit for drivers; [144838]

(2) what agreements have been made with European Union members on the statutory blood alcohol level limit for drivers; [145003]

(3) what steps the Government have taken to introduce a 50 milligramme blood alcohol level following the EU Transport Council in November 2006. [145024]

Dr. Ladyman: Written representations were received from the European Commission in 2001 concerning the publication of the Commission's recommendation on the maximum permitted BAL for drivers of motorised vehicles. No agreements have been made with EU members on the legal alcohol limit for drivers.

We have made clear our view in the report of the second three-year review of the road safety strategy that the legal limit cannot be considered in isolation from other drink-drive measures, but we will keep the case for a reduction in the limit under review.

Driving: Methadone

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether it is permissible for an individual to drive a car while being prescribed methadone. [145074]

Dr. Ladyman: Those complying fully with a consultant supervised oral methadone maintenance programme may be licensed to drive, subject to favourable assessment and, normally, annual review. However, it is an offence to drive or attempt to drive while unfit due to any drug, illicit or prescribed.

Exhaust Emissions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what response he has made to representatives from the British Airlines Pilots Association on the comparative emissions from different forms of transport. [144960]

Gillian Merron: None.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Fines

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* speeding fines, *(b)* London congestion charge fines and *(c)* parking fines were incurred by the Government Car and Despatch Agency in 2006-07. [144369]

Dr. Ladyman: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) paid £5898.02 in parking fines and £50 in congestion charge fines in 2006-07.

The Agency has paid no speeding fines.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Vehicles

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of miles travelled by cars in the Government Car and Despatch Agency in 2006-07. [144368]

Dr. Ladyman: It is estimated that cars in the Government Car and Despatch Agency fleet travelled approximately 2,189,000 miles in 2006-07. These figures are for the entire car fleet operated by GCDA, including its short-term hire and Green Car services.

Lorries

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ask the European Commission for a clear ruling on whether member states may make retro-reflective markings mandatory on newly registered heavy goods vehicles in the UK before the date of 10 October 2009 stipulated in the 03 series of amendments to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regulation 48. [144913]

Dr. Ladyman: There are no plans to do so. Work is already in hand to bring in the retro-reflective tape requirement by amending Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations in time for the internationally-agreed 10 October 2009 date.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the *(a)* European Commission and *(b)* United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on making retro-reflective markings mandatory on newly registered heavy goods vehicles in the UK before the date of 10 October 2009 stipulated in the 03 series of amendments to United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regulation 48. [144914]

Dr. Ladyman: None.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to make retro-reflective markings mandatory on all newly registered heavy goods vehicles before 10 October 2009 if the European Commission rules that member states are free to do so. [145108]

Dr. Ladyman: We are working to implement the retro-reflective tape requirement via amendment to Road Vehicle Lighting Regulations by 10 October 2009 in accordance with international agreement. It is doubtful that any ruling by the European Commission would materially advance our national implementation, due to the timescales needed to make amending regulations.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average journey of *(a)* three and a half and *(b)* 12 tonne trucks on (i) motorways and (ii) A roads in England was in the last period for which figures are available. [145124]

Dr. Ladyman: Average length of trip per annum by company owned vehicles not exceeding three and a half tonnes gross-plated weight is published in Table 4.1 of Road Freight Statistics 2005.

Data on the average length of haul by goods vehicles over 3.5 tonnes are published in Table 1.15 of Road Freight Statistics 2005.

Data on the exact weights of 3.5 tonnes and 12 tonnes are not available separately because of the small survey sample sizes.

Printed copies of the publication are available in the House Library. It is also available on the Department for Transport's website at the following link:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/freight/goodsbyroad/

Lorries: Tolls

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether his Department is conducting work on the lorry road user charge; [141858]

(2) what steps the Government is taking to ensure that foreign hauliers pay for their financial and environmental impact on UK roads. [141866]

Dr. Ladyman: The Department is not conducting work on a specific lorry road user charging scheme. It was announced to the House on 5 July 2005 that the specific procurement exercise for a lorry road user charging scheme would not continue, but that we would continue to work with the industry and to ensure

that we carry the full experience gained from the project into the wider work on road pricing for cars and lorries.

The Department is currently undertaking a feasibility study to explore ways of delivering better targeted enforcement on foreign heavy goods vehicles. This is looking at a range of potential schemes including a vignette. No decisions have been taken on this.

M1

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the carriageways of the M1 motorway between junctions 26 and 27 are next scheduled to be resurfaced. [144139]

Dr. Ladyman: The M1 motorway between junctions 26 and 27 forms part of the M1 J21—J30 widening contract 1. As part of this widening programme, all the carriageways will be re-surfaced providing a new low noise surface. Subject to the satisfactory completion of statutory procedures and approved funding, Contract 1 work is planned to start in late 2007.

Motor Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle defect notices were issued for each year since 1997 in respect of *(a)* British registered vehicles and *(b)* vehicles registered in other EU member states, broken down by country. [145118]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Service Agency (VOSA) is responsible for road safety enforcement. Inspection notices are issued to British vehicles only. Prohibitions are issued to British and international traffic. Statistics for both are reported annually in VOSA's Effectiveness report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport section.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether he plans to make it Government policy to extend the MOT testing regime to every other year after cars' fourth year as recommended by the Davidson review; and if he will make a statement; [145119]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on vehicle emissions as a result of extending the MOT testing regime to every other year after cars' fourth year as recommended by the Davidson review; [145120]

(3) whether he has made an assessment of the impact that lengthening the time between MOT tests will have on *(a)* road safety and *(b)* driver behaviour as referred to on page 5, paragraph 13 of the Davidson report; [145126]

(4) whether he has made an assesment of the frequency of MOT equivalent tests in other EU member states; [145127]

(5) whether he has made an assessment of the comparable rates of accidents in which vehicle defects are a contributable factor in other EU member states with an MOT equivalent regime of testing every other year; [145128]

(6) what estimates he has *(a)* made and *(b)* evaluated of the potential increase in (i) deaths and (ii) serious injuries from a change from annual to biannual MoT tests; [145154]

(7) what estimate he has made of the financial implications for *(a)* MOT garages, *(b)* motorists and *(c)* manufacturers and retailers of cars and components arising from a change from annual to biannual MOT tests; and if he will make a statement. [145156]

Dr. Ladyman: I intend to issue a consultation paper shortly which will cover these issues.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the environmental impact of extending the allowed period between MOT tests to every other year after cars' fourth year as recommended by the Davidson review. [145122]

Dr. Ladyman: None.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles failed MOTs on grounds of emissions standards in each year since 1997, broken down by vehicle type. [145123]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the operation of the MOT Scheme. Statistics regarding the number of vehicles that failed the MOT test on the grounds of emissions standards are published annually in VOSA's Effectiveness Report. This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the motor insurance industry, *(b)* MOT garages, *(c)* the police and *(d)* the motor car manufacturing industry on lengthening the time between MOT tests. [145130]

Dr. Ladyman: None.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many MOT tests were carried out on *(a)* private and *(b)* commercial vehicles in each year since 1997. [145132]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the supervision of the MOT Scheme. Statistics regarding the number of MOT tests carried out on *(a)* private and *(b)* commercial vehicles are reported annually in VOSA's Effectiveness Report.

This is available on-line at www.vosa.gov.uk or in the House of Commons Library, Business and Transport Section.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many approved MOT garages there are. [145133]

Dr. Ladyman: The number of approved MOT garages at 19 June 2007 was 18,858.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the average investment on equipment made by an MOT garage to carry out MOT tests on *(a)* private and *(b)* commercial vehicles. [145135]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the supervision of the MOT scheme. VOSA authorises a range of equipment for use when carrying out MOT tests. However, the equipment purchased remains a business decision for the MOT garage owner. VOSA does not hold records of the expenditure of MOT garages, therefore, no estimate is available.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much a garage is required to pay in fees in order to gain approval as a registered MOT provider; and to which agency such fees are payable. [145150]

Dr. Ladyman: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for the supervision of the MOT scheme. Garages applying to the Secretary of State for authorisation to be a registered MOT provider are not required to pay a fee.

Motorcycles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 108W, on motorcycles, what reservations were expressed by motorcycle racing and motorcycle sports organisations on the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill; and if he will place copies of the representations in the Library; [144322]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 114W, on vehicles, what reservations were expressed by rural and farming organisations on the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill; and if he will place copies of the representations in the Library. [144323]

Dr. Ladyman: Motorcycle racing and motorcycle sports organisations and rural and farming organisations have expressed reservations about the impact of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill. Those representations were made to the Department for Transport in confidence.

Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will make an assessment of the likely implications for the staffing of his Department and its agencies of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form; [144343]

(2) if he will estimate the *(a)* initial cost and *(b)* subsequent annual costs of implementing the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form; [144345]

(3) what estimate he has made of the size of the advertising budget required to publicise the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill as it stands following Second Reading should it be passed into law; [144408]

(4) what assessment he has made of likely levels of non-compliance should the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill be passed into law as it stands following Second Reading; [144409]

(5) what additional equipment would be needed to enforce the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if passed into law as it stands following Second Reading; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost; [144410]

(6) what additional training will be needed to enforce the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if passed into law as it stands following Second Reading; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost; [144411]

(7) what assessment he has made of the possible overall impact of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill on his Department and its agencies should it be passed into law as it stands following Second Reading. [144412]

Dr. Ladyman: It is estimated that around 230 additional staff would be required for DfT and its Agencies.

The overall cost to implement the Bill as drafted has been estimated as approximately £80 million over three years.

The costs required for advertising have not yet been estimated.

No estimate has been made of the likely levels of non-compliance.

It has not been established whether additional equipment would be required.

The estimated cost of enforcement is £50 million over two years.

The estimated cost to this Department and its Agencies is £30 million over three years.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of which programmes managed by his Department and its agencies would have to be delayed or postponed should the Off Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill pass into law as it stands following Second Reading; what estimate he has made of the cost of such delays; and if he will make a statement. [144413]

Dr. Ladyman: No formal assessment has yet been made, but it is likely that the proposals would require significant additional changes to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's (DVLA's) IT systems and processes. This would be likely to have an adverse impact on other DVLA IT programmes and hence on the quality of services to the public. It is likely that one of the projects that would be rescheduled would be the delivery of continuous insurance enforcement.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister for Northern Ireland on the possible implications of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted; [144318]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on the possible implications of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted; [144325]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland and *(b)* the First Minister for Scotland on the possible implications of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted. [144326]

Dr. Ladyman: No discussions on the implications of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill have taken place with the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the First Minister for Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State for Scotland or the First Minister for Scotland.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the possible impact on the rural and farming community of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form; [144338]

(2) what assessment he has made of the possible impact on the agricultural industry of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form; [144339]

(3) what assessment he has made of the possible impact on motorcycle sport of the Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill if enacted in its current form. [144340]

Dr. Ladyman: The Off-Road Vehicles (Registration) Bill has been interpreted as making provisions which would apply to certain vehicles used in rural areas for agriculture and forestry, and vehicles used for motor sport. No detailed assessments have yet been made, but it is clear that, in its current form, the Bill would require many such vehicles to be registered and to display a registration number.

Railways: Northern Region

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Sprinter trains are in use on the Northern Rail franchise; and what the average age is of the Sprinter fleet. [144833]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Northern franchise currently has 40 Class 150 Sprinter units in use, each comprised of two vehicles. The Class 150s were built between 1984 and 1987.

Roads: Accidents

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the number of children *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on the road in each year since 1997 during their journey to and from school when travelling (i) on foot, (ii) by bicycle and (iii) in vehicles; what estimate he has made of the number who were within 300 metres of their home in each case; and if he will make a statement. [144156]

Dr. Ladyman: The information requested is given in the following table.

Number of children (aged 0-15) killed or seriously injured in reported personal injury road accidents, on the way to or from school, GB: 1997 to 2005

	Pedestrian		Pedal cyclist		Other vehicles		Number of casualties Total	
	Killed	Serious	Killed	Serious	Killed	Serious	Killed	Serious
1997	22	934	3	99	0	101	25	1,134
1998	15	847	3	108	7	135	25	1,090
1999	16	765	3	113	3	108	22	986
2000	19	762	2	64	3	81	24	907
2001	16	722	0	53	5	60	21	835
2002	8	718	3	64	2	81	13	863
2003	11	521	1	44	1	41	13	606
2004	10	502	2	35	2	53	14	590
2005	6	448	1	51	4	45	11	544

2005 is the latest year for which figures are available. No estimates are available of the number of children injured within 300 metres of their home.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many *(a)* road traffic accidents (RTAs) and *(b)* RTAs involving serious injury or fatalities were recorded in each year since 1997 in which mechanical failure or defects, including tyres, have been identified as the cause or a contributory factor; [145152]

(2) what types of defects detectable during the MOT test have led to serious and fatal accidents in each year since 1997. [145157]

Dr. Ladyman: Comprehensive information on what types of defects detectable during the MOT test have led to serious and fatal accidents is not available.

From 2005 information has been collected on contributory factors to reported personal injury road accidents, including vehicle defects. These are "tyres illegal, defective or under inflated", "defective lights or indicators", "defective brakes", "defective steering or suspension", "defective or missing mirrors" and "overloaded or poorly loaded vehicle or trailer". This Information is published on the Department's website at the following web addresses:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/162259/162469/221412/221549/227755/contributoryfactorstoroadacc1802

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/227760/RCGBcotribfacactualfigsrev.xls

Traffic Lights: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment was made of the merits of requiring traffic light cameras to be brightly painted when the decision was taken to make that a requirement for fixed speed cameras; and if he will make a statement. [144138]

Dr. Ladyman: No assessment was made. Traffic light signals are, by their very nature, highly visible so it is

unnecessary to require any cameras monitoring them to be brightly painted. Traffic light signals monitored by cameras are however clearly signed in advance.

Transport: Costs

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus and *(c)* train since 1997. [142517]

Gillian Merron: Between 1997 and 2006 the real cost of motoring declined by 10.2 per cent. bus and coach fares increased by 12.6 per cent. and rail fares increased by 5.9 per cent.

West Coast Railway Line

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many instances of serious safety lapses have occurred on the West Coast mainline since the Grayrigg derailment on 23 February; [144370]

(2) how many instances of serious safety lapses have occurred on the Cumbrian section of the West Coast mainline since the Grayrigg derailment on 23 February; [144371]

(3) if he will make a statement on Network Rail's initial report into the Grayrigg derailment; [144372]

(4) what inspection regime is used for checking the condition of the rail line on the Cumbrian section of the West Coast mainline; [144373]

(5) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of staff employed in the maintenance of the Cumbrian section of the West Coast mainline; [144374]

(6) what additional checks have been introduced on the Cumbrian section of the West Coast Main Line since the Grayrigg derailment on 23 February; [144377]

(7) whether there is to be a review of the speed limits in operation on the Cumbrian section of the West Coast Main Line; [144378]

(8) what assessment he has made of the impact on scheduled journey times of additional checks being carried out on the Cumbrian section of the West Coast Main Line. [144379]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Grayrigg derailment is being investigated by the Rail Accident Investigation branch (RAIB), which will in accordance with its regulations, make its report public in the shortest possible time commensurate with a thorough investigation. The RAIB's investigations covers a broad range of issues but includes the maintenance regime and related staff resources; and any internal reports produced by Network Rail will be considered by RAIB as part of its investigations.

When RAIB's detailed findings are available, Network Rail will consider them carefully and any action which may need to be taken.

The inspection regime to check the condition of the track (including any additional checks) is an operational matter for Network Rail. It falls to the rail industry to agree the speed limits and journey times on the line. Network Rail's arrangements are subject to independent scrutiny.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the full report on the inquiry into the Grayrigg derailment to be published. [144375]

Mr. Tom Harris: The investigation by the rail accident investigation branch (RAIB) is continuing and the RAIB will, in accordance with its regulations, make its report public in the shortest possible time commensurate with a thorough investigation.

JUSTICE

Burglary: Sentencing

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many mandatory sentences were handed down to burglars in each year since 1997. [144136]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the information reported to the Ministry of Justice, previously Home Office, Court Proceedings Database on persons sentenced under section 111 of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000 (previously section 4 of the Crime (Sentences) Act 1997) in England and Wales for a third offence of domestic burglary in the years 2000 to 2005. Data are not available before 2000, as the Crown court computer system was not updated to recognise these sentences until then.

The data are published in table 2.6 of the Statistical Bulletin, "Sentencing Statistics 2005". It can be located at the following:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb0307.pdf

Persons sentenced under the Powers of the Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000, 2000-05: England and Wales

	Number of persons
	Section 111 (Minimum three years for third domestic burglary)
2000	—
2001	6
2002	2
2003	13
2004	46
2005	89

Statistics for 2006 will be published in the autumn.

Children: Abuse

Annette Brooke: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much funding has been allocated to training for paediatricians giving testimony for the prosecution in child abuse cases for 2007-08. [140385]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply. This information is not held centrally.

Coroners: Mesothelioma

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of procedures in coroner's courts for dealing with deaths due to mesothelioma. [144027]

Ms Harman: A coroner must hold an inquest into deaths which are reported to him which he has reasonable cause to suspect of being unnatural. This would usually include diseases contracted at work such as mesothelioma. Investigations into these kinds of deaths will continue in a reformed system, but will be governed by national standards set by a new chief coroner.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what representations her Department has received on the conduct of inquests into deaths caused by mesothelioma; and if she will make a statement. [144028]

Ms Harman: I have received the report of the British Lung Foundation on the investigation of mesothelioma deaths. My officials attended the launch of the report and have met subsequently with representatives of the British Lung Foundation. The report's recommendations will be taken into account as reform proposals are further developed.

Crown Courts: Prison Accommodation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all inmates detained in Crown court cells have been subject to the minimum standard of induction as required by Prison Service Order 0550; who was responsible for conducting the induction procedures; what level of training those responsible for the induction received; and if she will make a statement. [141668]

Mr. Hanson: Prison Service Order 0550 provides instructions and guidance on the induction process for prisoners on arrival at a prison establishment. As such it is not applicable to the exceptional use of court cells, which are used only as a measure of last resort if accommodation in prison and police cells is exhausted.

Prisoners who have not yet been held in a prison will undergo full reception and induction procedures at the prison to which they are allocated.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether all inmates detained in Crown court cells have been subject to the minimum standard of health screening as required in prison service orders; who was responsible for conducting the health screening; what the minimum level of training is for those responsible for conducting the screening; and if she will make a statement. [141669]

Mr. Hanson: Arrangements are in place for prisoners held in court cells to be assessed by a qualified health care professional. Further health screening will take place on reception at the prison to which they are allocated.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice whether each instance of accommodation provided for inmates in Crown court cells corresponds with the minimum standards as laid down in Prison Service Order 1900; and if she will make a statement. [141670]

Mr. Hanson: Prison Service Order 1900 provides guidance for the certification and use of prison accommodation and is not applicable to the use of court cells, which are used only as a measure of last resort if accommodation in prison and police cells is exhausted. Appropriate staffing levels and procedures are in place in order to ensure prisoners are held in safe and decent conditions.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what level of supervision is provided to prisoners detained overnight in Crown court cells; and if she will make a statement. [141671]

Mr. Hanson: Staffing levels are determined on a site-by-site basis in order to ensure safety and decency, good order and control. In addition to an appropriate level of staff provided by the relevant prisoner escort contractor, there is prison service governor grade supervision.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice who is responsible for the supervision of prisoners lodged overnight in Crown court cells; and if she will make a statement. [141672]

Mr. Hanson: It is a legal requirement for prisoners to be held in the custody under the authority and direction of a 'constable.' When court cells are in use, this role is discharged by a prison service governor grade.

Additional staffing of court cells is provided by the relevant prisoner escort contractor, following established operating procedures.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prisoners have been held overnight in Crown court cells since the beginning of 2007; and if she will make a statement. [141673]

Mr. Hanson: Since the beginning of 2007 current data show that court cells have been used on 561 occasions (as at 19 June 2007). One occasion means one prisoner night in a court cell.

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice which *(a)* advertising agencies and *(b)* other organisations supplied consultancy services for advertising campaigns for (i) her Department and its predecessor and (ii) its agencies in each of the last five years; and what the cost of these services was. [139439]

Mr. Hanson: Since my Department, the Ministry of Justice, was established on 9 May 2007, it has not commissioned any consultancy services for advertising campaigns. Its predecessor Department, the Department for Constitutional Affairs, did not use consultancy services for advertising campaigns.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [139515]

Mr. Hanson: Since my Department, the Ministry of Justice, was established on 9 May 2007, the Department and its agencies have incurred no expenditure on advertising.

Departments: Remploy

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what *(a)* services and *(b)* products her Department and its predecessor has procured from Remploy in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [143791]

Ms Harman: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, and my response relates to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and those bodies which were part of the Home Office and are now part of the Ministry of Justice.

DCA

In the financial year ending 31 March 2007, the DCA procured from Remploy: *(a)* 'Book-binding' services for Court Registers and Publications to the value of £8,635.70 and 'Disability Training' services to the value of £3,858.47. *(b)* The DCA has not purchased any of Remploys' products. Total expenditure was £12,494.17.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

In the last 12 months, OCJR have not procured any services provided by Remploy, nor has it purchased any of their products.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

In the last 12 months, NOMS have not procured any services provided by Remploy, nor has it purchased any of their products.

HM Prison Service (HMPS)

In the last 12 months, HMPS have not procured any services provided by Remploy, nor has it purchased any of their products.

Drink Driving

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Gordon (Malcolm Bruce) on 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 592-600W, on driving under the influence, how many convictions there were in each police authority area in England and Wales for the offence of drink driving in each year between 1995 and 2001. [142732]

Mr. Hanson: Available information taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, from 1995 to 2001 is provided in the following table.

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 1995 to 2001

Number of offences

Police force area	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
Avon and Somerset	2,432	2,512	2,812	2,566	2,728	2,462	2,197
Bedfordshire	1,001	1,093	1,146	1,060	869	797	914
Cambridgeshire	946	951	1,092	1,060	941	793	813
Cheshire	1,818	2,034	1,969	1,903	1,827	1,652	1,529
Cleveland	973	902	926	870	811	777	887
Cumbria	848	927	931	856	871	806	761
Derbyshire	1,462	1,595	1,612	1,547	1,463	1,417	1,411
Devon and Cornwall	2,170	2,144	2,342	2,265	2,277	2,199	2,369
Dorset	1,081	1,190	1,214	1,186	1,120	1,115	1,150
Durham	963	1,036	1,044	1,035	1,137	1,124	1,097
Essex	2,436	2,555	2,736	2,438	2,528	2,462	2,456
Gloucestershire	1,069	979	1,067	985	889	804	865
Greater Manchester	5,554	5,085	4,806	4,715	4,850	4,801	4,715
Hampshire	3,256	3,556	3,774	3,597	3,725	3,472	3,464
Hertfordshire	1,513	1,421	1,670	1,672	1,679	1,552	1,666
Humberside	1,247	1,353	1,274	1,358	1,323	1,371	1,259
Kent	2,395	2,576	2,321	2,627	2,633	2,592	2,575
Lancashire	2,828	3,211	3,389	2,945	3,010	2,584	2,304
Leicestershire	1,291	1,478	1,648	1,485	1,624	1,531	1,546
Lincolnshire	839	839	1,088	979	941	816	877
London, City of	358	464	436	301	236	162	162
Merseyside	2,616	2,746	2,719	2,451	2,137	2,128	2,195
Metropolitan Police	15,445	15,012	16,165	13,889	12,414	11,801	11,260
Norfolk	912	1,013	1,116	1,118	1,010	935	1,143
Northamptonshire[2]	879	927	1,107	1,062	1,058	782	399
Northumbria	2,206	2,414	2,625	2,457	2,463	2,621	2,529
North Yorkshire	1,247	1,311	1,365	1,205	1,124	1,073	1,066
Nottinghamshire	1,762	1,931	2,031	1,804	1,802	1,722	1,598
South Yorkshire	2,008	2,129	2,296	2,002	1,927	2,122	2,020
Staffordshire[3]	1,809	1,854	2,036	1,955	1,711	[4]	1,513
Suffolk	985	1,066	1,050	1,042	1,089	902	920
Surrey	1,355	1,376	1,380	1,328	1,417	1,539	1,592
Sussex	2,098	2,200	2,373	2,113	2,224	2,112	2,358
Thames Valley	3,651	3,942	4,070	3,896	3,725	3,496	3,275

Findings of guilt at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 1995 to 2001

Police force area	*1995*	*1996*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
							Number of offences
Warwickshire	854	907	837	784	856	786	880
West Mercia	1,943	1,930	1,947	1,794	1,747	1,631	1,740
West Midlands	5,655	5,880	6,351	5,582	4,775	4,559	4,914
West Yorkshire	3,902	4,102	3,953	3,669	3,597	3,375	3,220
Wiltshire	1,034	1,011	1,043	1,108	1,009	930	1,045
England	86,841	89,652	93,761	86,709	83,567	79,671	78,684
Dyfed Powys	932	993	1,029	995	944	858	867
Gwent	739	966	1,166	1,203	1,079	1,211	1,152
North Wales	1,366	1,363	1,354	1,306	1,248	1,332	1,227
South Wales	2,627	2,731	2,892	2,903	2,526	2,757	2,812
Wales	5,664	6,053	6,441	6,407	5,797	6,158	6,058
England and Wales	92,505	95,705	100,202	93,116	89,364	85,829	84,742

[1] Offences under the Road Traffic Act ss. 4 (1) & (2); 5 (1) and (b); 6 (4) and 7 (6).
[2] In 2000 problems encountered with the electronic submission of data directly from the courts resulted in shortfalls in summary motoring offences for Northamptonshire from June onwards. This shortfall continued in 2001.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] Not available.
Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Fixed Penalties: Prisoners

James Brokenshire: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 382W, on fixed penalties: prisoners, how it was possible to provide a substantive answer to question 12643, tabled on 6 March 2007, by the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam on illegal immigrants: fixed penalties. [142186]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The substantive answer provided to question 12643, tabled on 6 March 2007, by the hon. Member for Sheffield, Hallam (Mr. Clegg) on illegal immigrants: fixed penalties, asked specifically for the number of fixed penalties issued to Romanian and Bulgarian nationals for working in breach of the Accession (Immigration and Worker Authorisation) Regulations 2006. The information relating to the number of fixed penalty notices issued under this scheme is collated locally but not published as a national statistic. This information has not been quality assured and should be treated as provisional management information only.

The answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 382W, referred to fixed penalty notices and Penalty Notices for Disorder. The offences covered in these collections are motoring, minor public disorder and environmental offences, which do not relate to immigration matters. As a result of this, data on the nationality of recipients of these disposals are not collected centrally.

Offenders

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many *(a)* first time offenders and *(b)* re-offenders were arrested and subsequently charged in (i) Bridgend constituency, (ii) the South Wales police authority area, (iii) Wales and (iv) England in each of the last five years. [144293]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is not available. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) holds an extract of data from the police national computer (PNC) which is used to provide data on proven re-offending. Because of the focus on re-offending the data held is largely for cases which resulted in a conviction or a caution, although it also includes information on cases that are still pending at the time the data is extracted from the PNC. Details of cases which on completion do not result in a caution or conviction are not held. This dataset cannot therefore be used to provide comprehensive information on arrests or charges.

The main arrests collection held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform covers persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences). It does not however include information about whether or not the offenders had previously committed offences.

Poaching: Salmon

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many convictions there were in each year from 2002 to 2006 for illegal poaching of salmon with prohibited instruments. [144103]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Offences under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act for the illegal poaching of fish with prohibited instruments do not specify the type of fish poached, and therefore data on convictions for poaching of salmon with prohibited instruments are not separately identifiable, and are therefore not available.

Police Custody: Sussex

Nick Herbert: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) how many cells at police stations in Sussex are being used as part of Operation Safeguard; [144592]

(2) what the cost has been of the use of cells at police stations in Sussex of Operation Safeguard; [144593]

(3) how many prisoners have been held in police stations in Sussex since the latest launch of Operation Safeguard. [144594]

Mr. Hanson: Sussex police force has not committed to providing places in police cells as part of Operation Safeguard but provides ad hoc assistance when required.

No invoices have yet been paid to Sussex police.

The level of usage of Operation Safeguard within individual police force areas is held for use as management information only.

Prisoners: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what the average population was in young offender institutions in each year since 1997. [144145]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The average population in young offender institutions in England and Wales in each year from 1997 to 2005 is shown in the following table.

Population in young offender institutions

	Number
1997	7,834
1998	8,505
1999	8,344
2000	8,439
2001	8,565
2002	8,779
2003	8,424
2004	8,294
2005	8,243

The figures were taken from web table 8.10 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005. This can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1806section8.xls

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Simon Hughes: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many incidents of *(a)* self-harm, *(b)* prisoner-on-prisoner violence, *(c)* prisoner-on-officer violence and *(d)* officer-on-prisoner violence were recorded in each prison in each of the last five years. [142708]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how much and what proportion of the prison service budget was spent on drug rehabilitation programmes inside prisons in the last 12 months, broken down by treatment methods and programmes. [142720]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Out of a total £2.83 billion allocated to run prisons during 2006-07 (excluding healthcare and education funding), £77.3 million was provided for custodial drug treatment. This equates to 2.73 per cent. of the total allocation.

The funding breakdown is given in the following table:

Intervention	*Allocation 2006-07 (£ million)*	*Proportion of total prison spend (percentage)*
Clinical services	23.3	0.82
CARATS	31.7	1.12
Drug rehabilitation programmes	19.4	0.69
Juvenile substance misuse programmes	2.9	0.10
Total	77.3	2.73

Prison Drug Treatment

Around 55 per cent. of those received into custody are problem drug-users (PDUs)—with some local prisons reporting up to 80 per cent. testing positive for Class A drugs on reception. This means around 70,000 PDUs enter custody each year—with 40,000 being present at any one time.

Addressing drug-misuse is a priority for the MoJ—and NOMS has in place a comprehensive drug strategy, the three key elements of which focus on: (i) supply reduction, (ii) demand reduction (through effective treatment) and (iii) building effective through-care arrangements (particularly through prisons' engagement in the HO-led drug interventions programme (DIP)) so timely continuity of treatment can be maintained as PDUs move respectively between custody and the community.

Drug 'treatment' in custody goes much wider than the 116 drug rehabilitation programmes running across the estate and includes: (i) clinical services (maintenance-prescribing and/or detoxification programmes) that are available in all local and remand prisons; and (ii) CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Through-care services) that are provided in all prisons.

Spending on prisons

The total spending on prisons in 2006-07 was £2.83 billion. This figure is a provisional outturn and subject to audit. It includes HMPS, private prisons, and prison related-services managed in NOMS HQ. It does not include expenditure on education or health met by the DFES or DoH.

Spending on Prisons has increased in real terms by 36 per cent. since 1996-97 (to 2006-07). Real terms means adjusted for inflation to 2005-06 levels using the Treasury deflator.

For the purpose of this PQ, the total £2.83 billion figure cited for running prisons has been based on the funding allocated to run prisons operationally—primarily on security, safety, decency and health, maintaining their fabric and providing prison officers to deliver/oversee services for prisoners.

Prison drug treatment funding

While it is true that the level of funding allocated to drug treatment is only a small proportion of the overall prisons budget, this needs to be seen in context. A significant proportion of the prisons budget is spent on infrastructure and staffing—essential to keep prisons safe and to protect the public. It is however, better to compare expenditure on drug treatment against actual treatment need. With funding levels up 997 per cent. since 1996-97 and overall numbers engaged in prison treatment increasing year on year, prisons are doing much to close the treatment gap. The calculations are based on additional drug treatment funding allocated as a result of successive spending reviews. The figure approximates to £7 million but it is not possible to breakdown between various treatment types. The pre-CSR baseline has therefore been excluded from the calculations.

Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS)

The integrated drug treatment system (IDTS) is designed to boost the quality and increase the volume of drug treatment with a particular focus on drug users during their first 28 days in custody. By March 2008 full IDTS (enhanced clinical services and psychosocial support i.e. CARATS) will be available in 17 prisons; additionally enhanced clinical services will also be available in a further 35 establishments. Collectively, NOMS/DH funding for delivery of IDTS during 2007-08 stands at £18.7 million. This is expected to see around 24,500 drug users benefiting annually from enhanced clinical services.

So far as IDTS is concerned, the Department of Health and NOMS have had to make challenging decisions in reviewing the totality of budgets in recent years. Current levels of funding are down significantly on planned expenditure.

Treatment gap

More work is needed to identify the gaps in treatment provision. Historically, local assessment and epidemiological studies have informed treatment delivery across the prison estate. Work is already underway on a needs analysis model but, ahead of its data being available later this year, NOMS already anticipates there being a significant treatment gap. For example, to identify offenders' drug needs effectively, the CARAT service would need to undertake substance-misuse triage assessments for up to 80 per cent. of the annual prison through-put; based on 136,000 offenders passing through custody, this would be around 108,000 offenders. As currently resourced, CARAT teams only deliver around 75,000 assessments—a potential shortfall of 33,000.

Prisons: Overcrowding

Nick Herbert: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice (1) what discussions her Department has had with the Prison Service on the possibility of easing prison overcrowding by transferring prisoners serving sentences in closed prisons to *(a)* open prisons and *(b)* Ford Open Prison; [144590]

(2) what plans there are to relieve overcrowding in closed prisons by transferring prisoners to *(a)* open prisons and *(b)* Ford Open Prison. [144591]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service has already implemented measures designed to maximise the use of the whole prison estate. This includes the transfer of prisoners sentenced to less than 12 months in custody to an open prison (including to HMP Ford) for the final 56 days of their sentence. Each individual is subject to a streamlined risk assessment in order to determine whether they are suitable for transfer.

Probation: Manpower

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice what her most recent estimate is of the number of *(a)* probation officer and *(b)* probation service officer vacancies in each probation area in England and Wales. [140427]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Not all Probation Areas in the National Probation Service operate a set establishment against which vacant posts can be measured. As a more representative alternative, Probation Areas are required to report regularly on the number of active vacancies they have. An active vacancy is one which a Probation Area is actively trying to fill through a recruitment process.

Figures for 31 December 2006 show that there were a total of 8343.64 full-time equivalent Probation Officers in post in England and Wales. On the same date there were 70.27 full-time equivalent vacancies that were actively being recruited to. Therefore active vacancies accounted for 0.84 per cent. of the total posts available at that time.

Additionally, the National Probation Service employs 6,502.74 full-time equivalent probation service officers, who also deliver front-line services to offenders. At this time, there were 203.00 full-time equivalent vacancies, equating to 3.03 per cent. of the total posts available.

The figures presented in the following table show active vacancies for each Area, in terms of full-time equivalent value, for the Probation Officer and Probation Service Officer grades at the close of Quarter 3 06/07 (1 October to 31 December 2006).

Probation officer and probation service officers vacancies (as at 31 December 2006)

	All vacancies	*Probation officer vacancies*			*Probation services officer vacancies*		
Area	*Total*	*Total vacancies*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total vacancies)*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total posts[1])*	*Total vacancies*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total vacancies)*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total posts[1])*
Avon and Somerset	7.90	3.00	37.97	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bedfordshire	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cambridgeshire	4.00	1.00	25.00	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00

Probation officer and probation service officers vacancies (as at 31 December 2006)

	All vacancies	Probation officer vacancies			Probation services officer vacancies		
Area	*Total*	*Total vacancies*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total vacancies)*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total posts[1])*	*Total vacancies*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total vacancies)*	*Vacancies (as a percentage of total posts)*
Cheshire	15.74	3.00	19.06	2.08	9.44	59.97	7.24
Cumbria	5.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Derbyshire	4.60	0.60	13.04	0.45	2.00	43.48	187
Devon and Cornwall	15.68	3.60	22.96	1.71	3.41	21.75	2.26
Dorset	8.40	1.30	15.48	1.53	4.80	57. 14	6.25
Durham	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dyfed Powys	4.39	1.70	38.72	2.52	0.69	15. 72	1.31
Essex	5.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.10	41.18	1.20
Gloucestershire	6.00	2.00	33.33	2.91	3,00	50.00	5.76
Greater Manchester[2]	—	n/a	—	—	n/a	—	—
Gwent	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	1 00	47.62	1.01
Hampshire[2]	—	n/a	—	—	n/a	—	—
Hertfordshire	3.50	3.00	85.71	3.34	0.50	14.29	0.59
Humberside	28.10	5.60	19.93	2.84	12.10	43.06	7.45
Kent	12.72	4.00	31.45	1.99	3.00	23.58	1.78
Lancashire	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Leicestershire	13.00	1.10	8.46	0.66	11,40	87.69	5.60
Lincolnshire	4.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.50	77.78	4.75
London	104.00	13.00	12.50	1.18	84.00	80.77	7.87
Merseyside	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0,00	0.00	0.00
Norfolk	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	50.00	2.08
North Wales	3.00	0,00	0.00	0.00	3.00	100.00	3.65
North Yorkshire	4.10	0,00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northamptonshire	16.85	8.00	47.48	7.01	2.00	11.87	2.69
Northumbria	11.21	2.00	17.84	0.70	3.00	26.76	1.60
Nottinghamshire	8.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	70.59	2.93
South Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Yorkshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Staffordshire	2.50	2.50	100.00	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
Suffolk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Surrey	18.87	3.27	1733	3.87	9.00	47.69	8.00
Sussex	4.00	2.00	50.00	1.07	1.00	25.00	0.76
Teesside	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	90.91	9.31
Thames Valley	23.50	4.00	17.02	1.68	13.50	57.45	5.34
Warwickshire	11.16	1.00	8.96	1.59	5.66	50. 72	11.26
West Mercia	8.76	1.00	11.42	0.63	3.00	34.25	265
West Midlands[2]	—	n/a	—	—	n/a	—	—
West Yorkshire	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wiltshire	10.70	3.60	33.64	4.55	2.90	27. 10	5.48
NPS	389.74	70.27	18.03	0.84	203.00	52.09	3.03

[1] Total PO and PSO posts are 'staff in post' plus the number of active vacancies.
[2] Hampshire, Greater Manchester and West Midlands Probation Areas are unable to provide data on active vacancies.

Reoffenders

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many offenders made the subject of each type of community supervision by the courts were sent to prison for *(a)* further offending during the duration of the order and *(b)* otherwise breaching the conditions of the order in each of the last six years for which figures are available. [144134]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Information for England and Wales on the completion rates for the main types of community sentence, for each year since 1995, can be found in Table 5.1 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin: Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which can be found in the House of Commons Library. This information shows the number of community sentences which are terminated due to further offences being committed by the offender or for failure to comply with the requirements of the sentence. Information on the number of offenders received into prison in each of the last six years for breaching community sentences is shown as follows. Information on the number of offenders who are sent to prison for committing further offences during community supervision is not centrally available.

Prison receptions for breach of community orders

	Number
2001	2,185
2002	4,604
2003	2,954
2004	3,900

Prison receptions for breach of community orders

	Number
2005	4,464
2006	6,368

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large-scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Strikes: Shrewsbury

Mr. Clapham: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice if he will initiate an inquiry into the arrest, prosecution and conviction of the 24 building workers in 1972, known as the Shrewsbury 24, and the subsequent treatment they have received whilst serving their jail sentenees; and if he will place copies of the documents held by his Department relating to the case in the Library. [143701]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Any person who believes they have been the victim of a miscarriage of justice can apply to the Criminal Cases Review Commission (CCRC) for a review of their case. The CCRC has the power to review possible miscarriages of justice in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, to gain access to documents and other material which may be relevant to its investigations, and to refer to the appropriate court any case in which there is a real possibility that the conviction will not be upheld. Unless, however, there are exceptional circumstances, the CCRC is not empowered to refer cases until the court appeal system has been exhausted. It is open to prisoners and former prisoners to seek recompense through civil litigation for any alleged wrongdoing while in prison custody.

We are not aware of the existence of any documents of which copies might be placed in the Library.

Tickets: Touting

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister of State, Ministry of Justice how many prosecutions there were of ticket touts in each of the last five years. [144171]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The offence of ticket touting, under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 applies to regulated football matches. This public order provision is used by police in a proportionate and targeted way when the segregation of supporters might be compromised. Detailed information on football-related arrests has been collated by the Football Banning Orders Authority since the football season 2001-02, when the existing banning order framework was introduced. The following table provides details of prosecutions in respect of ticket touting offences.

Prosecutions under section 166 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, England and Wales, 2001-06 football seasons

Football season	Prosecutions
2001-02	96
2002-03	56
2003-04	42
2004-05	72
2005-06	47

Source:
Football Banning Orders Authority

TREASURY

Aggregates Sustainability Levy Fund

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much of the Aggregates Sustainability Levy Fund was allocated to each of the fund's eight national delivery partners in each year since the fund was established. [143551]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

The figures in the following table show the final allocations to the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund's national delivery partners in England in each of the financial years the fund has been running.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Natural England	—	—	—	—	—	5,100,000
English Nature	4,970,000	4,193,000	4,110,000	3,500,000	2,688,000	—
Countryside Agency	5,470,000	4,193,000	2,710,000	2,160,000	2,002,000	—
English Heritage	5,470,000	4,193,000	4,310,000	4,350,000	3,423,000	4,400,000
CEFAS (Marine)	—	—	950,000	1,300,000	910,000	2,500,000
Waste and Resources Action Programme	6,500,000	8,240,000	3,650,000	5,980,000	5,446,000	2,700,000
Minerals Industry Research Organisation	1,800,000	1,627,000	1,490,000	1,650,000	1,155,000	1,500,000
Department for Transport	—	—	400,000	2,200,000	2,849,000	1,400,000
Department of Trade and Industry	700,000	700,000	410,000	—	—	—
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	1,860,000	1,860,000	1,640,000	1,800,000	1,260,000	—

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much from the Aggregates Levy Eund was allocated to the fund's objective of *(a)* minimising the demand for primary aggregates, *(b)* promoting environmentally friendly aggregates extraction on land, *(c)* promoting environmentally friendly aggregates extraction in the marine environment, *(d)* promoting environmentally friendly transport of aggregates, *(e)* addressing the environmental impacts of past aggregate extraction and *(f)* compensating local

communities for the impacts of aggregates extraction in each year since the fund was established. [143624]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

The Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund's four objectives are:

1. Minimising the demand for primary aggregates
2. Promoting environmentally friendly extraction and transport
3. Addressing the environmental impacts of past aggregates extraction
4. Compensating local communities for the impacts of aggregates extraction

The fourth objective was added in April 2005.

The figures in the following table show the approximate allocations between the four objectives in each of the financial years the fund has been running.

£

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
First Objective	7,200,000	8,940,000	4,060,000	5,980,000	5,446,000	2,700,000
Second Objective	3,660,000	3,487,000	4,480,000	11,170,000	9,134,000	7,700,000
Third Objective	16,710,000	13,379,000	11,772,000	5,790,000	5,153,000	7,200,000
Fourth Objective	—	—	—	3,810,000	2,797,000	2,797,000

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much from the Aggregates Levy Fund was allocated to local authorities in each year since the fund was established. [143625]

Barry Gardiner: I have been asked to reply.

The figures in the following table show the final allocations to local authorities in each of the financial years the fund has been running.

£

2002-03	800,000
2003-04	800,000
2004-05	642,000
2005-06	3,810,000
2006-07	2,797,000
2007-08	2,797,000

Business: Education

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* schools and *(b)* businesses were involved in the Enterprise Summer School Scheme in West Lancashire constituency in 2006; and how many (i) have been and (ii) are expected to be involved in the scheme in 2007. [143529]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The experimental 2006 Enterprise Summer School Scheme was managed for the Government by Young Enterprise, a leading educational charitable organisation. Nationally, we do not hold local information at the level of detail requested.

In light of evaluation, we are now considering how to develop enterprise summer schools. We have no plans for a further round of enterprise summer schools in 2007, but are developing options for future years.

Contracts: Medical Services

Mr. Francois: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what involvement his Department had in negotiating the new contract for the delivery of general medical services agreed in June 2003. [143808]

Mr. Timms: The general medical services contract was negotiated between the General Practitioners Committee and the NHS Confederation.

Valuation Office Agency

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many laser pens and laser measuring devices the Valuation Office Agency has purchased in the last 36 months; and what the cost has been. [143644]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) has laser measuring devices, but not laser pens. These are available to staff carrying out property inspections as part of the work of the VOA. The company that provides the laser measuring devices also supplies other items and services to the VOA, which are invoiced together. Therefore, a breakdown of the cost of laser measuring devices could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency made to Hometrack in each of the last three years. [143646]

Mr. Timms: No payments have been made to Hometrack by either *(a)* his Department or *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency.

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the property attributes and data that the HM Revenue and Customs stamp taxes provides to the Valuation Office Agency in relation to domestic dwellings to assist with council tax valuations and revaluations. [143647]

Ed Balls: The data which Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs stamp taxes supplies to the Valuation Office Agency is the information included in the land transaction return, which is prescribed by the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Administration) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/2837).

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many photographic identity cards have been issued to staff of the Valuation Office Agency to assist in carrying out valuations of property. [143746]

Mr. Timms: The responsibility for issuing photographic identity cards lies with local offices across the Valuation Office Agency. The data on numbers issued are not held centrally and cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in his Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement on his Department's policy on home working. [143875]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave him on 8 May 2006, *Official Report*, column 84W.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in his Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143890]

John Healey: The information requested is as follows:

	Male	*Female*	*Disabled*	*Over 55*
2004				
Temporary part-time	1	6	0	0
Temporary full-time	49	48	2	0
Permanent part-time	0	3	0	0
Permanent full-time	33	37	3	1
2005				
Temporary part-time	1	4	0	0
Temporary full-time	41	33	1	1
Permanent part-time	0	3	0	0
Permanent full-time	45	34	1	6
2006				
Temporary part-time	2	3	0	0
Temporary full-time	36	41	1	0
Permanent part-time	1	9	0	0
Permanent full-time	29	29	3	3

Departments: Projects

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department uses the categorisation 'mission critical' in relation to departmental projects; and if he will make a statement. [143506]

John Healey: The categorisation "mission critical" is used by Government in relation to departmental projects. The definition of mission critical programmes or projects is published in the NAO report 'Delivering Successful IT enabled Business Change' (November 2006) and is used to define those that are (A) essential to the successful delivery of a major legislative requirement, a PSA target, or a major policy initiative announced and owned by the Prime Minister or a Cabinet Minister; or (B) if the programme or project is not successful there are catastrophic implications for the delivery of a key public service, national security or the internal operation of a public sector operation.

Departments: Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many redundancies there were from his Department in *(a)* 2002-03 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what the total amount was of compensation payments made in each year. [137188]

John Healey: There were no redundancies in the Treasury in 2002-03. The data for 2006-07 are as follows. The costs of compulsory early severance or early retirement are determined according to the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

2006-07	
Number of redundancies	£ *Cost*
3	462,439

Disabled Children

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with representative groups about the transition support programme announced in Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families. [143559]

Ed Balls: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide range of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

The disabled children review consulted on a wide range of policy options, including support at transition to adulthood, with voluntary sector representatives, providers, professionals, local government, disabled children and young people and their parents, MPs, and academics, through:

responses to the Children and Young People review Call for Evidence in 2006;

joint HM Treasury and Department for Education and Skills seminars in July and October 2006;

a series of parliamentary hearings held in July 2006;

engagement with the disabled children's pathfinder children's trusts; and

visits to local authorities and specific providers.

Employment: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people aged 24 years of age or under were considered to be economically inactive in West Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. [144967]

John Healey: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 21 June 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people aged 24 years of age or under were considered to be economically inactive in west Lancashire in each of the last 10 years. (144967)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of inactivity from the annual local area Labour Force Survey LFS and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation Definitions.

The attached table shows the number of economically inactive persons, aged 16 to 24, resident in the West Lancashire constituency, from the annual local area LFS for the 12-month periods ending in February from 1997 to 2004 and from the APS for the 12-month periods ending in March from 2005 to 2006. These numbers are also expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

Table 1: Economic inactivity in 16 to 24 year olds in West Lancashire parliamentary constituency

	Economically inactive 16 to 24 year olds	
12 months ending	*Level (thousand)*	*Rate (percentage)*
February 1997	3	30
February 1998	4	37
February 1999	2	24
February 2000	3	23
February 2001	4	45
February 2002	3	33
February 2003	4	42
February 2004	2	22
March 2005	3	34
March 2006	3	29

Notes:
1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Families

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* internal evaluations and *(b)* external research the Treasury has (i) undertaken and (ii) commissioned on the effects of investment in early intervention with families as opposed to public spending on the consequences of not providing such early intervention; and if he will make a statement. [139015]

Ed Balls: The Treasury undertakes and commissions a wide range of evaluations. Most recently, the Children and Young People's Review conducted an extensive examination of the existing literature on spending on early intervention activity and preventative support, consulting practitioners, academics and commissioners of services. The review's public Call for Evidence attracted more than a 100 responses, details can be found at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_review/spend_csr07/reviews/cyp_review/cypreview_index.cfm

The conclusions of this evidence and analysis were set out in "Aiming High for Children: Supporting Families" and "Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families".

"Aiming High for Children: Supporting Families" highlights evidence from the United States that prevention and early intervention can represent a cost-effective response by public services. The conclusions of the review place a new emphasis on building children's resilience through improving attainment in education, good social and emotional skills and positive parenting. This analysis will be supported by significant investment over the next spending period in universal services, such as schools, health services and Sure Start children's centres. These all have a crucial role to play in focusing support on prevention and early intervention. New investment includes:

- £340 million additional funding for Sure Start children's centres, child care and early years by 2010-11;
- building on the Every Child a Reader scheme to help narrow attainment gaps by providing an average of 10 hours, one to one teacher-led tuition for 300,000 under-attaining pupils a year in English and 300,000 in Maths by 2010-11;
- funding so that by 2010-11 schools can offer two hours of free extended activities a week during term time, with two weeks a year of part-time holiday provision for children eligible for free school meals;
- faster roll-out to all schools of the successful Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme;
- intensive support for up to 30,000 parents who most need parenting support, focusing in particular on fathers; and
- a commitment from the Department of Health to examine how health services can best support parents and families in the early years of children's lives, by expanding the scope and duration of the current health-led parenting pilots, subject to the Comprehensive Spending Review.

"Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families" acknowledged that despite an improvement in the outcomes for disabled children, they are less likely to achieve as much in a range of areas as their non-disabled peers. This report sets out policy proposals to encourage more responsive services and early interventions for disabled children and their families, across social services and health to enhance equality and opportunity for disabled children and their families. Improving their educational, social emotional development, and their opportunities for independent living, choice and control, is a key part of this process.

This report announced the following provision:

- £280 million over the next three years to fund short breaks for disabled children, meaning an extra 40,000 fortnightly short breaks for severely disabled children and their families to help prevent family breakdown;
- £35 million to fund a pilot project to provide accessible child care, promote training, and tackle other barriers to accessing child care;
- £19 million for a Transition Support Programme to promote wrap around support, and consolidate person-centred planning at the critical transition to adulthood. This builds on the Goverament's commitment to roll-out the successful Early

Support Programme which provides intensive, co-ordinated support early in a disabled child's life;

radical reform in the co-ordination and provision of community equipment and wheelchairs to maximise disabled children's mobility;

development of a national indicator as part of the suite of public service agreement targets, underpinned by a 'core offer' to help disabled young people and their parents understand what support they can get and how to access it across local services; and

specific resources for evaluation and benchmarking good practice on early intervention for disabled children and their families as part of the work of the new Centre for Excellence for Children and Family Services.

Immigration: Greater London

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in funding for *(a)* London and *(b)* Wimbledon as a result of the change from International Passenger Survey to Labour Force Survey. [143013]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The Office for National Statistics published indicative figures for mid-2002 to mid-2005 to show the effect of a number of improvements to the methodology to estimate the international migration component of the population estimates. These improvements include the use of the Labour Force Survey in combination with the International Passenger Survey to distribute in-flows of international migrants to a regional level.

No estimates have been made of the distribution of formula grant to any authority based on these indicative figures.

Landfill Tax

Michael Gove: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the forecast revenue is from landfill tax in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* each year onwards for which estimates are available in (i) England and (ii) the United Kingdom. [143654]

John Healey: UK landfill tax receipts for 2005-06 and a provisional figure for 2006-07 are published by HM Revenue and Customs at http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=Bulletins in the landfill tax bulletin. A projection for 2007-08 receipts is published in Table C8 of the March 2007 Financial Statement and Budget Report.

Outturn or projected landfill tax receipts for England are not available separately.

Public Sector: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his latest estimate is of the *(a)* total population and *(b)* number of public sector workers for the period from 2007 to 2057; and if he will make a statement; [144074]

(2) what changes to Government assumptions about *(a)* public sector staff turnover and *(b)* the total number of public sector employees in relation to the total population underlie the new estimates of the future costs of public sector pensions in (i) the 2006 long-term public finance report and (ii) the 2004 long-term public finance report ; and if he will make a statement. [144076]

Mr. Timms: The staff turnover assumptions used in the long-term public finance report are provided by the Government Actuary's Department to reflect the actual experience of the schemes. The 2005 staff turnover assumptions were based on the assumptions adopted for principal civil service pension scheme (PCSPS) based on scheme experience while the 2006 assumptions are a weighted average of PCSPS, NHS pension scheme (NHSPS) and the teachers pension scheme (TPS) experience and assumptions. A technical note detailing staff turnover assumptions for the 2005 cash flow projections for unfunded public service pension schemes was also placed in the House of Commons Library in June 2006 and a note detailing the 2006 projections is published on the Government Actuary's Department website.

Data used in the LTPFR assumptions is based on scheme membership and not on the total number of public sector employees. HM Treasury does not produce population estimates or projections. The last official population projections were produced by the Government Actuary's Department in 2005 and are publicly available on their website. The Office for National Statistics will be responsible for producing the next set of projections and these will be published on 23 October.

Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the total value of assets the Asset Freezing Unit is likely to freeze in each of the first three years of its operation on an annual budget. [144568]

Ed Balls: Decisions by the Treasury to freeze the assets of suspected terrorists are at all times taken in response to advice from law enforcement and security agencies. It is not possible to estimate the value of assets likely to be frozen in a given year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Asset Freezing Unit will become operational; how many full time equivalent staff members it will employ; what its annual budget will be; and what the set up costs will be. [144569]

Ed Balls: The Treasury intends to establish a dedicated Asset Freezing Unit by the end of the summer. The unit will be funded from within the Treasury's departmental expenditure limit.

Stamp Duties: Repayments

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people received refunds on stamp duty in 2006-07; and how many received such refunds erroneously. [143726]

Ed Balls: From 1 December 2003, stamp duty land tax replaced stamp duty for property transactions. During 2006-07 Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs issued 7,442 repayments of stamp duty land tax.

Stamp duty land tax is a self-assessed tax. It is not possible to estimate the number of repayments which

should not have been made because a purchaser has incorrectly completed his or her return.

Tax Credit: Pension Funds

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the evidential basis is which supports the statement that the abolition of dividend tax credits in his July 1997 Budget was the right decision for the future of the UK's pension system. [143546]

Ed Balls: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the statement the Chancellor of the Exchequer made to the House and subsequent exchanges on occupational pensions on 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 175-79.

HEALTH

Blood Donors

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many representations she received in each year since 2002 on the National Blood Service's policy that prohibits gay and bisexual men from donating blood. [144179]

Caroline Flint: The Department is able to provide information for the last three years. This is provided in the following table.

	Correspondence[1]
2005	24
2006	27
2007	11 (to date)

[1] letters that have been identified that are on the issue of gay men excluded from donating blood

Cancer

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the *(a)* epidemiological and *(b)* statistical correlation between incidences of cancer and (i) mining communities and (ii) iron and steel industry communities. [141049]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are not aware of any departmental assessment looking at the epidemiological and statistical correlation between incidences of cancer in either mining communities or the iron and steel industry communities.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the number of people who will be diagnosed with lymphoma in the next five years. [143739]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We estimate that 57,698 people will be diagnosed with a type of lymphoma between 2008 and 2013.

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of lymphoma patients who are able to choose whether to receive their care at home or in a community setting. [143742]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published "Improving Outcomes" guidance for patients with haematological cancers, including lymphoma, in October 2003. This guidance covers all aspects of a lymphoma patient pathway, including providing supportive care in both a home and community setting. It is based on the best available evidence and has been put together after wide consultation, drawing on the views of patients and carers as well as the experts in the field.

The national health service has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the NICE recommendations and has set key milestones for the delivery of the guidance. Implementation will be incremental and will be supported through the increased general funding being provided to the NHS. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities and through peer review.

We have also provided £6 million of funding for the Integrated Cancer Care programme, which explored models of delivery to help all cancer patients get the best quality of care possible, and to find out the most effective ways to use resources.

This programme also supported patient choice by engaging patients more actively in decisions about their care. A final report, detailing the development of the programme and the key recommendations, was submitted to Ministers in spring 2007 and has been published on the Department of Health's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_074957

Additionally, as part of the development of the cancer reform strategy announced last November, we will be considering the most appropriate setting for the delivery of care for cancer patients.

Cancer: Sunitinib

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance her Department gives to primary care trusts for the provision of the drug sunitinib (Sutent) to cancer patients on the NHS; [144632]

(2) if she will ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence makes an early assessment of the effectiveness of sunitinib (Sutent) for the treatment of cancer patients; [144633]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the efficacy of the drug sunitinib (Sutent) for treating cancer patients. [144634]

Caroline Flint: Guidance issued by the Department makes it clear that it is not acceptable for national health service organisations to refuse to fund a treatment simply because it has not been appraised by National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). Pending final guidance, NHS bodies should continue to make local decisions on the use of sunitinib (Sutent), taking account of the available evidence.

The Department referred sunitinib to NICE on 19 June 2007 for appraisal as part of its 14th work programme.

The safety, quality and efficacy of a drug is assessed as part of the process for granting a marketing authorisation. Sunitinib has been approved by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, with contributions from the United Kingdom via membership of its scientific advisory committee, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human use, for use in the European Union to treat

patients with renal cell carcinoma and gastrointestinal stomal tumour. The Department has undertaken no separate assessment of the efficacy of sunitinib.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what support is available for lymphoma patients to help them comply with their treatments. [142980]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published 'Improving outcomes in haemato-oncology cancer' for patients with haematological cancers, including lymphoma, in October 2003. This guidance covers all aspects of a lymphoma patient pathway, including supportive care, and is based on the best available evidence and have been put together after wide consultation, drawing on the views of patients and carers as well as the experts in the field.

The national health service has been required to set out action plans to achieve compliance with the NICE recommendations and has set key milestones for the delivery of the guidance. Implementation will be incremental and will be supported through the increased general funding being provided to the NHS. Implementation is being monitored by strategic health authorities and through peer review.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of payment by results on the provision of social and psychological support to lymphoma patients. [143305]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There has been no formal assessment of the impact of payment by results on the provision of social and psychological support to lymphoma patients.

Social care is outside the scope of payment by results. Psychology services are excluded from payment by results, except psychological support provided during a patient's stay in hospital. Funding for services that are excluded from payment by results is agreed locally between commissioners and providers.

Cancer: Research

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans her Department has to review the implementation of the Human Tissue Act 2004 in order to safeguard tissue-banks which may be needed for research into lymphatic cancers and other conditions. [142956]

Ms Rosie Winterton: None. The Human Tissue Act 2004 was passed following a considerable amount of parliamentary debate as well as extensive consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholders including healthcare professionals, academics and researchers, families affected by organ retention, members of the general public as well as other Departments and the devolved Administrations. It provides a sound regulatory framework that supports research activities, including tissue banking, while maintaining the confidence of both professionals and the public.

Cancer: Tomography

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment has been made of the impact of lymphoma services of the £20 million extra capital investment to build new PET-CT facilities announced on 12 October 2005; [142977]

(2) how many PET-CT scanning facilities were available for lymphoma patients in each year since 2004; and where they were located. [142979]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not routinely collect data on the, number, location and clinical use of Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanning and therefore cannot make an assessment of the additional funding made available for lymphoma patients.

However, 'The National Framework for the Development of PET-CT Services in England' published in 2005 estimated that 15,000 scans were needed for diagnosis and treatment of patients with lymphoma. A National Audit database is currently being developed by the United Kingdom PET-CT Advisory Board. In the future, this database will help to monitor the number of scans recommended against estimates of needs for conditions such as lymphoma.

Annex C (pages 24-27) of the national framework identifies the PET-CT facilities in England in 2005. A copy of the national framework is available in the Library. In addition, the National Clinical Research Institute (NCRI) also published A 'Framework for PET Research in the UK' in March 2007 and Appendix IX of this report identified the location of current facilities for PET scanning within the national health service only. This report can be found on NCRI's website at www.ncri.org.uk.

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent meetings she has had with groups representing patients with peripheral arterial disease. [144551]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There have been no ministerial meetings with groups representing patients with peripheral arterial disease in the past year, but officials have met interested stakeholders from the University of Dundee.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration her Department has given to the inclusion of strategies to manage peripheral arterial disease in the national stroke strategy. [144553]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national stroke strategy had a project group looking at issues around prevention and raising public awareness. This made broad recommendations which are relevant to peripheral arterial disease, and which will be published for consultation this summer.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions have taken place with regard to identification of patients with peripheral arterial disease as part of the vascular disease risk management programme. [144556]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's Vascular Programme Board has considered a presentation about the impact of peripheral arterial disease. This will be considered as part of a broader programme of work exploring the feasibility of a comprehensive vascular risk management programme.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance has been issued by her Department on the use of the ankle brachial pressure index as a means of assessing vascular disease risk. [144557]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not issued guidance on the use of on the ankle brachial pressure index on how to assess vaseular disease risk.

Carers: Grants

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to continue the carers' grant after April 2008. [145095]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 1193W.

Dental Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact the new dental contract has had on *(a)* care of patients and *(b)* working conditions of dentists; and if she will make a statement. [142326]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will shortly be publishing a report, assessing the first 12 months of the new arrangements for local commissioning of dental services and the new contractual arrangements. The new arrangements are designed to support dentists in carrying out less complex and invasive courses of treatment that allow more time for preventative care. This should help promote clinically appropriate care for patients while reducing workload for dentists. It will take time to build up detailed evidence on the impact on patient care and on dental workload and expenses. However, the available evidence suggests that the new arrangements are, as intended, supporting dentists in carrying out less complex courses of treatment.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the impact of the new dental contract on access to NHS dentistry; and if she will make a statement. [142327]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department will be publishing a report later in the summer, assessing the first 12 months of the new arrangements for local commissioning of dental services and the new contractual arrangements. The most recent data show that the proportion of the population accessing national health service dental services in the two-year period ending December 2006 is the same as in the two-year period immediately preceding the reforms. This suggests that access has remained broadly stable during the transition to the new arrangements. The evidence also so far indicates that the NHS is commissioning a steadily increasing volume of NHS dental services.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether her Department has a target for the number of NHS dentists per head of population in *(a)* each primary care trust area and *(b)* England. [142901]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has not set targets for numbers of national health service dentists. Under the dental reforms implemented from April 2006, it is for primary care trusts to assess local oral health needs and develop dental services to reflect these needs.

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of *(a)* adults and *(b)* children are registered for NHS dentistry in (i) the City of Sunderland, (ii) the North East region and (iii) England. [143345]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the new national health service dental contractual arrangements, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive NHS care. Information is available on the number of patients receiving NHS dental care or treatment at least once over a 24-month period (patients seen). This is not comparable to registration data for the period before April 2006.

Section F2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q4: 31 March 2007 report contains information on the number of adult and child patients seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 in England, NHS North East and Sunderland teaching primary care trust, expressed as a proportion of the estimated population for each area. This report is available in the Library.

The report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care, is also available online at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england:-quarter-4:-31-march-2007

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which primary care trusts patients seeking an NHS dentist are *(a)* able to make their own arrangements to choose which NHS dentist they see, *(b)* allocated a dentist from a central list after a wait of no more than three months and *(c)* allocated a dentist from a central list after a wait in excess of three months. [143929]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services to reflect local needs. It is for PCTs to agree locally with the providers of these services the most effective arrangements to support patients in accessing services.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts have undertaken patient surveys in order to assess patient demand for NHS dentistry in their area. [143930]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services to reflect local needs. It is for PCTs to decide locally, in consultation with local clinicians and patients, how most effectively to assess these needs.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what basis comparisons can be made between the number of NHS patients registered at a dental practice and units of dental activity to assess levels of dental provision before and after the introduction of the new general dental services contract. [144844]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Information Centre for health and social care regularly publishes information on the number of individual patients seen by national health service dentists in England over a 24 month period. The latest data show the position for the 24 months ending 31 March 2007 and is contained in "NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 4: 31 March 2007", which is available in the Library.

To support comparisons of access before and after the dental reforms introduced in April 2006, the Information Centre reports include information on numbers of individual patients seen in the last 24 months of the previous contractual arrangements, i.e. the period ending 31 March 2006. These data show that the number of patients seen has remained broadly stable throughout the first transitional year of the reforms.

Units of dental activity are a way of measuring the courses of dental treatment provided for NHS patients, based on grouping courses of treatment into three main bands and applying different weightings to reflect the relative complexity of these bands. The corresponding number of patients seen will vary depending on the complexity of the treatment they require and the frequency with which they re-attend for new courses of treatment.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which indicators her Department intends to use to compare NHS dental provision before and after the introduction of the new general dental services contracts. [142613]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are available at national level on the numbers of patients receiving national health service dental services within the most recent two-year period and on the number of courses of treatment provided annually for NHS patients (by treatment band). The Department is supporting primary care trusts in developing a wider range of indicators that can be used locally to measure and benchmark the development of primary dental services.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the number of individual NHS patients registered and treated under general dental services contracts is recorded. [142614]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Patients no longer have to be formally registered with a practice to receive national health service dental services. The information centre for heath and social care published quarterly data on the numbers of individual patients receiving NHS dental care at least once within the most recent two-year period. Numbers of patients seen in the previous 24 months ending 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 are available in Section F1 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006 report. This report is available in the Library and also at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006.

Dental Services: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what total value of NHS orthodontic treatment was carried out in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last five years. [141891]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data identifying the value of orthodontic courses of treatment alone by financial years and for specific local areas is not available centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However a special analysis of general dental services (GDS) costs over a 12 month reference period from 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005 was prepared to help calculate funding levels for the new primary dental service arrangements introduced from 1 April 2006. The following table draws on that analysis and sets out the total payments during that twelve month reference period for all courses of treatment which included an element of orthodontic care in each of the primary care trusts (PCTs) in East Sussex operational at the time.

PCT name	*Orthodontic earnings 1 October 2004 to 30 September 2005*
Bexhill and Rother	11,398
Brighton and Hove City	918,052
Eastbourne Downs	493,349
Hastings and St. Leonards	225,155
Sussex Downs and Weald	351,487

Notes:
1. The data relate to claims from dentists working under the terms of the former General Dental Services only. It includes the value of interim payments made during the 12 month period for orthodontic treatments. It excludes orthodontic work carried out within former Personal Dental Service pilots, where the value of orthodontic as opposed to general dental treatments can be less easily identified. This may mean the GDS data above is not fully representative of all elements of orthodontic care in every area.
2. The data is presented by the PCT areas that were operational during the reference period, rather than the new PCTs that assumed responsibility for services from 1 October 2006.

Source:
Dental Practice Division of the NHS Business Services Authority.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* definition and *(b)* value is of the units used to calculate NHS dentists' fees. [144606]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under the new contractual arrangements introduced from April 2006, dentists are no longer paid on the basis of separate fees for individual treatments. Dentists or dental practices instead have an agreed annual contract value, paid in

monthly instalments, in return for which they carry out an agreed volume of dental services over the course of the year.

These annual service levels are defined primarily in terms of the courses of treatment provided for national health service patients, but with courses of treatment categorised into three main bands and with different weightings to reflect the relative complexity of these bands. There are separate, though similar, arrangements for defining annual service levels for specialist dental services such as orthodontics. Within the overall contract value, primary care trusts (PCTs) and practices may also arrange for the provision of other services that are not measured through courses of treatment.

A course of treatment which consists of an examination, diagnosis, e.g. x-rays and oral health advice, and a scale and polish if needed, is recorded as a band 1 treatment. This equates to one unit of dental activity.

A course of treatment which includes band 1 items together with additional treatment such as fillings, root canal work or extractions, is recorded as a band 2 treatment. This equates to three units of dental activity.

A course of treatment which includes band 1 and 2 items together with more complex procedures such as crowns, dentures or bridges is recorded as a band 3 treatment. This equates to12 units of dental activity.

There are additional arrangements for urgent courses of treatment and for certain other categories of treatment such as the issue of prescriptions.

The relationship between annual contract values and annual service levels, expressed in terms of units of dental activity, varies between contracts. For dentists or dental practices, who had previously provided services under the old general dental services arrangements, the calculation of annual contract values and annual service levels was based on an assessment of overall NHS earnings and corresponding courses of treatment during a 12-month reference period before the start of the reforms. The resulting variations in contract prices reflect, in turn, historic differences in treatment patterns and patients' oral health needs. Subject to these transitional protections, the calculation of annual contract values and corresponding service levels is a matter for agreement locally between primary care trusts and dentists or dental practices.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* dentist to patient and *(b)* orthodontist to patient ratio is in each (A) strategic health authority and (B) primary care trust area in England; and what those ratios were in each of the last five years. [142418]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The requested information has been placed in the Library and shows the number of patients registered with a national health service dentist per number of NHS dentists, by strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) in England, as at 31 March for each of the years from 2001 to 2006.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. Under the new NHS dental contractual arrangements, patients do not have to be registered with a dentist to receive NHS care. Information is, however, collected on the number of patients receiving NHS care or treatment at least once within the most recent two-year period (patients seen). This is not comparable to registration data for earlier years.

The information placed in the Library also shows the number of patients seen in the previous 24 months per number of dentists on open NHS contracts, by SHA and PCT in England, as at 31 December 2006.

Both these sets of data include NHS orthodontic services, but these services could only be separately identified at disproportionate cost.

Annex F of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006" contains information comparing the numbers of people resident in each SHA and PCT area with the numbers of dentists providing NHS services in that area as at March for each year from 2001 to 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhsdental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Section G of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3; 31 December 2006" report contains information comparing the numbers of people resident in each SHA and PCT area with the numbers of dentists on open NHS contracts in that area as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006.

This report is available in the Library and is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006.

Dental Services: St. Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding went to providing dentistry provision in the St Albans constituency in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [142687]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Primary care trusts (PCTs) assumed full responsibility for local commissioning of primary care dentistry and received devolved budgets with effect from 1 April 2006. A table listing the primary dental service resource allocations for 2006-07 for all PCTs in England as at 31 July 2006 is available in the Library. PCTs determine the distribution of resources within their areas. A breakdown of the primary dental service resource allocations by constituency areas is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Full year data on expenditure by PCTs on primary dental care in 2006-07 is not yet available.

Prior to April 2006, most primary dental services were provided under former general dental service (GDS) arrangements. These were demand led services where the pattern of dental expenditure was largely determined by where dentists chose to practice, and how much national health service work they chose to undertake. PCTs were not given fixed GDS funding allocations. In a number of areas, personal dental services (PDS) pilots were also established, where some former GDS dental practices and some directly

managed dental services converted to locally commissioned arrangements to test new ways of working and new forms of contract remuneration. PDS pilots were funded by PCTs from supplementary allocations issued by the Department.

The following table shows the available data on expenditure on the former GDS and PDS services for the constituency of St. Albans for 2004-05 and 2005-06. The difference between gross and net expenditure is the contribution to costs from dental charges collected directly from patients.

Core GDS and PDS dental payments within St. Albans constituency, 2004-05 and 2005-06 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

£ million

	2004-05	*2005-06*
Gross GDS	3.421	3.171
Gross PDS	0.052	0.701
Net GDS	2.389	2.287
Net PDS	0.048	0.508
Gross GDS and PDS	3.473	3.872
Net GDS and PDS	2.437	2.795

[1] Gross GDS payments include adult fees (including item of service and continuing care payments), child fees (including item of service and capitation payments), commitment payments, seniority payments, maternity/paternity/adoptive leave payments, long term sick leave payments, continuing professional development allowances including travel hours, reimbursement of business rates, vocational training grants and clinical audit payments. The following costs are excluded from those data: employer's superannuation costs, vocational trainee salaries and NI contribution costs, clinical audit convenors, clinical audit secretarial support costs and travel expenses, and costs associated with any salaried general dental practitioners and emergency dental services.

[2] PDS payment data relate to baseline payments or the agreed regular monthly payments made to PDS practices. The data cannot identify the cost of any PDS services that are directly managed by local NHS trusts, such as certain dental access centres.

[3] In the immediate aftermath of dental practices converting from GDS to PDS pilots, there can be a period of overlapping expenditure as time lags in submitting GDS treatment claims can mean that clearance of GDS arrears coincides with the start of regular PDS payments.

[4] Payments to dental practices are assigned to areas on the basis of practice postcode data. The practices themselves may draw patients from a wider catchment area.

[5] Net payments represent the balance of payments due after taking account of NHS dental charge income collected from patients by dental practices.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care and the NHS Business Services Authority.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists are working in St. Albans; and how many there were in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [142688]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Numbers of national health service dentists in regional areas in England as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Annex E contains information at strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) area. Information at parliamentary constituency area is available in Annex G.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. Copies of the report are available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006.

Numbers of NHS dentists in regional areas in England as at 30 June, 30 September and 31 December 2006 are available in Section G of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England Q3: 31 December 2006 report.

Copies are available in the Library and at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-for-england-q3:-31-december-2006.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements and is not directly comparable with earlier information. Data are only available at SHA and PCT level. To provide these data at constituency level area would be at disproportionate cost. In this report, St. Albans is covered by West Hertfordshire PCT.

In both sets of figures, no account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Dentists: Contracts

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many dentists were operating under *(a)* general dental services contracts and *(b)* personal dental services agreements in each year since 1997 in (i) Suffolk, (ii) Bedfordshire, (iii) Cambridgeshire, (iv) Essex, (v) Hertfordshire, (vi) Norfolk and (vii) England. [143954]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available in the form requested. Information on numbers of national health service dentists broken down by general dental services and personal dental services contractual arrangements is available by NHS organisation rather than by county. Information as at 30 September for the years 1997 to 2005 at primary care trust (PCT) level in the requested areas is shown in the following table. (PCT boundaries are as at 30 September 2005).

These are the latest available data at PCT level.

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): dentists by contract type in England and the specified primary care trusts (PCTs) as at 30 September each year 1997 to 2005

	30 September 1997				*30 September 1998*				*30 September 1999*			
	GDS only	*PDS only*	*GDS and PDS*	*Total GDS and PDS dentists*	*GDS. only*	*PDS only*	*GDS and PDS*	*Total GDS and PDS dentists*	*GDS only*	*PDS only*	*GDS and PDS*	*Total GDS and PDS dentists*
England	16,670	0	0	16,670	17,199	0	0	17,199	17,606	92	57	17,755

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): dentists by contract type in England and the specified primary care trusts (PCTs) as at 30 September each year 1997 to 2005

	30 September 1997				30 September 1998				30 September 1999			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
Basildon PCT	44	0	0	44	45	0	0	45	48	0	0	48
Bedford PCT	52	0	0	52	53	0	0	53	65	0	2	67
Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	67	0	0	67	74	0	0	74	77	0	3	80
Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	58	0	0	58	58	0	0	58	55	0	0	55
Broadland PCT	36	0	0	36	43	0	0	43	49	0	0	49
Cambridge City PCT	67	0	0	67	64	0	0	64	68	0	0	68
Castle Point and Rochford PCT	53	0	0	53	53	0	0	53	56	0	0	56
Central Suffolk PCT	22	0	0	22	24	0	0	24	26	0	0	26
Chelmsford PCT	50	0	0	50	52	0	0	52	54	0	0	54
Colchester PCT	72	0	0	72	76	0	0	76	70	0	3	73
Dacorum PCT	70	0	0	70	73	0	0	73	71	0	0	71
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	34	0	0	34	37	0	0	37	38	0	0	38
Epping Forest PCT	51	0	0	51	52	0	0	52	49	0	0	49
Great Yarmouth PCT	45	0	0	45	49	0	0	49	48	0	0	48
Harlow PCT	27	0	0	27	28	0	0	28	34	0	0	34
Hertsmere PCT	45	0	0	45	49	0	0	49	52	0	0	52
Huntingdonshire PCT	48	0	0	48	48	0	0	48	51	0	0	51
Ipswich PCT	63	0	0	63	64	0	0	64	65	0	0	65
Luton PCT	65	0	0	65	72	0	0	72	74	0	0	74
Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	32	0	0	32	32	0	0	32	38	0	0	38
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT	88	0	0	88	83	0	0	83	86	0	0	86
North Norfolk PCT	33	0	0	33	35	0	0	35	39	0	0	39
North Peterborough PCT	35	0	0	35	33	0	0	33	37	0	0	37
Norwich PCT	83	0	0	83	88	0	0	88	77	0	0	77
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT	35	0	0	35	40	0	0	40	44	0	0	44

General dental services (GDS) and personal dental services (PDS): dentists by contract type in England and the specified primary care trusts (PCTs) as at 30 September each year 1997 to 2005

	30 September 1997				30 September 1998				30 September 1999			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
South Cambridgeshire PCT	19	0	0	19	27	0	0	27	28	0	0	28
South East Hertfordshire PCT	67	0	0	67	67	0	0	67	68	0	0	68
South Peterborough PCT	25	0	0	25	26	0	0	26	26	0	0	26
Southend on Sea PCT	57	0	0	57	62	0	0	62	64	0	0	64
Southern Norfolk PCT	58	0	0	58	69	0	0	69	84	0	0	84
St Albans and Harpenden PCT	75	0	0	75	75	0	0	75	75	0	0	75
Suffolk Coastal PCT	29	0	0	29	29	0	0	29	33	0	0	33
Suffolk West PCT	79	0	0	79	77	0	0	77	85	0	0	85
Tendring PCT	37	0	0	37	40	0	0	40	43	0	0	43
Thurrock PCT	33	0	0	33	32	0	0	32	33	0	0	33
Uttlesford PCT	25	0	0	25	27	0	0	27	26	0	0	26
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	78	0	0	78	86	0	0	86	108	0	0	108
Waveney PCT	52	0	0	52	53	0	0	53	51	0	0	51
Welwyn Hatfield PCT	50	0	0	50	52	0	0	52	47	0	0	47
West Norfolk PCT	39	0	0	39	40	0	0	40	41	0	0	41
Witham Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	35	0	0	35	33	0	0	33	30	0	0	30

	30 September 2000				30 September 2001				30 September 2002			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
England	17,845	190	132	18,167	17,970	470	282	18,722	17,995	622	329	18,946
Basildon PCT	45	0	0	45	47	0	0	47	46	0	0	46
Bedford PCT	68	1	2	71	60	12	9	81	57	19	4	80
Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	77	0	3	80	84	13	3	100	75	18	2	95
Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	68	0	0	68	68	0	0	68	67	0	0	67
Broadland PCT	51	0	0	51	52	0	0	52	52	0	0	52

	30 September 2000				30 September 2001				30 September 2002			
	GDS only	*PDS only*	*GDS and PDS*	*Total GDS and PDS dentists*	*GDS only*	*PDS only*	*GDS and PDS*	*Total GDS and PDS dentists*	*GDS only*	*PDS only*	*GDS and PDS*	*Total GDS and PDS dentists*
Cambridge City PCT	76	0	0	76	81	0	0	81	83	0	0	83
Castle Point and Rochford PCT	55	0	0	55	54	0	0	54	52	0	0	52
Central Suffolk PCT	27	0	0	27	24	0	0	24	23	0	0	23
Chelmsford PCT	50	0	0	50	52	0	0	52	53	0	0	53
Colchester PCT	69	0	3	72	75	0	4	79	73	0	5	78
Dacorum PCT	81	0	0	81	81	0	0	81	84	0	0	84
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	41	0	0	41	42	7	0	49	44	8	0	52
Epping Forest PCT	53	0	0	53	54	0	0	54	49	0	0	49
Great Yarmouth PCT	46	0	0	46	49	0	0	49	43	0	0	43
Harlow PCT	39	0	0	39	36	0	0	36	32	0	0	32
Hertsmere PCT	50	0	0	50	52	0	0	52	51	0	0	51
Huntingdonshire PCT	52	0	0	52	53	0	0	53	50	0	0	50
Ipswich PCT	65	0	0	65	66	0	0	66	68	0	0	68
Luton PCT	76	3	0	79	75	14	0	89	73	18	0	91
Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	32	0	0	32	31	0	0	31	29	0	0	29
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT	90	0	0	90	96	0	0	96	96	0	0	96
North Norfolk PCT	39	0	0	39	47	0	0	47	45	0	0	45
North Peterborough PCT	41	2	0	43	42	5	1	48	47	7	0	54
Norwich PCT	72	0	0	72	70	0	0	70	71	2	0	73
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT	39	0	0	39	43	0	0	43	42	0	0	42
South Cambridgeshire PCT	26	0	0	26	26	0	0	26	27	0	0	27
South East Hertfordshire PCT	74	0	0	74	79	0	0	79	80	0	0	80
South Peterborough PCT	32	0	0	32	31	0	0	31	31	0	0	31
Southend on Sea PCT	65	0	0	65	65	0	0	65	62	0	0	62
Southern Norfolk PCT	85	0	0	85	83	0	0	83	86	0	0	86

	30 September 2000				30 September 2001				30 September 2002			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
St Albans and Harpenden PCT	76	0	0	76	85	0	0	85	89	0	0	89
Suffolk Coastal PCT	32	0	0	32	30	0	0	30	27	0	0	27
Suffolk West PCT	84	0	2	86	89	3	2	94	98	4	3	105
Tendring PCT	44	0	0	44	46	0	0	46	45	0	0	45
Thurrock PCT	43	0	0	43	40	0	0	40	42	0	0	42
Uttlesford PCT	27	0	0	27	27	0	0	27	27	0	0	27
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	112	0	0	112	108	0	0	108	106	0	0	106
Waveney PCT	51	0	0	51	53	0	0	53	53	0	0	53
Welwyn Hatfield PCT	51	0	0	51	52	0	0	52	55	0	0	55
West Norfolk PCT	46	0	0	46	48	5	2	55	46	5	3	54
Witham Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	40	0	0	40	37	0	0	37	37	0	0	37

	30 September 2003				30 September 2004				30 September 2005			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
England	18,151	726	383	19,260	17,023	1,857	842	19,722	13,801	5,149	1,940	20,890
Basildon PCT	44	0	0	44	46	0	0	46	52	0	0	52
Bedford PCT	51	26	1	78	51	30	1	82	52	39	1	92
Bedfordshire Heartlands PCT	77	24	2	103	76	29	0	105	73	43	1	117
Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	70	0	0	70	69	0	0	69	70	7	0	77
Broadland PCT	58	0	0	58	55	0	0	55	32	30	0	62
Cambridge City PCT	92	0	0	92	91	6	1	98	69	23	1	93
Castle Point and Rochford PCT	46	0	0	46	53	0	0	53	40	23	1	64
Central Suffolk PCT	24	0	0	24	22	0	0	22	20	4	0	24
Chelmsford PCT	56	0	0	56	55	0	0	55	38	20	0	58
Colchester PCT	76	0	5	81	71	0	5	76	64	10	6	80
Dacorum PCT	81	0	0	81	84	0	0	84	87	0	0	87

	30 September 2003				30 September 2004				30 September 2005			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	43	14	0	57	46	22	0	68	38	30	0	68
Epping Forest PCT	51	0	0	51	49	0	0	49	47	4	1	52
Great Yarmouth PCT	45	0	0	45	39	0	0	39	14	31	0	45
Harlow PCT	31	0	0	31	36	0	0	36	41	0	0	41
Hertsmere PCT	51	0	0	51	52	0	0	52	54	4	1	59
Huntingdonshire PCT	54	0	0	54	54	5	0	59	33	33	0	66
Ipswich PCT	66	0	1	67	66	0	1	67	63	6	1	70
Luton PCT	71	16	0	87	67	19	0	86	73	25	0	98
Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	29	0	0	29	29	0	0	29	18	13	0	31
North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT	93	0	0	93	96	0	0	96	90	6	1	97
North Norfolk PCT	45	1	0	46	45	1	0	46	45	2	0	47
North Peterborough PCT	49	12	0	61	53	18	0	71	28	34	2	64
Norwich PCT	79	3	0	82	79	3	0	82	78	9	0	87
Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT	44	0	0	44	46	0	0	46	41	3	0	44
South Cambridgeshire PCT	27	0	0	27	28	0	0	28	26	3	0	29
South East Hertfordshire PCT	83	0	0	83	87	0	0	87	97	0	0	97
South Peterborough PCT	32	0	0	32	31	0	0	31	26	10	0	36
Southend on Sea PCT	61	0	0	61	60	0	0	60	47	18	0	65
Southern Norfolk PCT	99	0	0	99	101	0	0	101	69	38	0	107
St Albans and Harpenden PCT	96	0	0	96	100	0	0	100	89	7	0	96
Suffolk Coastal PCT	27	0	0	27	31	0	0	31	24	4	0	28
Suffolk West PCT	102	6	2	110	106	7	2	115	78	37	2	117
Tendring PCT	45	0	0	45	46	0	0	46	42	10	2	54
Thurrock PCT	44	0	0	44	43	0	0	43	44	6	0	50
Uttlesford PCT	27	0	0	27	27	0	0	27	23	5	0	28

	30 September 2003				30 September 2004				30 September 2005			
	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists	GDS only	PDS only	GDS and PDS	Total GDS and PDS dentists
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	105	0	0	105	108	0	0	108	108	2	0	110
Waveney PCT	53	0	0	53	52	0	0	52	25	22	0	47
Welwyn Hatfield PCT	64	0	0	64	69	0	0	69	67	0	0	67
West Norfolk PCT	44	8	1	53	42	12	4	58	30	24	7	61
Witham Braintree and Halstead Care Trust	35	0	0	35	40	0	0	40	32	15	0	47

Notes:
1. PCT boundaries are as at 30 September 2006.
2. Dentists will be counted more than once if they have contracts in more than one PCT. England totals exclude duplication.
3. The figures are based on the numbers of dentists with open GDS or PDS contracts.
4. Dentists consist of principals, assistants and trainees.
5. The areas have been defined using practice postcodes within the PCT.
6. Data include notifications received by the NHS BSA up to 2 November 2005 for England data and 13 January 2006 for PCT data.
7. No account is taken of the level of service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Sources:
1. The Information Centre for health and social care
2. NHS Business Services Authority (BSA)

Departments: Opinion Leader Research

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* value and *(b)* purpose was of each payment made by her Department to Opinion Leader Research since 1997. [141520]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department paid the following amounts to Opinion Leader Research.

Financial year	£
2002-03	47,762.59
2003-04	68,859.25
2004-05	48,175.00
2005-06	4,772.86
2006-07	71,674.99
2007-08 (to May)	70,500.00

The company was commissioned to undertake a number of studies to support and inform policy development within the Department.

Data for earlier years are not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Personnel

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding has been provided in 2007-08 for the funding of displaced staff within her Department. [135872]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information can be found on page 14 of the 2007-08 business plan, which has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_073546

Departments: Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what properties her Department *(a)* owned and *(b)* rented in each of the last five years. [139355]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department owns and has owned the following property for the last five years:

Richmond House, Whitehall, London

54 Whitehall, London

Wellington House, Waterloo Road, London

The Department has rented the following properties in each of the last five years

Property	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Bartholomew House, Birmingham	X	—	—	—	—
Belgrave Road, London	—	X	X	X	—
Berkeley Square, Bristol	X	X	—	—	—
Canons Park, Stanmore	X	X	X	X	—
Chalfont Drive, Nottingham	X	X	X	—	—
Cressington House, Liverpool	X	X	—	—	—
Dominions House, Bristol	—	—	X	X	—
Eastbourne Terrace, London	X	X	—	—	—
Eastway Business Park, Preston	—	—	X	X	—
Eileen House, London	X	X	X	X	—
Fulwood House, Sheffield	X	—	—	—	—
Hannibal House, London	X	X	X	X	—
Heron House, London	—	X	X	X	—
Hinchley Wood, Surbiton	X	X	X	X	—
J. Rothschild House, Nottingham	X	X	—	—	—
St. James Place House, Nottingham	X	X	—	—	—

Property	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
John Snow House, Durham	X	—	—	—	—[1]
11 Strand, London	X	X	X	X	—
Ladywood House, Birmingham	X	X	—	—	—
Market Towers, London	X	X	X	X	—
Block A, Millenium Park, Warrington	X	X	X	X	—
Block B, Millenium Park, Warrington	X	X	—	—	—
Premier Buildings, Nelson	X	X	X	X	X
New Kings Beam House, London	—	—	X	X	X
Quarry House, Leeds	X	X	X	X	X
Piccadilly Exchange, Manchester	—	—	X	—	—
Skipton House, London	X	X	X	X	X
The Sanctuary, London	X	X	—	—	—
Tynebridge Tower, Gateshead	X	X	X	—	—
Waterloo International Terminal, London	X	X	X	—	—
West Point, Manchester	X	X	—	—	—
Westwood House, Bristol	X	X	—	—	—

Notes:
X = rented properties

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department and its agencies paid to recruitment consultants in each year since 1997. [140037]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much her Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139906]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The net payment made to travel agencies by the Department since 1997 has been:

	Net payment (£)
1997-98	[1]—
1998-99	27,840
1999-2000	46,469
2000-01	32,700
2001-02	[2]0
2002-03	15,329
2003-04	36,966
2004-05	15,687
2005-06	66,780
2006-07	24,443

[1] No record.
[2] Travel agency fees 2001-02—nil net costs. In that year, the Department contracted with Carlson Wagonlit. This company received commissions from the rail and air operating companies to offset the management/contract costs charged to the Department. In other years, companies invoiced the Department for payment of these costs.

Departments: Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which Ministers in her Department have been Criminal Records Bureau checked. [139186]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Ministers are not security vetted by Departments.

Diabetes

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to prevent cases of diabetes. [143512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are committed to preventing as many cases of diabetes as possible. Obesity is one of the major causes of type 2 diabetes and tackling obesity, working through national and local partnerships, is a key departmental objective. The Government have a public service agreement (PSA) target, which is jointly owned by three Departments, to halt the year-on-year rise in obesity among children aged under 11 by 2010—in the context of a broader strategy to tackle obesity in the population as a whole. As childhood obesity often tracks into adulthood, the PSA-owning Departments are working to support families to eat more healthily and be more active.

Doctors: Qualifications

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Indian doctors there are in the UK on highly skilled migrant programme visas who have not yet received a postgraduate certificate. [143438]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not held centrally.

Doctors: Recruitment

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what period of time will elapse between second round interview job offers to junior doctors and the commencement of the posts offered. [135589]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The further recruitment round will be managed locally so the period of time between offers and the commencement of the posts will vary depending on speciality and location.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations she has received on the functionality of the application process used in Modernising Medical Careers; and if she will make a statement. [128234]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department has received representations in the form of e-mails and letters concerning the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) programme.

The Department has also had meetings with many stakeholders. We also set up an independent review of the MMC recruitment and selection process. This is being led by Professor Neil Douglas, Vice Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and President of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Members of the review group include representatives of the Royal colleges, the British Medical Association, the four United Kingdom Health Departments and NHS Employers.

Junior Doctors: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many posts were available for junior doctors through the Medical Training Application System (MTAS) in round one; how many applicants for these posts there were; whether there were any new training posts in round two; and how many applicants per training post there were for those posts available through MTAS; [134104]

(2) when she will answer question 134104, tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil on 24 April 2007, on the Medical Training Application Service. [144923]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of posts available for the 2007 recruitment process is in the following table.

Posts on MTAS

	Run through	*FTSTA*	*Academic*	*Total*	*Round one posts not on MTAS added after 19 April*[1]	*Estimated GP posts filled outside MTAS*	*New run through programmes in Round 2*	*Estimated new FTSTAs and GP posts in Round 2*[1]	*Overall total of training posts in 2007*[2]
UK	14,595	4,392	185	19,172	108	3,450	215	302	23,247
England	11,916	3,485	182	15,583	108	2,828	215	302	19,036

Across the UK 34,389 candidates submitted applications on Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) during the first recruitment round and made 127,948 applications. Of these 32,600[3] applicants made at least one eligible application and a total of 118,600[3] eligible applications are recorded on the MTAS system. Of the eligible applicants 29,600[3] were already working in training or non-training posts in the national health service.

The MTAS data provide the number of applications per post not applicants per post. Based on the MTAS extract dated 19 April there were 6.2 applications per post.

[1] Taken from a survey of English deaneries on 14 June. Figure only includes the posts in England and not those in the devolved Administrations because the survey only covered English deaneries. We expect there to be additional new posts in the devolved Administrations.

[2] As set out in note 1, the United Kingdom total does not include the new Round 2 posts in the devolved Administrations.

[3] This figure is an estimate derived by inference from the data provided by applicants on the MTAS system.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information has been made public by *(a)* her and *(b)* Ministers in her Department and *(c)* other representatives on (i) matching algorithms and (ii) other matters relating to Medical Training Application Service and Modernising Medical Careers that were not included in (A) her Written Statement of 15 May and (B) her response to the Urgent Question on 16 May; and if she will make a statement. [138712]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The applicant's guide, which was first published on 30 November 2006, provided detailed information about the recruitment process, including how applicants would be matched to posts. Since the Modernising Medical Careers (MMC) Review began, a series of communications has been sent to applicants and recruitment teams and the applicant's guide has been revised. All of this information is available on the MMC website at www.mmc.nhs.uk.

Further background and information on the decision not to proceed with designing an algorithm to match applicants to posts was included in the Department's witness statements to the Judicial Review brought by Remedy UK. Copies of these two statements have been placed in the Library.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she made of the cost of administering each on-line job application by a junior doctor in the latest period for which figures are available. [140987]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The costs of administering junior doctor applications are not collected centrally. Processing costs will vary depending on local deanery arrangements. On-line application enables deaneries to reduce advertising, printing and distribution costs.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applicants to the Medical Training Application Service were from St. Albans constituency. [142694]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what distinction was made between applicants from outside the EU and EU citizens by the Medical Training Application Service. [143439]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All applicants in the current recruitment to specialty training must meet the eligibility requirements that applied on 5 February 2007, regardless of their nationality. Applicants who meet the eligibility requirements who are from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) will be considered on the same basis as United Kingdom and EEA applicants unless they require a work permit.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment she has made of the clarity of advice on requirement of the Home Office Passport Stamp in the applicants' guide of January 2007 for the Medical Training Application Service; why the date of 5 February was chosen; whether potential delays in obtaining the stamp were taken into account; and if she will change the requirement to 1 August; [144397]

(2) whether the applicants' guide for the Medical Training Application Service refers to migrant status and the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme; [144398]

(3) whether *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board can vary the 5 February deadline for the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme status passport stamp. [144399]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The application form made clear that evidence of immigration status should include an appropriately stamped passport.

To ensure consistency in the assessment of applications it was agreed that eligibility criteria for applications to specialty training had to be met on the final date of application, 5 February. This included the assessment of immigration status. To change this date or allow exceptions to it would be impractical and unfair.

The current applicants' guide, available on the Modernising Medical Careers website, is clear that immigration status will be assessed as of the 5 February 2007.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Office of Government Commerce carried out a Gateway Review of the Medical Training Application Service. [144525]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No. However Medical Training Application Service was included in the Modernising Medical Careers Health Gateway programme review in September 2006.

Doctors: Vacancies

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS posts available for F2 doctors are training posts; and how many vacancies are short fixed-term contracts. [129081]

Ms Rosie Winterton: On Medical Training Application Service as at 19 April there were 7,687 specialist training level 1 (ST1) posts available for foundation level 2 (F2) doctors, of these 6,058 are for run-through and 1,529 are for fixed term specialist training appointments (FTSTA). FTSTAs are also training posts.

The further recruitment round will contain an estimated 302 additional FTSTAs and general practitioner training posts, but it is not yet possible to identify which of these will be at ST1 level.

For those who have successfully completed the Modernising Medical Careers foundation training programme and who demonstrate their ability to progress, there will be still further new training programmes through one-year fixed term appointments. We are asking the Postgraduate Medical Education Training Board to expedite the approval of these programmes.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate she has made of the number of F2 doctors who have been trained but who will not have an NHS post from August. [129119]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Deaneries are currently making Round 1 offers to applicants. When this process is complete we will then be able to estimate the likely numbers of F2 doctors who will not secure a specialty training place at the end of the process (Rounds 1 and 2).

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the written statement of 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS, on medical training (recruitment), how many and what proportion of jobs will go into round two; if she will allow doctors who could not or who mistakenly did not apply for round one to be considered for round two; whether an applicant may delay responding to a round one offer from a second choice until she or he has heard from the first choice; and how the results of the additional interviews which have been arranged as part of round one will be integrated with the results of the original round one interviews. [138184]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not yet clear how many jobs will go into the further recruitment round as not all job offers have been made and accepted from the first round. The applicant guidance makes clear that the further recruitment round will be restricted to those applicants who have enrolled on Medical Training Application Service and have either declined all offers made to them in round one, have accepted a fixed-term specialty training appointment but would like to apply for a run-through post, or who have not been successful in the first round.

Up to the 10 June deadline, applicants were able to delay responding to a round one offer to see if another offer was made. Offers of posts after 11 June and before 22 June must be accepted or declined within a 48-hour period.

Deaneries integrated the results of the original round one interviews and the further interviews on a local basis.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to her answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 613-7, on the Medical Training Application Service, how many GP training posts are being filled in the UK. [138801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In the United Kingdom, there are 3,864 general practice posts being filled by the Medical Training Application Service system. An additional 3,450 general practitioner (GP) posts (for GPs already working in a training environment) were filled outside MTAS, creating a total of 7,314 GP training posts in the UK.

Elderly: Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps her Department plans to take in response to the UK study into the prevalence of elder abuse; and if she will make a statement; [143979]

(2) when her Department *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* received the UK study of prevalence of elder abuse; [143980]

(3) if she will commission research into the prevalence of abuse of older people who are *(a)* resident in care homes and *(b)* suffering from dementia; and if she will make a statement; [144158]

(4) what representations she has received on *(a)* the abuse of older people and *(b)* the findings of the UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People report. [144159]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department will introduce a new monitoring system to report the extent of abuse, based on a new national standardised method for the collection of data on referrals in England. The Department will also review the "No Secrets" guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. The case for legislation will be considered as part of the review.

The report, "UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People, Prevalence Survey Report", was commissioned jointly by the Department and Comic Relief in August 2005. A draft report of the findings of the prevalence survey was submitted at the end of March 2007. Independent peer reviews were commissioned at the beginning of April 2007 and received at the end of April. The final draft of the prevalence survey report was received on 17 May 2007 and published on 14 June.

The research, which was produced by the Institute of Gerontology, Kings College, London and the National Centre for Social Research, involved a feasibility study of the ethical and methodological issues that would be faced by extending the work to residential care homes. This is the last stage of the commissioned study and is due to be submitted to the Department in mid July. This will enable the Department to assess if, and how, it may be possible to commission further research with residential care populations.

The prevalence survey will have included people with dementia, where they were able to give consent to be interviewed. No proxy interviews, however, were undertaken for those without the ability to consent. Research with people who have severe dementia is extremely difficult, but there are research teams working on innovative methods for involving people with cognitive impairment. The Department's research governance framework reminds researchers of the importance of working as inclusively as possible and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a framework to enable those without capacity to be safely involved in research, where appropriate.

To date, the Department has received a wide range of representations on the abuse of older people. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend Lord Hunt, the Minister of State on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 94.

Electromagnetic Fields: Health Hazards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will instigate an official inquiry into the potential effects on health of the roll-out of Wi-Fi technology. [145063]

Caroline Flint: The independent Advisory Group on Non-ionising Radiation (AGNIR) undertook a comprehensive assessment of radio waves and health in 2003. Its report, entitled 'Health Effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields', was published by the then National Radiological Protection Board (now the Radiation Protection Division of the Health Protection Agency (HPA)). Copies are available in the Library and on the HPA web site:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/publications/documents_of_nrpb/abstracts/absdl4-2.htm

All devices that emit radio waves (such as wireless internet) should be used in compliance with the exposure guidelines published by the International Commission on Non-ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) as specified in the European Recommendation on limiting public exposure to electromagnetic fields (EC/519/1999).

Information about wireless devices and health is available on the Department's web site at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/MinistersandDepartmeatureLeaders/ChiefMedicalOfficer/Features/FeaturesArchive/Browsable/DH_5369553.

The Government acknowledge further advice provided by the HPA at:

www.hpa.org.uk/radiation/understand/radiation_topics/emf/wifi.htm

This states:

'There is no consistent evidence to date that wireless fidelity (WiFi) and wireless local area networks adversely affect the health of the general population. The signals are very low power, typically 0.1 watt (100 milliwatts) in both the computer and the router (access point) and the results so far show exposures are well within internationally accepted (ICNIRP) guidelines. Based on current knowledge and experience, radio frequency (RF) exposures from WiFi are likely to be lower than those from mobile phones. Also, the frequencies used in WiFi are broadly the same as those from traditional RF applications.'

Food: Labelling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations she has received on food labelling. [144585]

Caroline Flint: Food labelling is the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency, which reports to Parliament through health Ministers. The agency is in regular contact with a wide range of stakeholders on a number of food labelling issues.

General Practitioners: West Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there were in West Lancashire constituency in each year since 1997. [143534]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for specified organisations, as at 1997-2006—England

Number (headcount)

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006[2]*
Q31	North West										
	GMPs[1]	3,848	3,879	3,919	3,931	3,934	4,010	4,117	4,214	4,311	4,392
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	56.6	57.1	57.9	58.0	57.8	58.8	60.2	61.4	62.7	63.8
Of which:											
5F3	West Lancashire PCT										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	58	61	61	60	61	—
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	53.5	56.1	56.0	55.0	55.9	—
5F2	Chorley and South Ribble PCT										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	112	113	113	119	122	—
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	54.8	54.9	54.6	57.1	58.5	—
5HD	Preston PCT										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	71	85	85	86	88	—
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	50.3	60.1	60.1	60.6	62.0	—
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT[3]										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	261
	GMPs[1]per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58.0

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes general practitioner (GP) providers and GP others.
[2] Mid year 2005 Office for National Statistics population data have been used for the 2006 organisation level calculation of GPs per 100,000. These figures are therefore subject to change.
[3] Central Lancashire PCT was formed on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of West Lancashire PCT and Chorley and South Ribble PCT, and the majority of Preston PCT.
Note:
GP data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06.
Sources:
The Information Centre, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.
ONS Population Census.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many general practitioners per head of population there were in West Lancashire in each year since 1997. [144969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is shown in the table.

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for specified organisations, as at 1997-2006—England

Number (headcount)

		1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006[2]*
Q31	North West										
	GMPs[1]	3,848	3,879	3,919	3,931	3,934	4,010	4,117	4,214	4,311	4,392
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	56.6	57.1	57.9	58.0	57.8	58.8	60.2	61.4	62.7	63.8
Of which:											
5F3	West Lancashire PCT										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	58	61	61	60	61	—

General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars)[1] for specified organisations, as at 1997-2006—England

Number (headcount)

		1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[2]
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	53.5	56.1	56.0	55.0	55.9	—
5F2	Chorley and South Ribble PCT										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	112	113	113	119	122	—
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	54.8	54.9	54.6	57.1	58.5	—
5HD	Preston PCT										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	71	85	85	86	88	—
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	50.3	60.1	60.1	60.6	62.0	—
5NG	Central Lancashire PCT[3]										
	GMPs[1]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	261
	GMPs[1] per 100,000 population	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58.0

'—' Denotes data not available.

[1] General medical practitioners (excluding retainers and registrars) includes general practitioner (GP) providers and GP others.

[2] Mid year 2005 ONS population data have been used for the 2006 organisation level calculation of GPs per 100,000. These figures are therefore subject to change.

[3] Central Lancashire PCT was formed on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of West Lancashire PCT and Chorley and South Ribble PCT, and the majority of Preston PCT.

Note:
GP data as at 1 October 1997-99, 30 September 2000-06.

Sources: The Information Centre, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.
ONS Population Census.

Cluster Headaches: Medical Treatments

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what treatment is provided by the NHS for cluster headaches; whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has been consulted on possible treatments for the problem; and what representations she has received on the effectiveness of occipital nerve stimulation as a procedure for treating cluster headaches. [143942]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A range of pharmacological interventions are available to prevent the occurrence of cluster headaches, and to relieve the pain of attacks. It is the responsibility of health professionals to consider what treatment is the most appropriate for their patients, in consultation with the patient and informed by their medical history. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has not been consulted on treatments for cluster headaches.

The Department has not received representations on the effectiveness of occipital nerve stimulation in the treatment of cluster headaches.

Health Services: Overseas Visitors

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate her Department has made of the outstanding amount of money owed by foreign nationals for the use of NHS facilities. [144524]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is not possible to provide the information requested. Successive Governments have not required the national health service to provide statistics on the number of foreign nationals seen, treated or charged under the provisions of the NHS (Charges to Overseas Visitors) Regulations 1989, as amended, nor any costs involved.

Health Services: Reciprocal Arrangements

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether treatment under the European Health Insurance Card is paid for by the country where the card originated, the country where the treatment is given or the country where the patient is normally resident. [142043]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Under European Union regulations, the member state who issues the European Health Insurance Card is responsible for payment when any treatment is given.

Health Services: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what *(a)* funding for training purposes was provided to and *(b)* expenditure on training was made by each strategic health authority in 2006-07; [137294]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 162W, on the NHS: training, what funding for training purposes was allocated to strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2006-07, broken down by SHA; and what the actual expenditure on training was in each authority. [137373]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding provided to strategic health authorities for training and education in 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

2006-07 multi professional education and training (MPET) allocations

Strategic health authority (SHA)	*Total MPET allocations (£000)*
East Midlands SHA	276,532
East of England SHA	291,090
London SHA	898,301
North East SHA	199,527
North West SHA	499,511
South Central SHA	256,782
South East Coast SHA	201,456
South West SHA	308,193
West Midlands SHA	350,911
Yorkshire and Humberside SHA	484,048
England Total	3,766,349

The actual amount spent on education for 2006-07 is not yet known.

The Department of Health is in the process of collecting returns relating to expenditure on education and training in 2006-07. Validated data are expected to be available by the end of June 2007.

Health Visitors

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent health visitor posts there were in each year since 1997, broken down by primary care trust; and if she will make a statement. [122828]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information has been placed in the Library.

Primary care trusts were first introduced in 2001-02, so we have produced a table showing health visiting staff by organisation in the period 2001 to 2006.

Health Visitors: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors were employed in *(a)* Eastbourne and *(b)* East Sussex in each of the last 10 years. [130971]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is only available from 2002 onwards. The number of community health professionals, which includes health visitors, in the East Sussex Downs and Weald primary care trust (PCT) area since 2002 is contained in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified community nurses in the East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT as at 30 September each specified year

Headcount

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total qualified community nurses	496	494	525	571	598
District nurses	75	66	66	53	27
Health visitors	91	84	75	81	42
School nursing nurses	—	14	15	16	16
Other qualified community services nurses	205	220	243	285	348
Community psychiatric nurses	4	—	—	—	—
Community learning disabilities nurses	—	—	—	—	1
GP practice nurses	121	110	126	136	164

Notes:
1. On 1 October Sussex Downs and Weald PCT was formed from a complete merger of Eastbourne Downs and Sussex Downs and Weald PCTs. 2006 figures are as at 1 October 2006. 2002-05 figures are an aggregate of the two predecessor organisations.
2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated, the level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.

Sources:
1. The information centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Heart Diseases/Cancer

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent comparative assessment she has made of survival rates for *(a)* heart attack and *(b)* cancers with those of other (i) EU and (ii) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development countries; and what such assessment she has made of rates (A) 10 and (B) 20 years ago. [144117]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data are not collected centrally for heart attacks.

Cancer registries in England participate in the Eurocare Project, which measures and explains differences in cancer survival rates across Europe. Twenty countries participate in the project covering a total population of 100 million.

The latest report, EUROCARE-3, tracks patients who were diagnosed with cancer between 1990 and 1994 and followed up to 1999. It puts England in the middle ranking for survival rates, roughly below other Western European countries and above Eastern European Countries.

The next report, EUROCARE-4, which is due later this year tracks patients diagnosed in 1995-2002 and followed up to 2003. We believe that the next publication of figures will show that the gap between England and other Western European countries has narrowed. Earlier reports cover cancer patients who were diagnosed between 1978 and 1985, and followed

up to 1990 (EUROCARE) and those diagnosed between 1985 and 1989, and followed up to 1994 (EUROCARE-2).

Heart Diseases: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 23 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1130W, on heart diseases: screening, what further detailed practical work on abdominal aortic aneurysm screening implementation should be undertaken to ensure a phased roll out of a national screening programme for men aged 65 years and over; and if she will make a statement; [142698]

(2) what response her Department has made to the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening Working Group's recommendations, submitted in their progress report to the National Screening Committee's meeting in March 2007; and if she will make a statement. [142699]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (NSC) is considering the practical implications that would be involved in implementing a screening programme for abdominal aortic aneurysms. Further detailed work under the auspice of the NSC is being undertaken on a number of practical issues. These include developing standard operating procedures, programme standards, quality assurance procedures and training requirements. Officials will be kept informed on how this work develops.

Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust: Training

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the staff training budget was for Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last three years. [140745]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not collected centrally.

In Vitro Fertilisation

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men were registered as sperm donors in each of the last five years. [144321]

Caroline Flint: The number of sperm donors currently recorded by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority for each of the last five financial years is set out in the following table. Numbers may change as new information is obtained.

	Total number
2001-02	326
2002-03	305
2003-04	246
2004-05	250
2005-06	270

When donor anonymity was removed from 1 April 2005 there were concerns about the impact on donor numbers. Therefore we welcome the increased numbers in 2005-06 and will continue to encourage good practice in terms of donor recruitment.

Injuries: Children

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many recorded injuries excluding fatalities there were of children aged *(a)* 0 to four, *(b)* five to eight, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 13 to 16 years in each year since 1997; [144260]

(2) how many recorded injuries excluding fatalities there were of children aged *(a)* 0 to four, *(b)* five to eight, *(c)* nine to 12 and *(d)* 13 to 16 years where the injury was recorded as taking place (i) in the home, (ii) at school, (iii) in hospital, (iv) on a sports ground or other place where sporting activities occur, (v) in public parks and (vi) in other places in each year since 1997. [144261]

Caroline Flint: Data are not collected centrally precisely in the form requested. Data that most closely relate to the requested figures are from the Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System, available for 1997 to 2002. These data cover injuries from non-fatal home and leisure accidents leading to an accident and emergency (A&E) visit (intentional injuries, road traffic and work accidents, and injuries treated by general practitioners or at home are not included). The figures are estimates for the United Kingdom, based on a sample of hospitals. The table shows data for published childhood age groups, and for locations relevant to the requested breakdown. More detail is available in the home and leisure accident surveillance system annual reports

www.hassandlass.org.uk/query/reports.htm

or from Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, which hold the detailed data

www.hassandlass.org.uk/query/index.htm.

UK estimates of number of A&E attendances for non-fatal home and leisure accident injuries—all accidents and by location

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*
Ages 0 to 4						
All accidents	768,420	743,180	740,730	686,770	632,700	617,320
Home	595,440	580,470	579,300	533,210	489,680	477,490
Hospital/health clinic/nursing home	1,600	1,990	1,960	1,580	1,910	1,600
Other medical establishment	200	160	110	210	230	160
Inside crèche/nursery/kindergarten	6,860	7,380	8,410	8,180	8,680	7,010
Inside school/university/college (excluding sport area)	3,760	4,880	4,220	4,360	4,120	5,000
School/nursery/kindergarten playground	11,040	10,920	11,720	12,120	13,140	13,120

UK estimates of number of A&E attendances for non-fatal home and leisure accident injuries—all accidents and by location

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Other education area (excluding sport area) and unspecified education area	3,860	3,980	3,400	3,410	3,780	3,770
Sport education area	1,180	1,230	1,190	1,010	790	1,090
Sport area (excluding education area)	5,050	5,290	5,380	5,320	4,890	5,000
Public playground	5,620	5,980	7,390	6,120	6,280	6,790
Parkland cemetery/gardens	8,400	6,800	7,500	7,360	6,280	7,050
Other location	125,410	114,090	110,140	103,890	92,910	89,240
Ages 5 to 14						
All accidents	1,593,280	1,504,420	1,541,230	1,430,150	1,382,990	1,360,690
Home	462,610	445,830	464,440	433,280	410,800	405,020
Hospital/health clinic/nursing home	870	1,070	950	940	860	1,110
Other medical establishment	60	100	90	90	120	120
Inside crèche/nursery/kindergarten	550	470	570	660	550	620
Inside school/university/college (excluding sport area)	73,910	76,110	82,620	78,690	75,900	71,030
School/nursery/kindergarten playground	119,320	128,040	138,530	124,340	130,270	126,140
Other education area (excluding sport area) and unspecified education area	73,680	64,620	62,350	57,780	63,530	62,340
Sport education area	119,900	118,430	116,870	107,430	105,490	108,300
Sport area (excluding education area)	103,000	106,810	99,130	90,140	89,540	99,810
Public playground	22,060	22,320	27,310	24,230	24,630	26,770
Parkland/cemetery/gardens	41,330	37,420	40,880	36,050	34,750	35,830
Other location	575,990	503,190	507,490	476,510	446,540	423,590

Note: Figures are estimates based on a sample of 18 hospitals across the UK, and have been rounded to the nearest 10 (so figures may not sum to total).
Source: Home and Leisure Accident Surveillance System annual reports for 1997 to 2002 (published location categories have been aggregated and sample figures converted to national estimates).

Irlen Syndrome

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what provisions there are for services for children and adults diagnosed with Irlen Syndrome to be provided on the NHS; [143515]

(2) what funding her Department provides for the provision of glasses for people who require glasses as a result of Irlen Syndrome. [143692]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The national health service provides optical vouchers for children and other eligible groups who, following a sight test, have been given a prescription to correct a defect in sight. Optical vouchers can be used to purchase glasses or contact lenses. Parents of children with reading difficulties are encouraged to have an NHS-funded sight test to check that there are no refractive problems or eye disease which may be contributing to the difficulties.

If, after a sight test (and glasses if necessary), difficulties are still being experienced then a wider assessment is called for. The best interests of children are likely to be served by a scheme of assessment and treatment, which takes into account the full range of possible ways of helping children with the symptoms associated with descriptions of Irlen syndrome. This is something that local education and health authorities should take forward in view of their responsibilities for services in their areas.

Kidney Patients: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what provision is made for kidney patients requiring regular haemodialysis while away from home on holiday; and if she will make a statement; [142019]

(2) what her Department's policy is on providing access to haemodialysis facilities to kidney patients wishing to holiday away from home; [142020]

(3) if she will increase the number of facilities providing access to haemodialysis for kidney patients who wish to holiday away from home; and if she will make a statement. [142021]

(4) what information is provided to kidney patients who wish to take holidays about access to alternative NHS haemodialysis units. [142022]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The National Service Framework for Renal Services makes clear that the ability to dialyse away from home, for holidays or other reasons, is important to kidney patients. The Department has published guidance on temporary dialysis away from home which has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicy/AndGuidance/DH.4084218.

The exact manner in which this guidance is implemented is a matter for the national health service.

Learning Disability: Death

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans she has to establish a confidential inquiry into mortality of people with learning difficulties. [144811]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: At this stage, the Department has no plans to establish a confidential inquiry into mortality of people with learning disabilities.

The Department has established an independent inquiry into the deaths of six people named in Mencap's report, "Death by Indifference". In addition to the six cases, the independent inquiry will be identifying the action required to ensure that people with learning disabilities receive appropriate healthcare. The findings and recommendations of that inquiry will be used to inform a decision on whether to take forward a full confidential inquiry into mortality.

Medicine: Overseas Students

Mr. Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to enable international medical graduates working in the United Kingdom as part of the Highly Skilled Migrants programme to complete their training in the event of their visas expiring before the end of their training period. [126407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Doctors in training working in the national health service who are part of the highly skilled migrant programme will be able to extend their leave under that programme provided they meet the eligibility criteria set by the Home Office at the time their visa expires.

Mentally Ill: Cannabis

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to my friend the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley), of 6 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 583W, on mentally ill: cannabis, how many hospital admissions on mental health grounds resulting from the use of cannabis there were in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [142416]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Data showing the number of hospital admissions on mental health grounds resulting from the use of cannabis in each strategic health authority and primary care trust in each year since 1997 have been placed in the Library. The data show admissions by all consultant specialities, including admissions by consultants registered under mental illness specialities only.

Midwives

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many student midwives she expects to qualify in 2007; and how many places she expects there to be in the NHS for newly qualified midwives. [142283]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2004-05, the national health service commissioned 895 midwifery degree places. Those who successfully complete the training will qualify in 2007.

Additional midwives will qualify through a variety of programmes, including an 18 month pre-registration education programme, adaptation and return to practice programmes. These programmes are funded and arranged locally, depending on local needs and therefore the start and end dates vary.

It is a joint responsibility between higher education institutions and local NHS organisations to see that midwifery and other health care graduates are supported to find employment. Vacancies for graduates continue to be posted on "NHS Jobs" and the NHS Careers information service can direct graduates to appropriate sources of information and advice. Graduates are encouraged to be flexible when applying for posts.

In developing "Maternity Matters", which outlines the Government's vision for maternity services, the NHS workforce review team identified that the midwifery workforce would increase by 1,000 leading up to 2009.

Muscular Dystrophy

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if her Department will allocate funding for the Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Registry in the UK. [141450]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Implementation of the Department's research strategy "Best Research for Best Health" will result in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for health research. Details, including the scope of the programmes and the arrangements for making applications for support from them, are available on the National Institute for Health Research website at www.nihr.ac.uk. Funding awards are in all cases made after open, competitive, peer review.

NHS Appointments Commission

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria were used in the appointment of members to the NHS Appointments Commission. [143223]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Person specifications for all posts were agreed with Ministers and made publicly available to all potential candidates. Copies have been placed in the Library.

NHS Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what her estimate is of the increase in her Department's future public sector pension liability which will arise from salary increases under the *(a)* Agenda for Change programme and *(b)* the new GP contracts; and if she will make a statement. [144577]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) has valued the total future liabilities of the NHS Pension scheme as at 31 March 2006 to be £165.4 billion. GAD are in the process of preparing a detailed actuarial valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2004 which will be published later this year which will include analysis of the factors leading to any change in valuation.

NHS: Allowances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 153W, on NHS: allowances, in what *(a)* month and *(b)* year the level of the personal expenses allowance was set; and on what basis the level set was felt to be appropriate. [140461]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The requirement for an allowance for expenditure on personal items for those living in residential care settings originates from the National Assistance Act (NAA) 1948 - Part III (Local Authority Services), section 22(4). The National Assistance (Charges for Accommodation) Regulations 1948 set the sum for personal requirements at five shillings per week. These regulations came into force on 5 July 1948.

Due to the passage of time, it has not proved possible to establish the reasons that the level set was felt to be appropriate. Contemporary papers and reports are not available.

The 2007-08 rate of personal expenses allowances is £20.45 per week. This took effect on 9 April 2007.

NHS: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS workers have been assaulted in each region of England in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [142143]

Ms Rosie Winterton: A table outlining the estimated number of reported violent incidents collected by the Department for 2001-02, 2002-03 for each strategic health authority, national health service trust and primary care trust in England has been placed in the Library.

In April 2003, the NHS Security Management Service (NHS SMS) was created and assumed responsibility for the issue of tackling violence against NHS staff. The NHS SMS has collected data on the number of reported physical assaults on NHS staff in England for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06. A breakdown of figures by reporting period for each NHS trust has been placed in the Library.

The NHS SMS has introduced a comprehensive strategy and integrated structure for addressing the issue of violence against NHS staff.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much funding the Government provided to meet the start-up and running costs of the *(a)* Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence, *(b)* Nursing and Midwifery Council and *(c)* Health Professions Council in each year since its creation; and what proportion of the total budget this represented in each case. [142473]

Ms Rosie Winterton: According to our records, the amount of funding that was provided to the Health Professions Council (HPC) for its establishment was £3,804,467.38 between 2002 and 2004. No funding has been paid to the HPC by the Department since April 2004, as the HPC is an autonomous organisation funded by registration fees and does not receive funding from the Department. Details of the HPC's budget are not held centrally, but are available from the HPC itself.

According to our records, the amount of funding that was provided to the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) for its establishment was £3,656,382.81 between April 2002 and April 2004. No funding has been paid to the NMC by the Department since April 2004, as the NMC is an autonomous organisation funded by registration fees and does not receive funding from the Department. Details of the NMC's budget are not held centrally, but are available from the NMC itself.

According to our records, the amount of funding that was provided to the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) starting in 2003 for its start-up costs and running costs so far is £8,790,315.47. This represents 100 per cent. of CHRE budget.

Figures prior to April 2002 are currently unavailable without extensive research.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate she has made of supply and demand for *(a)* consultants, *(b)* GPs, *(c)* nurses and midwives and *(d)* allied health professionals in 2007-08 in the same format as that included in her Department's third draft of its pay and workforce strategy, dated 27th November 2006. [131961]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the Department's February 2007 estimates of the numbers of staff in particular groups in 2007-08. These figures were the latest version using the same approach as in the draft pay and workforce strategy, using the September 2005 census as the baseline.

Staff group		*2007-08*
Consultants	Available supply	31,600
	Demand	31,000
General practitioners	Available supply	30,800
	Demand	31,000
Qualified nurses	Available supply	314,500
	Demand	304,800
AHP/ST&Ts	Available supply	155,300
	Demand	144,100

The actual size of NHS workforce in 2007-08 will be determined by NHS organisations who will make decisions taking account of their local circumstances.

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the employee contribution rate is to the NHS pension scheme; what plans there are to change this rate; what the revenue yield would be from varying the rate by 1 per cent; and if she will make a statement. [144264]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The contribution rate for scheme members is 6 per cent. of pensionable pay, however members classed as manual workers pay 5 per cent. NHS employers and the national health service trade unions have proposed a new tiered contribution structure with the rate of employee contributions tiered by pensionable pay.

The NHS pension scheme pensionable payroll as at 31 March 2006, taken from the resource accounts, was approximately £31 billion. Increasing the member contribution rate across the board by 1 per cent. of pensionable pay would yield just over £0.3 billion a year.

NHS: Training

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many training posts were available in each region of England in each of the last five years; and how many she expects to be available in 2007. [141653]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally.

North East Strategic Health Authority: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the surpluses generated in the north east strategic health authority (SHA) in 2006-07 will be retained in full in the SHA for use in future years. [144407]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The surplus generated by the national health service at the end of 2006-07 will be carried forward for spending in future years.

Individual organisations must work to manage the potential financial risks and the strategic health authorities (SHAs) have a key support role to play. The financial recovery in 2006-07 has put the NHS on a much firmer financial footing for 2007-08. Planning to generate surpluses, and holding reserves at SHA level, are a central part of the strategy to ensure that financial good health can be sustained in future years.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses will receive pay increases of 4.9 per cent. or more in 2007-08. [142266]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Figures for individual nurses are not held centrally.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average salary of nurses in Blackpool, North and Fleetwood was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [143975]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Research Training Posts

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many academic research training posts are funded by the Government for *(a)* coronary heart disease, *(b)* cancer and *(c)* stroke and stroke-related problems. [144058]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following academic research training posts are funded by the Department's research capacity development programme.

	Number
Academic Clinical Fellows[1]	
Cancer	75
Coronary Heart Disease	[2]41
Stroke	[2]61
Clinical Lecturers[3]	
Cancer	31
Coronary Heart Disease	20
Stroke	27
Personal Awards[4]	
Cancer	16
Coronary Heart Disease	8
Stroke	5

[1] Academic research training posts for junior doctors in training.
[2] Some posts may be shared with other specialties.
[3] Academic research training posts for junior doctors who have completed a PhD.
[4] Academic research training posts for PhDs and post-doctoral awards.

The following academic research training posts are funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England in partnership with the Department.

	Number
Clinical Senior Lectureships	
Cancer	5
Coronary Heart Disease	4
Stroke	4
Total number of posts	
Cancer	127
Coronary Heart Disease	73
Stroke	97

Other posts are funded through local use of Government funds. Details of these posts are not available.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the United Kingdom Government support medical and clinical research.

The MRC currently supports around 300 fellows and 100 capacity building and industrial collaborative students through its research career award schemes. The number of those currently supported in the areas of cancer, cardiovascular and cerebrovascular research are shown in the table.

Fellowship type	*Cancer*	*Cardiovascular*	*Cerebrovascular*
Capacity Building Student	1	4	1
Industrial Collaborative Student	1	—	—
Clinical Training Fellowship	21	5	4
Special Training Fellowship in HSR	4	6	1

Fellowship type	Cancer	Cardiovascular	Cerebrovascular
Stem Cell Career Development Fellowship	1	0	1
Career Development Award	3	1	2
Clinician Scientist Fellowship	5	4	3
Senior Non-Clinical Fellowship	1	1	1
Senior Clinical Fellowship	3	1	0
Total	40	22	13

The MRC also supports around 1,000 further students through doctoral training accounts to universities. The information that would be needed to classify those awards by reference to disease areas is not held centrally.

Ruth Hartley

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a unique identification number was accurately maintained for Dr. Ruth Hartley throughout each stage of the ST2007 recruitment process. [134433]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Medical Training Application Service allocates and maintains unique identification numbers for applicants and applications (final suffix letter). These are system generated and are not changed. Our supplier has confirmed that there is no evidence of any corruption to this data.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust

Mr. Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* doctors, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* nurses were employed by Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust in each of the last five years. [136707]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The number of medical and dental staff showing consultants, qualified nursing, midwifery and heath visiting staff[1] within Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust as at 30 September each year for the period 2002 to 2006 is shown in the table.

[1] Hospital and Community Health Services (HCHS).

Number (Headcount)

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
All doctors	591	685	697	679	711
Of which:					
Are consultants	199	211	215	224	240
All nurses	2,072	2,134	2,172	[1]2,607	2,198

[1] Census data collected by the Information Centre and in earlier years, the Department of Health, are provided, validated and signed off by each organisation that provides data from their payroll systems. When compiling a response for this parliamentary question, the data for nurses for 2005 were queried with the trust by the Department. Although it is possible that there was some error in submitting the data, it is not possible for the trust to replicate the data and provide an estimate for 2005 due to staff changes since. This should be taken into consideration when comparing data over time.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care medical and dental work force census. The Information Centre for health and social care non-medical work force census.

Smoking: Prisons

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanisms exist to ensure that funding allocated by primary care trusts for nicotine replacement therapy within prison establishments is adequate; and if she will make a statement; [142866]

(2) what assessment she has made of the impact on demand for nicotine replacement therapy within prison establishments of the requirements of Prison Service Instruction 09/2007; what resources she has made available to meet this demand; and if she will make a statement; [142867]

(3) what assessment she has made of the demand for nicotine replacement therapy in areas designated as dormitories within the prison estate; and if she will make a statement; [142868]

(4) what assessment she has made of the availability of nicotine replacement therapy at *(a)* each prison establishment and *(b)* for those held in custody while attending courts; what resources are provided to support the demand for this treatment; and if she will make a statement. [142870]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Since April 2006, primary care trusts (PCTs) have been responsible for ensuring that healthcare services in prison(s) in their locality are of an equivalent quality and range to that which the general public receives from the national health service. Provision is determined by local health needs assessment, which, in partnership with the prison, should take into account the type of accommodation in which prisoners are held.

Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) is available via prison health services, in the same way that it is in the community, through a general practitioner. This would include those prisoners attending for court appearance from prison.

For each of the financial years 2003-06, the Department provided an additional £500,000 funding to bring smoking cessation services in prisons in England, including NRT, in line with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines. Resources are now contained within baseline primary care trust funding.

Strokes

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will increase the availability of *(a)* acute stroke services available within three hours and *(b)* other specialist treatment for people suffering from strokes; and if she will make a statement. [143947]

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are in place to ensure that every primary care trust area has a service for diagnosis and treatment of a stroke within three hours of symptom onset; and when she expects this to be in place. [143030]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The rapid diagnosis of stroke and the introduction of thrombolysis (the use of clot-busting drugs) are key challenges for the national health service in its treatment of stroke. This is why the Department is developing a new national stroke strategy for England, which aims to support the NHS to modernise services and deliver the newest treatments for stroke.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable is in place to provide an acute stroke service in every primary care trust area; and if she will make a statement. [142969]

Ms Rosie Winterton: All primary care trusts caring for people who have had a stroke now have a specialist stroke service and 97 per cent. (196 of 203 hospitals) of hospitals in England who treat stroke patients now have a stroke unit (in 2004 only 82 per cent. had a stroke unit).

Source:

National Sentinel Audit for Stroke 2006 conducted by the Royal College of Physicians.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment she has made of the trend in the number of strokes amongst people in England. [143006]

Ms Rosie Winterton: These data are not collected centrally.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when she expects the national stroke strategy to be published. [145043]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government are currently developing a new national stroke strategy for England which aims to modernise services and deliver the newest treatments for stroke, and the aim is to publish it this winter, following a full public consultation.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she is taking to reduce the number of deaths caused by strokes. [143025]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Stroke mortality is falling. For people under 65, the three year average death rate from stroke has fallen by 23 per cent. over the period from 1993-95 to 2002-04. For people aged 65-75 the death rate has dropped by 30 per cent. over the same period. However, the Government recognise that more needs to be done. This is why we are developing a new national stroke strategy for England which will modernise services and deliver the newest treatments for stroke. The strategy will be published for consultation shortly with the intention of the final version being available by the end of the year.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps she plans to take to prevent avoidable deaths from stroke in England; and if she will make a statement. [143946]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Stroke mortality is falling. For people under 65, the three-year average death rate from stroke has fallen by 23 per cent. over the period from 1993-95 to 2002-04. For people aged 65 to 75, the death rate has dropped by 30 per cent. over the same period.

The risk factors which increase an individual's chances of suffering a stroke include smoking, drinking alcohol, poor diet and lack of physical activity. Strokes are also more likely in those who suffer from hypertension and diabetes. Through the public health White Paper "Choosing Health", the Department has set out a programme of action to help improve the health of the public including action on smoking and diet. This builds on existing work such as campaigns on smoking and diet, National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on the management of hypertension, points for prevention activities in the general practitioner contract and support for the Blood Pressure Association blood pressure awareness campaigns.

The coronary heart disease and diabetes national service frameworks have also driven forward improvements in primary and secondary prevention of risk factors associated with circulatory disease in general. This includes better control of blood pressure and blood glucose, cholesterol management and the use of aspirin.

The Department is also developing a new national stroke strategy for England which aims to modernise services, not just for those who have had a stroke, but also those at risk of doing so.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will provide funding for research into the prevention and treatment of stroke in people of *(a)* African Caribbean and *(b)* South Asian origin. [143972]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by national health service organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including a number relevant to my hon. Friend's question are available on the national research register at

www.dh.gov.uk/research.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research is investing £20 million over five years in the UK Stroke Research Network set up in 2005. The Network is supporting clinical trials and other well designed studies conducted by public and private sector funders, and has adopted the following three studies which involve research into the prevention and treatment of stroke within black and minority ethnic communities:

DNA resource for lacunar stroke

South London ethnicity and stroke study

The South London secondary prevention programme

The Department is also funding the South London Stroke register which assesses the risk of stroke and the natural history of stroke with a focus on ethnicity.

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts in London provide acute stroke services. [143020]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department does not hold this information centrally. However, the following hospitals took part in the 2006 sentinel audit of stroke services conducted by the Healthcare Commission.

NHS Trusts

Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust (Oldchurch and Harold Wood hospitals in collaboration with Havering primary care trust)

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust (Barnet hospital), Barnet PCT and Finchley Memorial hospital

Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust (Chase Farm hospital)

Barts and the London NHS Trust jointly with Tower Hamlets PCT

Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust

Ealing Hospital NHS Trust

Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust (Epsom Hospital)

Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust (St. Helier Hospital)

Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust

Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust

Kingston Hospital NHS Trust

Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust

Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust

Newham University Hospital NHS Trust

North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust—Jointly with Haringey PCT

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (Central Middlesex Hospital including Willesden Community hospital (Brent PCT))

North West London Hospitals NHS Trust (Northwick Park Hospital)

Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust

Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust

Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust

St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust

St. Mary's NHS Trust

West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust

Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust

Whittington Hospital NHS Trust

NHS trusts in 2006, now foundation trusts:

King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Foundation trusts in 2006

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Guy's and St. Thomas Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps her Department has taken to ensure a comprehensive acute *(a)* stroke service and *(b)* recovery service in Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust area. [143009]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This is a local issue. NHS London is working to improve stroke care in London, and this is one of the issues being dealt with by the long-term strategy for London being led by Professor Sir Ara Darzi. The Royal College's National Stroke Guidelines are for a scan to be provided within 24 hours (and within three hours where a thrombolysis service is provided).

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* brain scanners and *(b)* specialist radiologists are available in Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust for the diagnosis of acute stroke within three hours of the onset of symptoms. [143153]

Ms Rosie Winterton: NHS London has advised that the majority of Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust (PCT) patients are treated at St. George's Hospital and St. Helier Hospital, which also provide services for other PCTs. St. Helier has one CT scanner, one MRI scanner and 10 radiologists. St. George's has three CT scanners, and most of the reporting is carried out by five neuro-radiologists.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many Wimbledon residents are in receipt of treatment for strokes. [143008]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not collected in the format requested. The following table shows the number of all diagnoses count of finished consultant episodes with Sutton and Merton PCT as primary care trusts of residence for strokes (which covers the Wimbledon area).

PCT description	*Finished consultant episodes (FCE)*
Sutton and Merton PCT	1,241

Notes:

All Diagnoses count of episodes

These figures represent a count of all FCEs where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.

FCE

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Ungrossed Data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care

Surgery: Assessments

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many surgeons in the London Deanery are involved in shortlisting of general surgery candidates for specialist training grades 1-3 within the medical training application service; how many applications are to be considered; how many pages have been

photocopied in the process undertaken so far; how many hours of work are estimated to be needed to score each 100 complete forms; and how the required trained assessors will be trained and assessed themselves. [127671]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not held centrally. The local selection process is a matter for the local deaneries and units of application.

Transsexuality: Medical Treatments

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what voice therapy is available on the NHS to those wishing to change their gender. [144637]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders to commission services in order to meet local needs. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of voice therapy on the basis of assessed clinical need.

United Health Group

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if she will place in the Library a copy of the contract between her Department and Channing Wheeler. [138315]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A copy of Mr. Channing Wheeler's contract of employment will not be placed in the Library on grounds of confidentiality.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Opium

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost was of the poppy eradication programmes undertaken in Afghanistan by the UK in each year since 2001. [143747]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 2 November 2006, *Official Report*, columns 657-658W, and I submit the following updated table that includes the 2006-07 figures.

£ million

Financial year	Total Afghan counter narcotics spend	Eradication
2002-03	23.1	21.2
2003-04	31.3	1.3
2004-05	33.2	2.2
2005-06	[1]92.3	5.7
2006-07	82.0	2.9

[1] The published figure for 2005-06 was given as £92.8 million in the written answer on 2 November 2006.
This was adjusted downwards in 2007, when full information on actual, as opposed to projected, spend became available.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what new diplomatic steps she plans to take on the imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi. [143981]

Mr. McCartney: We have repeatedly condemned the continuing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi. Most recently, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister issued a statement on 19 June marking her 62nd birthday and calling again on the Burmese Government to end her detention under house arrest.

With the UN and other key partners, we will continue to press for an open and inclusive political process in Burma and an improvement in the human rights situation. The release of Aung San Suu Kyi is central to both objectives.

We shall continue to raise our concerns about all human rights abuses, including the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, with the Burmese Government. On 28 May, I met the Burmese Foreign Minister at the Asia/Europe Foreign Ministers meeting in Hamburg, and called again for the Burmese Government to release Aung San Suu Kyi. The Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) Chair Statement, endorsed by all ASEM members, also called for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and urged the Burmese Government to remain constructively engaged with the Association of South East Asian Nations, the UN and the international community.

Bosnia: Depleted Uranium

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many civilians in *(a)* Bosnia and *(b)* Kosovo have been reported as showing signs of depleted uranium contamination during the last 10 years; and if she will make a statement; [143984]

(2) what efforts the Department is making to monitor the effects of depleted uranium on civilians in *(a)* Bosnia and *(b)* Kosovo. [143985]

Mr. Hoon: While the UK has not used depleted uranium munitions in the Balkans, we maintain a watching brief on related scientific developments.

The Ministry of Defence carried out depleted uranium environmental monitoring surveys in Kosovo in 2001 and in Bosnia in 2002. Only limited and localised depleted uranium contamination was detected and the reports concluded that there is no foreseeable way in which this could present a radioactive or toxic risk for the environment or human health. These findings are in line with those of the UN

environment programme's reports on the Balkans, and, under World Health Organisation recommendations, do not indicate a need for systematic monitoring of the civilian population.

Departments: Home Working

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people in her Department have been allowed to work from home for part of the week in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement on her Department's policy on home working. [143883]

Mr. Hoon: As the information requested by the hon. Member is not held centrally, it could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

All Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are entitled to apply to work flexibly. The Permanent Under-Secretary is fully committed to promoting flexible working across the Department, both at home and overseas, and has recently appointed a member of the FCO Board as the FCO's first champion for flexible working. A growing number of staff at all levels, including senior managers, are working flexibly whether part-time, job sharing, working compressed hours or from home. New technology is being introduced to enable staff to work away from the office. Information on flexible working is available on the FCO intranet and a flexible working network has been established to offer support and guidance to staff working flexibly and those managing flexible workers. The FCO is a member of the working families organisation.

Departments: Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people granted *(a)* temporary part-time, *(b)* temporary full-time, *(c)* permanent part-time and *(d)* permanent full-time contracts of employment in her Department in each of the last three years were (i) male, (ii) female, (iii) registered disabled and (iv) aged 55 years or over. [143896]

Mr. Hoon: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) figures requested by the hon. Member are:

Temporary part-time

We do not hold figures on part-time temporary workers centrally. Collating this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Temporary full-time

Total number of contracts granted = 219—Breakdown by year as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Number issued to men	47	39	40	35
Number issued to women	10	22	13	13
Number issued to registered disabled	0	0	0	0

[1] To-date

Permanent part-time

Total number of contracts granted = 17—Breakdown by year as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Number issued to men	0	0	0	3
Number issued to women	2	1	2	8
Number issued to registered disabled	0	0	0	1

[1] To-date

Permanent full-time

Total number of contracts granted = 705—Breakdown by year as follows:

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number issued to men	75	88	113	98
Number issued to women	47	48	104	99
Number issued to registered disabled	8	6	4	15

[1] To-date

The FCO does not hold readily accessible data on contracts of employment granted to those aged 55 and over, separated into temporary part-time, temporary fall-time, permanent part-time and permanent full-time. Collating this information would incur disproportionate cost. However, the following figures are available for all contract-types combined issued to those aged 55 and over in each of the last three years:

	2004	2005	2006	2007[1]
Number issued those aged 55 and over	37	45	50	19

[1] To-date

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which advertising and marketing campaigns were run by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years; which external agencies were involved; and what the cost was of each campaign. [144613]

Mr. Hoon: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not keep a central record of amounts spent on advertising and marketing campaigns. The information required to answer this question could be obtained only by requiring individual budget holders in the FCO and its agencies (FCO Services and Wilton Park) to examine all invoices for the last five years. This could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Simon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what make and model of car *(a)* she and *(b)* each Minister in her Department selected as their official ministerial car; and what criteria were used when making the decision in each case. [141998]

Margaret Beckett: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer given to him by the Minister of State, Department for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1268-69W.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in her Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141956]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the right. hon. Member to the reply my right. hon. Friend the Prime Minister gave to her on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1263W.

On costs, I refer the right. hon. Member to the reply my right. hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary gave to the hon. Member for North East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1905-06W.

Departments: Pay

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in her Department received bonus payments in 2007; what proportion of the total workforce they represented; what the total amount of bonuses paid has been; what the largest single payment has been; and if she will make a statement. [143087]

Mr. Hoon: The processes for determining annual pay and bonus awards for Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in the senior management structure and in the delegated grades follow a timetable, which reaches a conclusion in late July. We will not therefore be in a position to supply the figures requested until August.

I will write to the hon. Member as soon as this information is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings *(a)* she and *(b)* her Department's Ministers held with trade union representatives in 2006. [128755]

Margaret Beckett: Ministers meet a large number of trade union representatives in the course of their official duties. These include face to face meetings, meetings where they are part of a delegation or on the sidelines of speeches or other official engagements.

Obtaining the information required for the time period specified by the right. hon. Member would incur disproportionate cost.

Departments: Travel Agents

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much her Department and its agencies paid in travel agencies' fees in each year since 1997. [139907]

Mr. Hoon: The fees paid to our Travel Management Company (American Express) since 1997 are as follows:

	£
1997-98	611,081
1998-99	630,824
1999-2000	649,841
2000-01	678,138
2001-02	760,047
2002-03	754,430
2003-04	757,352
2004-05	749,923
2005-06	792,828
2006-07	836,196

Diplomatic Service: Deportation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many diplomats were asked to leave London following activities incompatible with their diplomatic status in each of the last 10 years; and from which country's embassy each was expelled. [143510]

Mr. Hoon: No diplomats have been asked to leave London for "activities incompatible with their diplomatic status" in the past 10 years.

Egypt: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the human rights situation in Egypt. [144024]

Dr. Howells: We continue to have serious concerns about certain aspects of the human rights situation in Egypt. We regularly raise these and concerns about other issues, including religious freedom, with Egyptian officials both bilaterally and with EU partners. We hope that Egypt's election to the UN Human Rights Council will encourage progress.

Hamas

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect discussions her officials held with the Hamas leadership in the Palestinian Territory between March and 16 June 2007. [144227]

Dr. Howells: We have not met with any members of Hamas, including when they were part of the National Unity government, to discuss political issues. To discuss the Alan Johnston case, our Consul-General in Jerusalem met Ismail Haniya, the Hamas Prime Minister and Hamas Government spokesman, Ghazi Hamad. Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have also met with Ghazi Hamad in London. No other issues were discussed.

As the UK has made clear, we are willing to work with those who are committed to the Quartet principles: renunciation of violence; recognition of Israel; and acceptance of previous agreements and obligations, including the Roadmap.

Human Trafficking: Conferences

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if she will list the invitees to the forthcoming conference at Wilton Park entitled Human Trafficking: how best to stem the flow; and what the cost of the conference is to each attendee. [144053]

Dr. Howells: The information requested constitutes personal data and we do not have the consent of the individuals concerned to disclose such information. However, the conference programme, with the names of confirmed speakers, the cost of participation, as well as general information and reports of conferences is available on Wilton Park's website:

(http://www.wiltonpark.org.uk/documents/conferences/WP854/pdfs/WP854prog.pdf)

Iran: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the Iranian bank Bank Saderat being used by the Government of Iran to transfer money to terrorist groups in the Middle East; what assessment she has made of those reports; and if she will make a statement. [143777]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are aware that the United States Government identified Bank Saderat in a press statement of 8 September 2006 as being involved in the transfer of funds to

"Hizballah and other terrorist organizations",

and that the bank was being

"cut off from all access to the US financial systems, direct or indirect".

We are keeping the situation under review.

Iraq: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made since July 2006 towards achieving the priorities and aims of rule of law development in the Iraqi provinces of *(a)* Al Basrah, *(b)* Al Muthanna, *(c)* Dhi Qar and *(d)* Maysan; what (i) human and (ii) financial resources the UK Government has committed to this development; and if she will make a statement. [132519]

Margaret Beckett: In Dhi Qar, Muthanna and Maysan security responsibility has now all been transferred to the Iraqi authorities. Until late 2006, British police advisers were mentoring and advising police officers in Al Muthana, Dhi Qar and Maysan. Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) continue to offer support, but they are run by coalition allies rather than the UK. No UK financial resources are currently committed to support the rule of law in these provinces.

In Basra, the Multinational Division (South East) Security Sector Reform team, the consulate's civilian police and prisons teams and the PRT work with the Iraqi police, prison service and judiciary to support the rule of law in Basra. Over 80 per cent. of Basra's police stations have been assessed as largely or fully capable of carrying out basic policing duties, a significant increase on the July 2006 figure. The prisons adviser is training local prison officers and advising on the recruitment of new prison officers to staff a new central prison in Basra. The PRT is building the investigative skills of judges and others involved in the judicial process. The PRT is also assisting with the design and construction of an additional courthouse for Basra.

The results of the whole effort can be seen in the improvements in specialist police units, the action taken against some former police officers accused of abuse, and the building projects under way to improve the infrastructure.

The UK provides three staff to work solely on the rule of law with the Basra PRT, 31 police officers and former police officers, and one HM Prison Service officer. The broader military efforts are not included in the estimated cost of £18 million for our rule of law activities in Basra for the current financial year.

Iraq: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W, on Iraq: politics and Government, how many applications for assistance the Government received in each month since March 2004 from *(a)* current and *(b)* former Iraqi employees; how many of these applications were (i) approved and (ii) rejected; what percentage of those approved applications resulted in the granting of refugee status and admission to the United Kingdom; and if she will make a statement; [144609]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W, on Iraq: politics and Government, what assistance measures are offered to the former and current Iraqi employees whose applications for assistance have been approved; and if she will make a statement; [144610]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 982W, on Iraq: politics and Government, how many applications for assistance the Government received in each month since March 2003 from current and former Iraqi employees at the British Government embassies, consulates, missions or offices in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Baghdad, *(c)* Basra, *(d)* Syria, *(e)* Jordan and *(f)* Egypt; and if she will make a statement. [144611]

Dr. Howells: As I said in my answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1418W the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold a central record of applications for assistance. In order to answer these questions accurately officials at the relevant posts would be required to examine all their records since 2003, which would incur disproportionate cost.

As I said in my response to my hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham Selly Oak (Lynne Jones) on 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 645-46W, in line with our policy worldwide we do not comment on the substance of individual immigration or consular cases and all applications are dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Iraq: Turkey

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of Turkish troops entering Kurdish areas of Iraq; what discussions she has had with her *(a)* Turkish, *(b)* Iraqi and *(c)* US counterparts on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [142423]

Margaret Beckett: We are aware of counter-terrorist operations by the Turkish security forces close to Turkey's border with northern Iraq. This is usual at this time of year when the Partiya Karkerên Kurdistan (PKK) steps up its terrorist activities. A series of PKK attacks have struck military and civilian targets in Turkey recently, causing a significant number of fatalities. We utterly condemn the attacks carried out by the PKK, as we do all acts of terrorism.

The Turkish and Iraqi Governments have denied recent media reports of Turkish troops entering northern Iraq. We have no evidence to the contrary.

We encourage Turkey to work with the Iraqi Government and the Kurdish regional government to address the PKK presence in northern Iraq. We welcome the ongoing trilateral co-operation between Turkey, Iraq and the US; with each of whom we discuss this issue.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received of Turkish troops having undertaken cross-border military operations in Northern Iraq; what representations she has made to her Turkish counterpart on those reports; and if she will make a statement. [142598]

Margaret Beckett: The Turkish and Iraqi governments have confirmed that no incursions into northern Iraq by Turkish security forces have taken place. We continue to follow the situation closely through our Missions in Ankara, Baghdad and Erbil and remain in close touch with the Turkish and Iraqi governments.

We are aware of counter-terrorist operations by the Turkish security forces close to Turkey's border with northern Iraq. This is usual at this time of year when the Partiya Karkeren Kurdistan (PKK) steps up its terrorist activities. A series of PKK attacks have struck military and civilian targets in Turkey recently, causing a significant number of fatalities. We utterly condemn the attacks carried out by the PKK, as we do all acts of terrorism.

We encourage Turkey to work with the Iraqi government and the Kurdish Regional government to address the PKK presence in northern Iraq and we welcome the ongoing trilateral co-operation between Turkey, Iraq and the US.

Iraq: USA

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the proposals by the United States to establish a long term military presence in Iraq; what discussions she has had with her US counterpart on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [142424]

Margaret Beckett: We maintain a constant dialogue with the US Administration on the security situation in Iraq, and our shared plans and strategies to respond to it. At present, this dialogue is focused on working to reduce the level of violence in Iraq and creating the conditions necessary for the transfer of responsibility for security to the Iraqi authorities in Basra province.

Khmer Rouge

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects the surviving leaders of the Khmer Rouge to be *(a)* charged and *(b)* put on trial. [144481]

Dr. Howells: A Plenary Session in Phnom Penh of national and international judicial officers unanimously adopted The Internal Rules of Procedure for the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia on 12 June. This significant step paves the way for the process of holding fair and transparent trials.

Judicial officers, in a joint statement on 13 June, stated that it was their understanding that co-prosecutors would shortly file their first introductory submission. Co- investigating judges can then begin the judicial process. Whilst there is no current timetable for the trial phase, we currently envisage the trial process starting in the first half of 2008. Both the Cambodian Government and the UN are aware of the urgency of starting these trials and are working hard to do this as soon as possible.

The UK will continue to follow developments closely in the coming months.

Kosovo: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the progress of plans to replace NATO's KFOR mission in Kosovo with a European Union mission; what she expects the UK's *(a)* financial and *(b)* military contribution to that mission to be; and if she will make a statement. [144364]

Mr. Hoon: There are presently no plans to replace NATO's Kosovo Force with an EU mission. Following implementation of UN special envoy Ahtisaari's comprehensive proposals for Kosovo's future status, it is envisaged that NATO will provide the international military presence in Kosovo. Separately, there will be a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) mission in the area of policing and rule of law.

An EU planning team is in place in Kosovo and is carrying out the necessary planning and preparations for the ESDP mission. But the UK expects to maintain its personnel contribution at or around that currently provided to the UN Mission in Kosovo (circa 80 personnel) and will contribute around 17 per cent. of the common costs of the ESDP mission from the Common Foreign and Security Policy budget.

Kosovo: United Nations Security Council

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of progress towards securing a new United Nations Security Council resolution on Kosovo; and if she will make a statement. [144367]

Mr. Hoon: Intensive negotiations are continuing in the UN Security Council in New York. We are working to achieve a resolution paving the way for implementation of the Ahtisaari proposals as soon as possible.

On 18 June, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed Kosovo at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council. The Council confirmed its support for UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtisaari and reiterated its view that his comprehensive proposals provide the basis for the settlement of the Kosovo issue by a new resolution of the UN Security Council.

Members: Correspondence

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions her Department has had with the Cabinet Office on the target of 20 working days for replying to correspondence from hon. Members. [143317]

Margaret Beckett: Having checked with my officials I can confirm there is no record of discussions between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Cabinet Office regarding the target of 20 working days for replying to correspondence from hon. Members.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on recent progress of the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative. [144025]

Dr. Howells: The Arab League's re-endorsement of the 2002 Beirut Declaration at the Arab Summit in Riyadh is a welcome step. It offers the prospect of normal relations between Israel and the Arab world. The Arab League has a key role to play in promoting reconciliation between the Israelis and Palestinians and moving forward the peace process.

In its statement on 30 May, the Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia) noted its positive meeting with the Arab League in Sharm al-Sheikh on May 4, and looked forward to continued engagement with the Arab states. It welcomed the intention of the Arab League to engage Israel on the 2002 Arab League initiative and Israeli receptiveness to such engagement. The Quartet encouraged continued and expanded Arab contacts with Israel, and Israeli action to address concerns raised in the April 18 Arab League Follow-up Committee meeting, including a cessation of settlement expansion and the removal of illegal outposts, as called for in the Roadmap.

Israeli Foreign Minister Livni met President Mubarak and the Egyptian and Jordanian Foreign Ministers in Cairo on 10 May to discuss subsequent action. The Quartet principals agreed to meet in the region with members of the Arab League to follow up on the Arab Peace Initiative and efforts to advance the regional track.

We support the Arab League's engagement with the parties and welcome the meetings since the re-endorsement of the Arab League Initiative. We hope that this will create confidence between the parties to re-start negotiations.

Morocco: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the Moroccan initiative for autonomy for Western Sahara; and if she will make a statement. [143081]

Margaret Beckett: The UK regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his personal envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter Van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara.

On 30 April the UN Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1754, which took note of Morocco's proposal presented to the UN Secretary-General on 11 April, and called for both sides to enter into negotiations without preconditions.

The UK welcomes the prospect of negotiations between Morocco, the Polisario and their neighbours to be hosted by the UN on 18-19 June. The UK continues to support the process.

North Korea: Nuclear Reactors

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects International Atomic Energy Agency monitors *(a)* to arrive in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and *(b)* to begin inspection of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor; and what recent discussions she has held with (i) the United States, (ii) South Korea, (iii) China, (iv) Russia and (v) Japan on methods of applying pressure to the DPRK regime to ensure the Yongbyon nuclear reactor is closed. [145097]

Dr. Howells: Following an invitation on 16 June from the Director-General of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) General Department of Atomic Energy, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr ElBaradei, replied on 18 June, noting that an IAEA team, headed by Deputy Director-General for Safeguards, Mr Olli Heinonen, would visit Pyongyang in the week commencing 25 June.

I understand that the letter of invitation from the DPRK has asked for the IAEA delegation to visit Pyongyang to discuss the modalities for verification and monitoring by the IAEA of the shutdown of the Yongbyon nuclear facility.

Ensuring the closure of the Yongbyon reactor is an issue for discussion amongst members of the six party talks. Although the UK is not a member of the talks, we fully support the process and regularly keep in touch with partners, including through our embassies. We will continue to urge the DPRK to fulfil the commitments it has entered into under the February agreement, including the closure of the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, as well as comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1718 and resume its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation treaty.

Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken to widen international participation in the Proliferation Security Initiative; and if she will make a statement. [143778]

Margaret Beckett: The UK has been actively involved in outreach activities for the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI), which now includes over 80 countries. We continue to use suitable bilateral or multilateral lobbying opportunities to encourage other countries to endorse the PSI Statement of Interdiction Principles. For example, last year a UK Government team made a useful PSI outreach visit to Vietnam and in March, UK officials were involved in an Asia-Pacific PSI Outreach Forum organised in New Zealand.

Palestinians: Children

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when she expects to write to the hon. Member for Thurrock about the visit to the UK by children from Palestine hosted by the charity Bethlehem Link; and if she will make a statement. [144643]

Dr. Howells: My noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Lord Triesman of Tottenham, replied on 15 June.

Palestinians: Immigration

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports she has received on the operations of the *(a)* EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories and *(b)* EU Border Assistance Mission at Rafah crossing point in light of recent events in Gaza; and if she will make a statement. [144359]

Dr. Howells: At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg on 18 June, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to support the Palestinian Civilian Police through the resumption of the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories and to resume the EU Border Assistance Mission Rafah. We support this.

We have received reports on the safety of officials at the Rafah crossing point, They have now been safely evacuated to Jerusalem.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contribution the UK made towards the review of the Temporary International Mechanism; and if she will make a statement. [142779]

Margaret Beckett: We have worked closely with the European Commission and the World Bank to draft terms of reference for the evaluation, and to ensure that the review examines the linkages between both the European Commission and the World Bank with respect to the Temporary International Mechanism. Department for International Development officials in Jerusalem and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials in Brussels have had a substantial engagement with the review teams and continue to work with them to ensure the final report is of a high quality. The final report is due to be presented at the end of the month.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial, *(b)* diplomatic, *(c)* military and *(d)* humanitarian support the Government gave the elected Palestinian Hamas-led government in the last six months; and if she will make a statement. [145013]

Dr. Howells: We did not provide any financial, diplomatic, military and humanitarian support to the Hamas-led government.

We have continued to provide support to the Palestinian people. The EU set up the 'Temporary International Mechanism' (TIM) in 2006, which provided support directly to the Palestinian people, bypassing the Hamas led government. This has been extended for a further three months until September. The EU gave €680 million to the Palestinians in 2006, more than in any previous year. €200 million of this was transferred through the UK-inspired TIM. The UK has also provided £15 million through the TIM. This has supported Palestinian front line health services, allowances for government workers and the operation, maintenance and repair of water, sanitation and electricity services in Gaza and the West Bank

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial, *(b)* diplomatic, *(c)* military and *(d)* humanitarian support the Government is providing to the Palestinian Fatah movement; and if she will make a statement. [145016]

Dr. Howells: We have provided no financial, diplomatic, military or humanitarian support to Fatah. We have provided some limited media training for Palestinian political parties including Fatah.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment she has made of the potential impact of the dissolution of the Palestinian unity government and the formation of a new government on plans for Palestinian security sector transformation; and if she will make a statement. [144358]

Dr. Howells: We regret the announcement that the National Unity Government (NUG) has been dissolved, but understand that Hamas' recent actions left Palestinian President Abbas with few alternatives. We, along with the EU and Quartet (EU, US, UN and Russia), support President Abbas' decision to dissolve the NUG and declare a state of emergency.

We look forward to working with Prime Minister Fayyad and his ministerial team for the benefit of all Palestinians. Prime Minister Fayyad has said his priorities are restoring security and improving the

economic and humanitarian situation—we share those goals and will continue to work with the Palestinian Authority towards them.

We remain committed to security sector reform and will continue to work with President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad to strengthen the Palestinian security forces. We are currently considering how best to do this, given recent events.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment the UK Government have made of the *(a)* size and *(b)* military capability of the (i) Hamas Executive Force and (ii) Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades in Gaza; and if she will make a statement. [144362]

Dr. Howells: In April 2006 the then Hamas-affiliated Palestinian Interior Minister, Siad Siyam, established an Executive Force. By January 2007, the force was believed to have as many as 5,000 members, Hamas had announced its intention to increase this figure to some 12,000 and establish a 1,500 strong force in the West Bank.

Hamas's military wing—known as the Izzedine al Qassam Brigades—was founded in 1992 and has been responsible for numerous attacks on Israel, including suicide bombings. The group is likely to be able to draw on thousands of men as required. Hamas militants in both forces appear well disciplined and capable of conducting mobile urban warfare, rocket and improvised explosive devices bomb attacks.

Sanctions: EC Action

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 244-5W, on sanctions: EC Action, which geographical working group reviews and evaluates EU sanctions against Iran; how often the group meets; and to whom the group reports. [143951]

Dr. Howells: Any evaluation of the impact of sanctions on Iran would be carried out by the geographical working group covering the Middle East, Committee on the Middle East and Gulf (COMEM). COMEM can meet as required and the UK is represented by officials from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office based in Brussels. COMEM also meets every three months when representatives from EU capitals attend, COMEM reports to the Political and Security Council and the Committee of Permanent Representatives, (known as Coreper). Any formal legal review of the sanctions will be undertaken by the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party.

Saudi Arabia: Torture

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any British citizens have been tortured in Saudi Arabia since 1 January 1997; and if she will make a statement. [144119]

Dr. Howells: The UK unreservedly condemns the use of torture and works hard with international partners to eradicate this abhorrent practice. Although the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is not itself in a position conclusively to confirm or deny allegations of torture in Saudi Arabia, we do raise such allegations with the Saudi authorities. We have raised at least nine allegations of torture with the Saudi authorities since 1997.

Somalia: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the merits of establishing a UN force for Somalia; and what the UK policy is on the matter. [143779]

Mr. McCartney: The Government strongly support the current African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) but also support the need for the UN Security Council to consider fully the merits of establishing a UN force in Somalia, to succeed AMISOM. We sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1744, adopted unanimously by the Security Council on 20 February, and fully supported the Council's Presidential Statement of 30 April. Both emphasised the need to consider establishing a UN force in Somalia to succeed AMISOM and requested the Secretary-General to undertake contingency work and prepare options for the Security Council to consider. We expect the Secretary-General to report back to the Council within the next month, after which we will assess the merits of a force, in consultation with our UN partners. We supported this approach as Co-Chairman of the International Contact Group for Somalia when it met in London on 6 June.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 400-1W, on Sudan: armed conflict, what measures to allow better air monitoring of the violence in Darfur have been proposed by the UK; and if she will make a statement. [142586]

Margaret Beckett: We are considering a number of measures to improve air monitoring in Darfur, from enhanced monitoring on the ground to a no fly zone. We need to assess the logistical challenges of implementation and impact on the humanitarian effort of any measures. We are working with partners in the UN Security Council to press both the African Union and the Panel of Experts to notify the UN Sanctions Committee of any instances of offensive military flights in Darftir.

Sudan: Peace Keeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what agreements have been reached with the government of Sudan on when the United Nations/African Union heavy support package will be in place; and if she will make a statement. [142697]

Margaret Beckett: The Government of Sudan gave their full agreement on 16 April to the deployment of the UN Heavy Support Package, The UN Department

for Peacekeeping Operations is now responsible for organising its deployment. We are pressing them to ensure that this happens as soon as possible.

We will monitor its deployment to ensure the Government of Sudan do not block it. If the Government do not co-operate, we will be prepared to introduce tougher measures.

Weapons: Finance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Financial Action Task Force is expected to complete its examination of the risks involved in weapons of mass destruction proliferation finance and to review its mandate, as called for by the G7 Finance Ministers in Essen in February 2007; and if she will make a statement. [143775]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

The Financial Action Task Force is due to complete a review of its mandate by the end of June 2008. Its examination of the risks involved in weapons of mass destruction proliferation finance is in progress. There is no formal deadline for completing this work.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bereavement Benefits

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid in bereavement benefits due to (i) fraud and (ii) error in each of the last five years. [133912]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. For details of the amount of overpayment in bereavement benefit and widow's benefits combined, due to official error, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 697-700W.

There are no reliable estimates of the amount of underpayment in these benefits.

Carers' Allowances: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Leeds West *(a)* receive and *(b)* are entitled to carers' benefits. [143674]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people in Leeds West parliamentary constituency in receipt of and entitled to carers' benefits—November 2006

	In receipt	*Entitled*
Carer's allowance (CA)	660	1,080
Income support with a carer premium	370	370

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Recipients of IS carer's premium may also be entitled to or receiving CA.
3. CA recipient totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and excludes people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended.
4. CA entitled totals show the number of people who are entitled to receive CA, including those who receive no actual payment.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent. WPLS

The vast majority of those entitled to but not receiving CA are pensioners and are likely to be receiving state pension and may receive the carer's premium in pension credit. Only one benefit at a time can be paid for the same purpose. While the circumstances that give rise to entitlement to CA and the state pension are different, both benefits are designed to provide a degree of replacement for lost or forgone income.

Child Support Agency: Manpower

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff were employed by the Child Support Agency in each quarter since January 1997; what the estimated numbers are for each quarter until 2012; and if he will make a statement; [141934]

(2) if he will make a statement on plans to reduce Child Support Agency (CSA) staff numbers; and whether such plans will be affected by CSA performance against targets. [141935]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions regarding the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many staff were employed by the Child Support Agency in each quarter since January 1997; what the estimated numbers are for each quarter until 2012; [141934]

and

If he will make a statement on plans to reduce Child Support Agency (CSA) staff numbers; and whether such plans will be affected by CSA Performance against targets. [141935]

Such information as is available is in the attached table. However, we cannot currently provide anticipated people numbers beyond March 2008 as staffing profiles have yet to be agreed across the Department.

I have provided the average people employed for each financial year from 1997/98 through to 2000/01, as we no longer retain information on a quarterly basis for this period. The information provided is sourced from the Agency Annual Report and Accounts and is set out in the attached Table 1.

The Agency is committed to meeting both the Departmentally agreed headcount target of 9547 by March 2008 and the Secretary of State performance targets for the coming year.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1

Financial year	*Average number of people employed*
1997-98	8,445
1998-99	8,156
1999-2000	8,545
2000-01	9,187

Note:
Quarterly information is not available for this period.

Source:
Agency Annual Reports and Accounts.

Table 2

Quarter ending	*Number of full-time equivalent people*
2001	
June	10,071.14
September	10,140.98
December	10,425.26
2002	
March	10,690.59
June	10,920.45
September	11,166.36
December	11,202.70
2003	
March	11,256.42
June	10,987.77
September	10,696.30
December	10,527.76
2004	
March	10,819.02
June	10,671.76
September	10,076.78
December	9,809.96
2005	
March	9,784.26
June	9,827.08
September	10,076.55
December	10,648.83
2006	
March	11,034.25
June	11,279.85
September	11,416.45
December	11,497.57
2007	
March	11,225.04
June	*10,982
September	*10,615
December	*10,238
2008	
March	*9,547

Notes:
1. Actuals—for June 2001 to March 2007.
2. Projected—from September 2007 to March 2008.

Child Support Agency: Marketing

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many whole-time equivalent staff are responsible for *(a)* brand management and *(b)* marketing at the Child Support Agency; and what the cost was of those staff in the last 12 months. [137978]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many whole-time equivalent staff are responsible for (a) brand management and (b) marketing at the Child Support Agency: and what the cost was of those staff in the last 12 months. [137978]

The Agency uses the Department for Work and Pensions accounting system. While the accounting system does not have the functionality to report separately the discreet activities and day-to-day costs associated with either marketing or brand management, we can identify five full-time equivalent staff, at a range of grades, responsible for marketing at the Child Support Agency.

The estimated cost for 2006/07 for these people, who are responsible for a range of activity including developing the Agency's external communication channels such as the website and planning the current Child Maintenance Enforcement Campaigns, was £125, 143.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Stationery

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Child Support Agency spent on *(a)* stationery, *(b)* business cards and *(c)* building signs in each year since 1997. [137974]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much the Child Support Agency spent on (a) stationery (b) business cards (c) building signs—in each year since 1997. [137974]

The Child Support Agency is an Executive Agency of the Department for Work and Pensions (and prior to 8 June 2001 formed part of the Department of Social Security). The Agency uses the Departments accounting system to record and report expenditure.

In response to your question:

Stationery—the Department's accounting system combines spend on both printing and stationery. I am therefore unable to provide a breakdown of stationery only. The total costs for printing and stationery are included in the table below.

Business Cards—the Department for Work and Pensions accounting system does not enable us to provide an analysis of spending on these products. As such, the spend on business cards in included in the table.

Building signs—the Department for Work and Pensions accounting system does not enable us to provide an analysis of spending on these products. As such, the information is not available in the requested format.

The printing and stationery costs included in the table all cover posters, leaflets, letters, printing supplies, paper, pens etc. used by the Child Support agency in a given year. The costs for printing and stationery over the last six years as follows:

Financial year	Printing and stationery (£ million)
2001-02	1.5
2002-03	2.2
2003-04	1.8
2004-05	1.8
2005/06	2.1
2006-07	2.2
Total	11.6

The Department retains records for six years in accordance with its statutory obligations, therefore information is not available on the earlier years.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: Training

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what training courses were attended by Child Support Agency staff in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of each course to his Department; [133918]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 1064W, on departmental training, how much was spent on courses for staff in the Child Support Agency in *(a)* stress awareness, *(b)* self development, *(c)* self awareness, *(d)* creative thinking, *(e)* curriculum vitae writing, *(f)* running staff clubs, *(g)* facilitation skills, *(h)* non-verbal behaviour, *(i)* intervention skills and *(j)* being a change agent in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many staff attended these courses. [136020]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty dated, 21 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of state promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what training courses were attended by Child Support Agency staff in the last three years; and what the cost was of each course to his Department. [133918]

You also asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, pursuant to the Answer of 26th February 2007, Official Report, column 1064W, on departmental training how much was spent on courses for staff in the Child support Agency in *(a)* stress awareness, *(b)* self development, *(c)* self awareness, *(d)* creative thinking, *(e)* curriculum vitae writing, *(f)* running staff clubs, *(g)* facilitation skills, *(h)* non-verbal behaviour, *(i)* intervention skills and *(j)* being a change agent in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and how many staff attended these courses. [136020]

The Agency's training programme is aimed at making Agency people experts in their specialist business areas in order to effectively deliver more money to more children and improve client service. The Agency offers a wide range of training programmes, including technical training, work towards professionally accredited qualifications, and personal effectiveness training, including some of the courses specified above.

This training is delivered using a number of methods, including our own Learning Resource Centre, Departmental e-learning courses that are available to all our people from their work station and accessed via the Department's Intranet, and external facilitator led training. Varying degrees of information are available for the training offered by each of these sources. Unfortunately, I am therefore unable to provide full detail of all Agency training over the last three years.

Such information as is available is set out in the attached tables.

In relation to the specific training courses you have requested details for, the number of training courses provided via the Learning Resource Centre over the past 3 years is set out in Table 1. However, the information provided is restricted to the number of variable length sessions delivered in the years specified, as information on the number of people participating in the training and the cost to the Agency of these training courses is not available in the format requested.

I am unable to price information for the number of Departmental e-learning courses undertaken by Agency people. There is no cost associated with accessing Departmental e-learning, beyond the time spent taking these courses and their initial development. The Department covered all the developmental costs of these courses and the direct cost to the Agency of each course is nil.

The number of Agency people undertaking the Department's external facilitator led course and the cost of these course is set out in Table 2.

Finally, Tables 3 and 4 set out the number of technical skills training courses attended by Agency people in the last three years. Training set out in Table 4 supports the implementation of the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan, which focuses on delivering more money to more children. Unfortunately, information on the cost for each of these courses in not readily available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table 1: Number of people who attended Learning Resource Centre training sessions during 2004-07

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Stress awareness	38	112	31
Self development	236	322	128
Creative thinking	11	13	8
Curriculum vitae writing	58	6	0
Facilitation skills	4	0	0
Being a change agent	33	13	22

Table 2: Cost and quantity of DWP/External facilitator led training during 2004-07

	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Course type	Number of people	Cost (£)	Number of people	Cost (£)	Number of people	Cost (£)
Stress awareness	10	450	70	3,254	11	537
Self development	69	8,023	101	8,087	9	3,853
Curriculum vitae writing	58	2,252	6	450	0	0
Facilitation skills	4	300	0	0	0	0

Table 3: Number of technical training course held during 2004-06

Course type	Number of courses undertaken 2004-05	2005-06
New entrant-New system new rules	48	142
New entrant-New system old rules	0	3
New entrant old system old rules	7	18
Existing staff-refresher training new rules	15	52
Existing staff-refresher training old rules	16	13
Business change CSR—New system new rules	395	168
Business change CSR—New system old rules	0	8
Total	481	396

Table 4: Number of technical training courses held during 2006-07

Course type	Number of courses undertaken 2006-07
New client	92
Client service	125
Debt enforcement	28
Legal enforcement	22
Team lender	117
Other	94
Total	478

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many deduction of earnings orders the Child Support Agency had in place in each month since January 2000; and if he will make a statement. [141095]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many deduction of earnings orders the Child Support Agency had in place in each month since January 2000; and if he will make a statement.

Such information as is available, is presented in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of cases, which have a deduction from earnings order (DEO) or a deduction from earnings request (DER) in place from February 2000 to March 2007

Month ending	Cases with DEO or DER as method of maintenance collection
February 2000	138,400
May 2000	141,700
August 2000	142,000
November 2000	141,300
February 2001	141,100
May 2001	140,100
August 2001	140,100
November 2001	138,500
February 2002	140,000
May 2002	138,600
August 2002	138,400
November 2002	139,000
February 2003-July 2004	[1]—
August 2004	132,900
September 2004	133,800
October 2004	134,500
November 2004	136,000
December 2004	141,300
January 2005	138,000
February 2005	139,800
March 2005	141,300
April 2005	142,100
May 2005	142,900
June 2005	144,500
July 2005	146,400
August 2005	148,600
September 2005	149,900
October 2005	151,300
November 2005	153,000
December 2005	153,700
January 2006	155,100
February 2006	156,200
March 2006	158,600
April 2006	160,100
May 2006	161,600
June 2006	162,600
July 2006	164,200
August 2006	165,200
September 2006	165,400
October 2006	165,500
November 2006	166,100
December 2006	158,100
January 2007	160,400
February 2007	160,600
March 2007	162,700

[1] Robust information covering the period February 2003 to July 2004 is not available.

Notes:

1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. The table includes deduction from earnings orders (DEOs) and deduction from earnings requests (DERs). DERs are the equivalent of DEOs when a non-resident parent is a member of the Armed Forces.
3. The table above includes those old-scheme cases with either a Full Maintenance Assessment or an Interim Maintenance Assessment; plus those new-scheme cases with either a Full Maintenance Calculation, or a Default Maintenance Decision. New-scheme cases being processed clerically are excluded from this analysis.
4. Data prior to March 2003 are only available quarterly. March 2007 is the most recent available.
5. The volume of deductions from earnings orders/requests (DEO/Rs) decreased to 158,000 in December 2006. This sudden fall was caused by a fix to the new computer system to suspend 8,500 ineffective DEOs on cases where employers had informed the Agency that the non-resident parent on that case was no longer in their employment. These DEOs have been suspended and the Agency put together a recovery plan to trace those non-resident parents and restore compliance, through DEOs where appropriate.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what performance targets he has set for Vertex to respond to cases referred to the Child Support Agency Bolton office by or on behalf of hon. Members; and if he will make a statement; [141304]

(2) if he will list the *(a)* performance indicators and *(b)* performance targets which he has set for Vertex for its management of the Bolton office of the Child Support Agency. [142317]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 12 June 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 21 June 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what performance targets he has set for Vertex to respond to cases referred to the Child Support Agency Bolton office by or on behalf of hon. Members; and if he will make a statement. [141304]

and;

You also asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will list the (a) performance indicators and (b) performance targets which he has set for Vertex for its management of the Bolton office of the Child Support Agency. [142317]

Although the agency has contracted out the maintenance of its clerical cases to Vertex Data Science Ltd, the performance targets set by the Secretary of State apply to all Child Support cases regardless of whether they are clerical or not.

The Secretary of State targets for the current operation year are:

Number of children—By 31 March 2008, maintenance will be collected or have been arranged by the Agency on behalf of 720,000 children.

Total Maintenance Collection (Arrears)—Collect or have arranged £970 million in child maintenance between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008; of which at least £120 million maintenance will be arrears.

Maintenance Outcomes—By 31 March 2008, in 66% of cases across both the new and old schemes in which a liability to pay maintenance exists, the non-resident parent has either made a payment via the collection service or a Maintenance Direct arrangement is in place.

Uncleared applications to the New scheme—By 31 March 2008, the volume of uncleared new scheme applications will be no more than 140,000.

In addition, the Agency's Client Service Standards, including responding to hon. Members correspondence applies to cases maintained by the Bolton office. We aim to reply to letters and either resolve complaints, or agree next steps, within three weeks of receiving them.

Vertex Data Science Ltd performance against these measures is continually reviewed to ensure they are supporting the Agency's aim to deliver more money for more children.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimates he has made of the number of children who would be lifted out of relative poverty if all non-resident parents were fully compliant with the payment of child support. [143587]

Mr. Plaskitt: No estimate has been made of the number of children who would be lifted out of relative poverty if all non-resident parents were fully compliant with the payment of child support. To produce a robust estimate we would require information on the position in the income distribution of parents with care where the non-resident parent in the case is not fully compliant. This information is not available for all the relevant parents with care.

Community Care Grants: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average Social Fund Community Care Grant award was in West Lancashire constituency in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [143517]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

Lancashire West social fund operating unit

	Community care grant initial awards
	Average award size (£)
2005-06	359
2006-07	371

Notes:
1. Data are not available by parliamentary constituency but only by social fund operating unit.
2. West Lancashire parliamentary constituency is part of the social fund operating unit of Lancashire West. (This covered the same area as the Jobcentre Plus district of Lancashire West until 31 March 2006.)
3. Figures do not include awards made after review.
4. Figures have been rounded to the nearest £1.

Source:
DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System

Departments: Advertising

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on advertising by *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its non-departmental agencies in each of the last five years. [139524]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities. The table details spend on advertising campaigns run by the Department in each of the last five complete financial years.

Government policies and programmes affect the lives of millions of people and in order for them to work they must be communicated effectively. But that also has to be done with cost efficiency in mind and there are strict rules to ensure value for money on Government advertising.

	£000
Departmental advertising costs 2006-07[1]	
Age Partnership Group	9
Age Positive	40
Targeting benefit fraud	5,418
Reducing customer error	45
The Pension Service core benefit take up	881
Winter fuel payments	343

	£000
Child maintenance enforcement	107
Jobcentre Plus promotion to Black and Minority Ethnic audience	687
Job Done	765
Jobseeker's Allowance 50+ Pilot	83
Lone parent	171
Departmental advertising costs 2005-06[1]	
State pension deferral	300
Images of disability	2
Targeting benefit fraud	4,553
Pension credit	362
Winter fuel payments	918
State second pension	675
Age Partnership group	19
National sector campaign	23
Departmental advertising costs 2004-05[1]	
Age Positive	29
State pension deferral	115
Disability Discrimination Act	1,992
Targeting benefit fraud	6,017
Direct payment	8,379
Council tax benefit	674
Pension credit	4,388
Winter fuel payments	515
Lone parent leaflet promotion marketing	216
National vacancy campaign	390
IB reforms pilots	106
Departmental advertising costs 2003-04[1]	
Age positive	70
Second state pension	216
Pension service awareness	906
New Deal	5,678
Disability Discrimination Act	40
Targeting benefit fraud	8,383
Direct payment	11,095
Council tax benefit	556
Pension credit	9,907
Winter fuel payments	625
Jobseekers direct	1,632
IB reforms pilot	113
Jobcentre Plus customer marketing	1,401
National employer campaign	1,158
Departmental advertising costs 2002-03[1]	
Age positive	706
Future pensioners/informed choice	2,878
Second state pension	489
New Deal for Musicians	33
Disability Discrimination Act	50
Targeting benefit fraud	35
Direct payment	858
Winter fuel payments	627
Inherited serps	646

[1] The table does not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost:
spend by non-departmental bodies for which the Department is responsible;
details of highly localised publicity activity by the Department's customer-facing businesses;
recruitment or procurement advertising;
Jobcentre Plus publicity during 2002 to 2003 as at that time allocations sat with individual policy teams and within regional budgets.

The information in the table relates to media buying expenditure only, which forms the bulk of departmental publicity expenditure, but excludes direct mail, public relations, production and other costs. All figures are exclusive of VAT.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets have been set for replies to letters from his Department's offices; what targets have been set in Kent; and which of these targets have been met in each of the last 24 months. [141421]

Mr. Plaskitt: Each of the agencies within the Department records correspondence from customers in a different way, therefore I have listed the performance information for each agency separately.

Child Support Agency

The information requested is in the following table. The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in 15 working days. It is not possible to provide figures for Kent separately, but I can give you the figures for the South East area which includes Kent.

	Percentage cleared in target	
	National	South East
April 2005	86.5	78.4
May 2005	88.2	84.4
June 2005	89.0	89.0
July 2005	88.5	88.0
August 2005	88.4	86.6
September 2005	88.4	86.0
October 2005	88.3	85.8
November 2005	88.2	85.3
December 2005	88.1	84.9
January 2006	88.3	83.7
February 2006	88.25	81.6
March 2006	88.6	76.9
April 2006	87.6	78.8
May 2006	89.3	79.2
June 2006	89.7	81.1
July 2006	90.1	82.2
August 2006	90.7	81.9
September 2006	90.4	81.0
October 2006	90.7	82.0
November 2006	90.9	82.9
December 2006	90.7	80.7
January 2007	89.9	78.2
February 2007	89.0	77.6

	Percentage cleared in target	
	National	South East
March 2007	88.2	76.9

Jobcentre Plus

The information requested is in the following table. The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in 10 working days.

	Percentage cleared in target	
	National	Kent
April 2005	79.10	94.83
May 2005	82.16	89.89
June 2005	86.82	94.64
July 2005	84.54	89.33
August 2005	83.93	89.47
September 2005	83.63	90.70
October 2005	80.81	94.92
November 2005	81.93	94.74
December 2005	79.80	90.63
January 2006	81 .09	91.57
February 2006	81.07	92.50
March 2006	79.51	94.02
April 2006	74.87	97.33
May 2006	79.73	89:22
June 2006	75.72	96.00
July 2006	75.14	97.00
August 2006	81.79	100.00
September 2006	82.21	96.25
October 2006	81.44	91.07
November 2006	83.07	92.62
December 2006	83.67	95.70
January 2007	86.13	95.48
February 2007	84.64	94.03
March 2007	87.25	98.44

The Pension Service: The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in 10 working days. Information on correspondence is not collected monthly but I am able to provide the national quarterly figures for the last 24 months. This is shown in the first table. The second table gives the figures for correspondence from the Motherwell Pension Centre, this is the centre that covers the Kent area. It is not possible to provide figures for Kent separately as information is not recorded in this way.

	Percentage in target
2005-06	
Qrt1	77
Qrt2	77
Qrt3	88
Qrt4	86
2006-07	
Qrt1	79
Qrt2	88
Qrt3	83
Qrt4	83

	Percentage in target
2005-06	
Qrt1	60
Qrt2	93
Qrt3	100
Qrt4	70
2006-07	
Qrt1	93
Qrt2	96
Qrt3	90
Qrt4	83

Disability and Carers Service

The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in 10 working days. Information on the time taken to reply to correspondence is not recorded monthly but I am able to provide you the figures for calendar years 2005 and 2006. These figures are the result of checking an annual sample of 384 cases and can be found in the following table. Figures for Kent are not available as information is only recorded nationally.

	2005-06	
	Target	Achievement
Number of checks meeting the standard (percentage)	100	97
Average reply time (working days)	10	3

The Rent Service

The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in 10 working days. Figures for Kent are not recorded separately.

	2005-06	Percentage 2006-07
April	100	100
May	97	100
June	93	100
July	100	100
August	94	100
September	95	100
October	100.3	100
November	94	100
December	100	100
January	95	100
February	97	100
March	100	100

Debt Management

The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in seven working days. Information is only available from April 2006 and figures for Kent are not recorded separately.

	National—Percentage cleared in target
April 2006	49

	National—Percentage cleared in target
May 2006	44
June 2006	40
July 2006	47
August 2006	50
September 2006	56
October 2006	49
November 2006	54
December 2006	53
January 2007	50
February 2007	53
March 2007	46
April 2007	58
May 2007	53

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

The target for replying to correspondence from members of the public and their representatives is to reply to 100 per cent. of letters in 10 working days. I am unable to tell you how HSE has performed against this target as records are not kept centrally. Figures for Kent are not recorded separately.

The Department's target for replying to correspondence from Members of Parliament and Peers to Ministers is to respond to at least 90 per cent. of letters within 20 working days. The Department achieved 90 per cent. in both calendar years 2005 and 2006.

Departments: Disclosure of Information

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of people receiving confidential information about other individuals in error there were in each of the last five years in *(a)* Jobcentre Plus, *(b)* the Child Support Agency and *(c)* the Pensions Service. [143257]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Residences

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will list the official ministerial residences allocated to Ministers in his Department; and what the total annual cost is of running each. [141968]

Mrs. McGuire: No Ministers in my Department have been allocated ministerial residences.

Departments: Postal Services

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons were for the decision to move his Department's post opening and distribution services in Kent from Haden Building Management to the Royal Mail. [141430]

Mrs. McGuire: The decision to move the Department's post opening and distribution services in Kent from Haden Building Management to the Royal Mail was a consequence of DWP's review of office services, which includes post opening. This review concluded that the Department would make considerable operational benefits, provide significant cost savings and greater value for money to the Department and the taxpayer, by moving a new operating methodology by means of a single national contract.

Following competition, Haden Building Management won the contract to deliver the entire Department's office services requirements from 1 March 2007. Royal Mail is a subcontractor to Haden, opening post at Royal Mail centres, in secure mail opening units.

Direct Payments

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which financial institutions participate in the Direct Payments Scheme. [143193]

Mr. Plaskitt: This is a matter for my hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Disabled People: Poverty

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* people with disabilities of working age and *(b)* children with disabilities were living in poverty in each Government office region in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2004-05. [118811]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Employment Services: Digital Broadcasting

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether digital television job services are available in Wirral; [142970]

(2) what provisions exist for people without access to digital television or the internet to access job search services; [142971]

(3) what steps are being taken to advertise the provision of digital television services to those seeking jobs; [142972]

(4) what estimate he has made of the average age of people using the digital television job search services; [142973]

(5) what level of use of digital television job search services was recorded in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by region. [142974]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 21 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about jobsearch services available through digital television. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

Jobcentre Plus published a News Release on 2 April 2007 to launch the national job search engine on digital television in partnership with Looking Local, the local government digital TV

portal. Looking Local is part of DigiTV, which is a not-for-profit organisation run by, and for, local government. DigiTV is currently working with over 75 Local Authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The digital television jobsearch services are available in Wirral. Although Wirral Council are not currently delivering services through DigiTV's Looking Local, other councils in the area are, and these are accessible across the Wirral.

Customers without digital television or the Internet can access Jobcentre Plus vacancies through channels such as Jobseeker Direct (a telephone job search service), Jobpoints (in all Jobcentre Plus offices), and External Kiosks in third party premises such as libraries. We also offer assisted jobsearch through our Personal Advisers in Jobcentre Plus offices, and some outreach premises, for more disadvantaged customers. In addition, all employment programmes delivered through Jobcentre Plus contain a jobsearch element, for example, Programme Centres offer Internet access, newspapers, and support on the range of jobsearch skills, including CV preparation, completing job applications and interview skills.

Jobcentre Plus has no current plans to advertise or evaluate digital television jobsearch services. The services offered through digital television form part of a wider set of services, available across a range of channels for those seeking work. The two pilots that took place in Kingston-upon-Hull (2003), and London (2005), were evaluated, but did not report on the age range of users.

Looking Local currently averages 270,000 hits per month for jobsearch services but information is not available broken down by region.

Housing Benefit: Temporary Accommodation

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to change the level of non-Housing Revenue Account housing benefit subsidy to local authorities for homeless households placed in temporary accommodation in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [145167]

Mr. Plaskitt: A questionnaire has been sent to a sample of local authorities seeking information on the use and costs of temporary accommodation. Until we have considered the results of this questionnaire, no decision can be made about subsidy arrangements in respect of homeless households in temporary accommodation for 2008-09.

We are continuing to work with the Department for Communities and Local Government and the devolved Administrations on our longer term proposals which would separate out reasonable costs for the rent and management of temporary accommodation; we would expect these to take effect from 2009.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants of disability living allowance who also claim incapacity benefit have been on incapacity benefit for more than *(a)* six months, *(b)* 12 months, *(c)* 18 months, *(d)* 24 months and *(e)* 60 months. [144011]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 19 June 2007]*: The available information is in the following table.

Number of claimants of DLA, who also claim IB/SDA—November 2006

	Duration of IB/SDA claim				
	Six months up to one year	*One year and up to 18 months*	*18 months and up to two years*	*Two years and up to five years*	*Five years and over*
DLA entitled cases also claiming IB/SDA	38,670	39,800	38,190	241,830	903,340

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS

Incapacity Benefit: Disposable Income

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median net disposable income of households receiving incapacity benefit was *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs were taken into account in the latest period for which figures are available. [142737]

Mrs. McGuire: Latest available data show that the median net (disposable) weekly income of households receiving incapacity benefit is £302 before housing costs and £260 after housing costs.

Notes:

1. The source of the information provided is the Family Resources Survey (FRS), United Kingdom 2005-06. The Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 28,000 households.

2. Data for 2005-06 were collected between April 2005 and March 2006.

3. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and gender. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

4. Incapacity benefit receipt is under-reported on the FRS. However, there is no other reliable source for this information at a household level.

5. Figures for the median net weekly income are rounded to the nearest pound.

6. Net (disposable) weekly income includes income from all sources for all adults and children in the household, less income tax and national insurance contributions (for adults).

7. Housing costs include household rent for rented accommodation or mortgage interest for those buying their home with a mortgage, plus water and sewerage charges (including council tax water charge in Scotland), plus premiums paid on structural insurance, plus charges for owner occupiers (ground rent, service charges etc.).

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median equivalised net disposable income *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs were taken into account was of individuals in households receiving incapacity benefit in the latest period for which figures are available. [142741]

Mrs. McGuire: Latest available data show that the median equivalised net (disposable) weekly income of households receiving incapacity benefit is £271 before housing costs and £228 after housing costs.

Notes:

1. The source of the information provided is the Family Resources Survey (FRS), United Kingdom 2005-06. The Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 28,000 households.

2. Data for 2005-06 were collected between April 2005 and March 2006.

3. The estimates are based on sample counts that have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the FRS to Government Office Region populations by age and gender. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.

4. Incapacity benefit receipt is under-reported on the FRS. However, there is no other reliable source for this information at a household level.

5. Figures for the median equivalised net disposable weekly income are rounded to the nearest pound.

6. Net (disposable) weekly income includes income from all sources for all adults and children in the household, less income tax and NI contributions (for adults).

7. Housing costs include household rent for rented accommodation or mortgage interest for those buying their home with a mortgage, plus water and sewerage charges (including council tax water charge in Scotland), plus premiums paid on structural insurance, plus charges for owner occupiers (ground rent, service charges etc.).

Incapacity Benefit: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Lancashire were registered for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance in the financial year ending (i) March 1997 and (ii) March 2007. [144971]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available in the format requested. The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefits and jobseeker's allowance claimants in the Lancashire West parliamentary constituency, November 1997 and 2006

	Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	*Jobseeker's allowance*
November 1997	6,200	2,388
November 2006	4,880	1,623

Notes:
1. JSA figures are unrounded, incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance figures for November 1997 are rounded to the nearest 100 and the November 2006 figures to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance figures for November 1997 have been produced using 5 per cent. data and have been uprated in accordance with Great Britain WPLS 100 per cent. IB/SDA totals.
3. Claimant figures for incapacity benefit include incapacity benefit credits-only cases.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems; DWP Information Directorate, 5 per cent. Sample for November 1997 and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. Data for November 2006.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents made repeat claims for income support in West Lancashire in each month since 2005. [144926]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Chard

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people visited the Jobcentre in Chard in each month since July 2006; and if he will make a statement. [143041]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated 21 June 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about the number of people who have visited Chard Jobcentre since July 2006. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to Lesley Strathie as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus. I am replying on her behalf as Acting Chief Executive.

I am unable to provide details of customer usage in Chard Jobcentre since July 2006 as this information is not recorded in sufficient detail. We are analysing the number of customers using the office as part of the office network review. This monitoring commenced on 21 May 2007 and is being undertaken over a six week period.

I hope this is helpful.

Jobcentre Plus: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many job vacancies were available through the job centres in West Lancashire constituency in the financial year ending March *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [143531]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

Vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus in the West Lancashire Parliamentary Constituency

Financial year	*Number of vacancies*
2006-07	8,690

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Information is only available at constituency level from April 2004.
3. Figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System.

Low Incomes: Disabled

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of working age disabled adults were living on less than 60 per cent. of contemporary median income in each year since 1996-97. [136015]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

Figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors and therefore will not be the same as any figures previously published which were based on McClements equivalisation factors.

Percentage of working-age disabled adults living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income

	Before housing costs	After housing costs
1996-97	21	30
1997-98	22	29
1998-99	23	31
1999-2000	24	32
2000-01	25	32
2001-02	27	33
2002-03	24	31
2003-04	24	30
2004-05	25	31

Source:
Family Resources Survey

National Insurance

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many temporary national insurance numbers were issued between April 2006 and April 2007. [144080]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 2 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2593W.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of increasing the upper earnings limit for personal accounts in line with the proposed increase in the upper earnings limit for national insurance contributions on the intended focus of personal accounts on those on median and below median earnings. [137975]

James Purnell: The personal accounts earnings band thresholds will be set at around £5,000 and £33,500 (in 2006-07 terms) uprated thereafter annually in line with average earnings. This will establish the thresholds in their own right and break the link with tax and NICs thresholds and will ensure that personal accounts is targeted at moderate to low earners.

National Insurance Contributions: Rebates

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of people *(a)* aged 44 and over in appropriate personal pensions and *(b)* aged 48 and over in money purchase schemes for whom contracted-out rebates may not replace foregone state second pension benefits; and if he will make a statement; [141175]

(2) how many UK citizens are in *(a)* appropriate personal pensions (APPs) and *(b)* money purchase schemes which are contracted-out; how many of these people are aged (i) over 44 in APPs and (ii) over 48 in money purchase schemes; and if he will make a statement. [141177]

James Purnell: Information on the number of people contracted out on a defined contribution basis for the latest year for which validated data are available, broken down by the scheme types and age groups specified, is in the table.

Scheme type	Total in tax year 2003-04 (Thousand)
Appropriate personal pension (including stakeholder pension)	
All ages	4,669
Of whom aged over 44	1,157
Contracted out money purchase scheme	
All ages	152
Of whom aged over 48	38

Note:
The 'pivotal age' for 2003-04 was 52 for both appropriate personal pensions and contracted-out money purchase schemes.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Lifetime Labour Market Database one per cent. sample of the National Insurance Recording System.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what action he has taken to inform individuals *(a)* aged 44 and over in appropriate personal pensions and *(b)* aged 48 and over in money purchase schemes that their contracted-out rebates may not replace the foregone state second pension benefits; and if he will make a statement; [141176]

(2) whether it is the policy of his Department to encourage people over the age of 40 years to take up opted out defined contribution pension schemes; and if he will make a statement. [141205]

James Purnell: Contracting out on a defined contribution basis when over the "pivotal age" (currently 44 for personal pensions and 48 for occupational schemes) is not usually financially beneficial, particularly where there is no employer pension contribution. However, an individual may have their own reasons for making this choice as contracting out offers flexibility not available under the State pension scheme. It is not the Department's policy to encourage or discourage people from contracting out. It is for individuals to decide what sort of pension provision is best for them, given their own personal circumstances.

Selling and advising on all personal pension schemes, including appropriate personal pensions, is subject to the Financial Services Authority's rules on marketing and promotion, provision of suitable advice and provision of information at the point of sale. In addition, in relation to contracting out via an appropriate personal pension scheme, The Financial Services Authority Factsheet "The State Second Pension—should you be contracted out?" says that those in older age groups are likely to be financially worse off by contracting out.

New Deal

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his statement of 4 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 3, on the new deal, if he will respond to the report by David Freud entitled Reducing dependency, increasing opportunity: options for the future before the summer recess. [143616]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 20 June 2007]:* We will respond to the Freud report in the summer.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent on the new deal for disabled people in each year since 2001. [142539]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New Deal for Disabled People

	Spend (£ million)
2001-02	4
2002-03	16
2003-04	28
2004-05	65
2005-06	68

Notes:
1. Data are in financial not calendar years.
2. Following agreement with HM Treasury in 2002-03, ring fences were removed from new deal. Administrative costs are excluded as it is no longer possible to identify the costs of administering the costs of each new deal separately from the costs of other labour market activities.

Source:
DWP Departmental Reports 2004-05, Jobcentre Plus Accounts 2005-06.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what training is compulsory for people who are entering the new deal for disabled people for the *(a)* first time and *(b)* second and subsequent times; [143569]

(2) what training is compulsory for people who are entering the New Deal 50 plus for the *(a)* first time and *(b)* second and subsequent times; [143571]

(3) what training is compulsory for people who are entering the new deal for lone parents for the *(a)* first time and *(b)* second and subsequent times. [143572]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal for disabled people, new deal 50 plus and new deal for lone parents are all voluntary programmes and no element of these programmes is compulsory for participants.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many lone parents participated in the new deal in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* Great Britain in each year since its inception; [143274]

(2) how many people over 50 years participated in the new deal in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception; [143275]

(3) how many over 25-year-olds participated in the new deal in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception; [143319]

(4) how many young people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* the UK participated in the new deal in each year since its inception; [143320]

(5) how many people in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the north east and *(d)* the UK participated in the new deal in each year since its inception. [143505]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following tables.

New deal in Jarrow parliamentary constituency

	People starting				
	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal for lone parents	New deal 50 plus	New deal
1998	330	60	10	—	400
1999	320	120	140	—	580
2000	260	120	170	—	550
2001	290	260	150	—	700
2002	260	290	150	—	700
2003	270	300	210	—	780
2004	290	210	270	50	830
2005	280	220	380	70	990
2006	400	330	340	30	1,110

New deal in South Tyneside local authority

	People starting				
	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal for lone parents	New deal 50 plus	New deal
1998	680	130	30	—	840
1999	680	270	300	—	1,250
2000	570	310	330	—	1,210
2001	630	650	340	—	1,620
2002	570	710	330	—	1,610
2003	620	700	420	—	1,740
2004	650	550	560	140	1,920
2005	670	570	740	220	2,260
2006	960	740	600	50	2,370

New deal in north east Jobcentre Plus region

	People starting				
	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal for lone parents	New deal 50 plus	New deal
1998	9,600	2,650	410	—	12,660
1999	9,200	4,570	3,240	—	17,010
2000	8,760	4,320	3,160	—	16,240
2001	8,430	5,620	3,790	—	18,610
2002	8,360	6,420	5,010	—	22,510
2003	8,610	5,470	5,410	—	23,270
2004	7,410	4,330	7,150	1,720	26,160
2005	8,290	4,620	7,670	1,830	28,150
2006	11,760	6,320	7,210	820	33,050

New deal in Great Britain

	People starting				
	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal for lone parents	New deal 50 plus	New deal
1998	137,010	40,430	8,860	—	186,300
1999	128,150	72,060	59,120	—	259,330
2000	115,370	60,530	59,130	—	235,030
2001	106,950	76,380	64,080	—	253,220
2002	110,730	81,610	86,690	—	303,650
2003	122,690	80,690	90,900	—	324,990

New deal in Great Britain

	People starting				
	New deal for young people	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal 50 plus*	*New deal*
2004	115,760	80,250	114,660	36,090	397,780
2005	128,500	78,800	122,080	26,730	418,110
2006	178,690	94,210	115,240	15,930	469,170

Notes:
1. Information on new deal is available for Great Britain, not the UK.
2. Information for South Tyneside is available by local authority area.
3. Information for the north east is available by Jobcentre Plus region.
4. Information for new deal as a whole includes, where available, data for new deal for disabled people and new deal for partners. Individual new deal figures may thus not sum to totals.
5. Information on people joining the new deal 50 plus caseload is only available from January 2004.
6. Information is for individuals. If a person has started new deal more than once, only their latest start is included in the table.
Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal for Long Term Unemployed

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is compulsory for people who are entering the new deal 25 plus for the *(a)* first time and *(b)* second and subsequent times. [143570]

Mr. Jim Murphy: New deal 25 plus is a mandatory programme for participants. Those who have not found work and left jobseeker's allowance after completing the Gateway part of the programme are required to participate in the intensive activity period (IAP), which provides a package of help tailored to meet an individual's needs.

Although it is compulsory to participate in an IAP, it is not compulsory for participants to undertake training or choose the Education and Training Opportunities, whether joining the programme for the first or subsequent time.

New Deal Schemes: Blackpool

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Blackpool, North and Fleetwood constituency received assistance from the new deal in each year since 1997. [143976]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New deal in the Blackpool, North and Fleetwood constituency

	People starting	*People gaining a job*
1998	250	130
1999	400	290
2000	370	300
2001	390	310
2002	470	350
2003	420	360
2004	550	340
2005	580	320
2006	600	—

Notes:
1. Information consists of people starting and gaining a job through new deal for young people, new deal 25 plus, new deal for lone parents, new deal 50 plus and new deal for partners.
2. Information for starts to new deal 50 plus is only available from January 2004 and for those gaining a job through the programme from April 2003.
3. Information for new deal for partners for starts and jobs gained is only available from April 2004 by year at parliamentary constituency level.
4. Information on new deal for disabled people is not available at parliamentary constituency level.
5. Latest complete year data are for 2006 for people starting new deal and 2005 for people gaining a job.
6. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal 50 plus: April 2000. new deal for partners: April 1999.
7. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal Schemes: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in West Lancashire constituency received assistance from the New Deal in each year since 1997. [143518]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information is in the following table.

New Deal in the West Lancashire Constituency

	People starting	*People gaining a job*
1998	400	170
1999	440	360
2000	460	440
2001	490	350
2002	520	400
2003	640	440
2004	580	390
2005	650	340
2006	660	—

Notes:
1. Information consists of people starting and gaining a job through New Deal for Young People, New Deal 25 plus, New Deal for Lone Parents, New Deal 50 plus and New Deal for Partners.
2. Information for starts to New Deal 50 plus is only available from January 2004 and for those gaining a job through the programme from April 2003.
3. Information for New Deal for Partners for starts and jobs gained is only available from April 2004 by year at Parliamentary Constituency level.
4. Information on New Deal for Disabled People is not available at parliamentary constituency level.
5. Latest complete year data are for 2006 for people starting New Deal and 2005 for people gaining a job.
6. Programme start dates are: New Deal for Young People: January 1998; New Deal 25 plus: July 1998; New Deal for Lone Parents: October 1998; New Deal 50 plus: April 2000; New Deal for Disabled People: July 2001.
7. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
New Deal Evaluation Database, Information Directorate Department for Work and Pensions.

Occupational Pensions

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, Official Report, columns 364-65W, on pensions, (1) how many employees benefiting from combined employer and employee contributions in excess of *(a)* £3,000 and *(b)* £5,000 belong to (i) private sector defined benefit or hybrid schemes that

are open to new members, (ii) private sector defined benefit or hybrid schemes that are closed to new members and (iii) private sector defined contribution schemes; [141438]

(2) whether the recorded contribution levels exclude the value of contracted-out rebates; and how many employees in each contribution band were contracted out; [141439]

(3) how many employees benefiting from combined employer and employee contribution in excess of £5,000 work in *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector; [141440]

(4) if he will expand the table to show the number of employees with combined employer and employee contributions that are *(a)* less than £1,000, *(b)* £1,000 to £1,999, *(c)* £2,000, to £2,999, *(d)* £3,000 to £3,999, *(e)* £4,000 to £4,999, *(f)* £5,000 to £9,999 and *(g)* £10,000 or more. [141469]

James Purnell: The table presented in the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 364-65W, showed information derived from a 2005 dataset. The analysis has been repeated using the latest available 2006 data and the results are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Number of employees by level of combined employer and employee pension contributions: Great Britain, 2006

Total contribution	*Number of employees (million)*
Less than £5,000	7.9
£5,000 to £5,999	1.1
£6,000 to £7,499	1.2
£7,500 to £9,999	0.9

Note:
The figures provided exclude the value of contracted-out rebates
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

The following tables present additional analyses, consistent with the results presented in table 1:

Table 2: Number of private sector employees by level of combined employer and employee pension contributions and type of scheme: Great Britain, 2006

	Number of private sector employees (million)	
Total contribution	*Defined benefit*	*Defined contribution*
£3,000 to £4,999	0.6	0.2
£5,000 or more	1.2	0.3

Notes:
1. No information is available about scheme status.
2. No information about employment sector was available for a further 0.6 million members of defined benefit schemes and 30,000 members of defined contribution schemes
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

Table 3: Number of employees by level of combined employer and employee pension contributions and contracted out status: Great Britain 2006

Total contribution	*Number of employees contracted out (million)*
Less than £5,000	5.0
£5,000 to £5,999	1.0
£6,000 to £7,499	1.1
£7,500 to £9,999	0.8

Note:
Contributions exclude the value of contracted-out rebates.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

Table 4: Number of employees with combined employer and employee pension contributions in excess of £5,000 by employment sector: Great Britain 2006

	Number of employees with total contributions in excess of £5,000 (million)
Private sector	1.8
Public sector	2.0

Note:
No information about employment sector was available for a further 0.4 million employees
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

Table 5: Number of employees by level of combined employer and employee pension contributions: Great Britain, 2006

Total contribution	*Number of employees (million)*
Less than £1,000	1.4
£1,000 to £1,999	1.8
£2,000 to £2,999	1.8
£3,000 to £3,999	1.6
£4,000 to £4,999	1.3
£5,000 to £9,999	3.3
£10,000 or more	0.9

Notes:
1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Office for National Statistics). 2006 is the latest year for which the data are available. The coverage of the survey is Great Britain.
2. The answers only include employees aged 16 to state pension age.
3. Total pension contributions include both employee and employer contributions.
4. No information is available separately on hybrid schemes.
5. No information is available about scheme status (schemes that are open or closed to new members).
6. The answers in tables 3 to 5 cover: Occupational pension schemes (including defined benefit schemes and defined contribution schemes), group personal pension schemes, stakeholder pension schemes and those where the pension category was unknown.
7. The figures provided exclude the value of contracted-out rebates.
8. Individuals who are members of a pension scheme but where there is no information about employer or employee contributions have not been included.
Source:
Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, 2006

Parliamentary Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many parliamentary questions were tabled to his Department in 2006, broken down by *(a)* ordinary written and *(b)* named day; what percentage of ordinary written questions were answered within 10 working days; and what percentage of named day questions were answered by the specified date. [115280]

Mr. Plaskitt: In 2006, 3,461 ordinary written questions were tabled to the Department, of which 48.7 per cent. were replied to within 10 working days and 669 named day questions were tabled, of which 30.5 per cent. received a full reply by the specific date, with all others receiving a holding reply.

Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the reasons are for the policy of freezing UK pensions overseas. [144064]

James Purnell: The UK state pension is fully exportable but is only uprated where there is a reciprocal social security agreement or legal requirement to do so. Our priority is to focus our efforts and available limited resources on pensioners resident in the UK.

To uprate the pension in frozen rate countries would cost around £440 million[1] in 2007-08 and would increase year on year.

[1] This figure does not include paying any arrears.

Personal Accounts Savings Scheme

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the impact of a contribution cap of *(a)* £3,000 and *(b)* £5,000 on the proposed personal accounts savings scheme if the upper earnings limit for contributions were increased to £43,000. [140362]

James Purnell: On 14 June 2007, the Government published their summary of responses to the White Paper Personal accounts: a new way to save consultation exercise. That document signalled our intention to establish the personal accounts earning band in line with the primary threshold and upper earnings limit from 2006-07 and to uprate these thresholds annually in line with average earnings. This means that the personal accounts earning band will not increase to the new level of the upper earnings limit that was announced in this year's Budget.

We also announced that the personal accounts annual contribution limit would be set at a level of £3,600 in 2005 earnings terms, and uprated according to earnings to 2012 and beyond. Such a figure will ensure that personal accounts will stay focused on the target market, complementing rather than competing with existing provision, while still providing moderate to low earners with sufficient room to meet benchmark replacement rates.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the additional cost to employers of the proposed personal accounts savings scheme if the upper earnings limit for contributions to the proposed personal accounts scheme were increased to £43,000. [140363]

James Purnell: As the Government's response to their consultation on the White Paper Personal Accounts: a new way to save, sets out we will not increase the personal accounts earnings band upper threshold to reflect the increases in the tax and national insurance thresholds announced in the Budget. An increase in the upper threshold to £43,000 would have cost employers an additional £150 to £200 million a year.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what percentage of cases the median earner detailed on pages 113 and 114 of the regulatory impact assessment to Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save would have a replacement rate in excess of 100 per cent. if he saved *(a)* £3,000 each year and *(b)* £5,000 each year, according to the Department's stochastic modelling. [141530]

James Purnell: Estimates of pension income are heavily driven by a number of assumptions, such as the asset allocation in a particular fund choice, the age at which the individual starts saving and the choice of annuity. It is therefore not possible to say with absolute certainty with which amount of annual savings an individual would achieve a replacement rate of above 100 per cent.

However, both under a contribution limit of £3,000 and £5,000 a median earner with a full working life is likely to be able to achieve an adequate pension income as defined by a replacement rate. This would require additional voluntary savings above the default contribution. Clearly, the higher an individual's contributions, the more likely they are to achieve a particular retirement income.

On 14 June, 2007, the Government published their summary of responses to the White Paper "Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save" consultation exercise. This document contained further analysis on the personal accounts contribution limit and concluded that an annual limit of £3,600 would be an appropriate figure. Such a figure will ensure that personal accounts will stay focused on the target market, complementing rather than competing with existing provision, while still providing moderate to low earners with sufficient room to meet benchmark replacement rates.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what replacement rate the median earner described on pages 113 and 114 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment to Personal Accounts: A New Way to Save would achieve if investments performed in line with central assumptions each year and if his total savings were *(a)* £3,000 each year and *(b)* £5,000 each year. [141529]

James Purnell: If investment returns were in line with the estimated average of a 3.5 per cent. real rate of return in each year, a median earner, who contributed up to the contribution limit in each year, would, in principle, be able to reach *(a)* around a two thirds per cent. replacement rate with a £3,000 contribution limit and *(b)* around an 85 to 90 per cent. replacement rate with a £5,000 contribution limit. The benchmark replacement rate for a median earner is around two thirds which is in principle attainable with a £3,000 contribution limit.

However, these replacement rates are based on the assumption of a full working life (age 21 to 68) and hence a high number of years of saving (46 years). Some people in personal accounts are likely to start saving at a later age than 21 or have caring breaks in their working life and thus need a somewhat higher degree of flexibility of saving to reach their benchmark replacement rates.

On 14 June, 2007, the Government published their summary of responses to the White Paper Personal accounts: a new way to save consultation exercise. This document contained further analysis on the personal accounts contribution limit and concluded that an annual limit of £3,600 would be an appropriate figure. Such a figure will ensure that Personal Accounts will stay focused on the target market, complementing rather than competing with existing provision, while still providing moderate to low earners with sufficient room to meet benchmark replacement rates.

Personal Pensions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the required personal contribution into a personal pension which would have to be made by a person aged 35, on median earnings and retiring at age 65, in order to receive a pension in retirement equal to *(a)* 25 per cent., *(b)* 30 per cent., *(c)* 35 per cent., *(d)* 40 per cent., *(e)* 45 per cent. and *(f)* 50 per cent. of their median earnings; and if he will make a statement. [141852]

James Purnell: Published analysis regarding the replacement rates and incomes individuals could expect at retirement can be found in Figure 2.iii of the May 2006 White Paper, Security in Retirement Regulatory Impact Assessment. This shows that an individual with an average lifetime income of £25,000, who is 30 in 2012, could expect a replacement rate of 44 per cent. from having saved in a personal account, an improvement of 10 per cent. over the non-saving replacement rate.

This table provides an indication of the net individual contribution rates required to achieve an income in retirement equivalent to a proportion of earnings today. This is based on a male median earner (£24,000 in 2007-08) who starts work aged 25 and starts saving at age 35 in 2012 to retirement at age 68. This individual would achieve a total replacement rate of 45 per cent. (an improvement of 9 per cent. from having saved) with contributions above the band of 4 per cent. from the employee, 1 per cent. from tax relief and 3 per cent. from the employer.

Rates in the table are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Net individual contribution rate (on banded earnings)	*Percentage of total earnings*	*Replacement rate from pension saving*	*Percentage Total replacement rate*
13	10	25	61
16	13	30	66
19	15	35	71
22	17	40	76
25	19	45	81
28	22	50	86

Notes:
1. This table is for illustrative purposes only. It should not be used as the basis for individual decisions as specific circumstances or variation from the underlying assumptions will lead to different results.
2. The results assume an AMC of 0.5 per cent., an employer contribution of 3 per cent., no phasing of contributions, and no contribution cap.

Remploy

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether *(a)* Remploy and *(b)* other sheltered employment agencies are exempt from competition rules which might protect the contracts they can secure from public bodies and Government agencies in the UK; [143676]

(2) which competition rules which apply to mainstream employers apply to *(a)* Remploy and *(b)* other sheltered employment agencies; [143677]

(3) what public procurement rules apply to the awarding of contracts by *(a)* Government and *(b)* local government departments and agencies on (i) favourable and (ii) protected terms to (A) Remploy and (B) other sheltered employment agencies. [143678]

Mrs. McGuire: The Public Contracts Regulations apply to all procurement exercises for goods and services by Government with a contract value of over £93,738, and to local government exercises with a contract value of over £144,371.

These Regulations allow contracting authorities to "Reserve" contracts for supported factories and businesses. This means that only organisations where more than 50 per cent. of the workers are disabled persons, who by reason of disability are unable to take up work in the open labour market, can bid for this work. Any employer or supported employment programme meeting the 50 per cent. disabled employees criteria can bid for reserved contracts.

There is also a scheme "Special Contract Arrangements" for contracts below these threshold values. Under this scheme, contracting authorities are allowed to "offer back" work to supported employers, whose tender is unacceptable on price alone, to give them the opportunity to match the best offer received.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has considered the merits of extending the proposed structure and numbers of Remploy factories beyond the agreed five year funding period. [144126]

Mrs. McGuire: Any consideration of the merits of extending the proposed structure and numbers of Remploy factories beyond the agreed five-year funding period will only be made after the company has presented its modernisation plans.

Social Fund: Motor Vehicles

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has granted any applications for Social Fund money for the purchase of a motor vehicle in the last 12 months. [145054]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many successful prosecutions his Department provided evidence for in the last 12 months on cases involving *(a)* false representations for claiming benefit and *(b)* dishonest representations for claiming benefit. [144082]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available other than at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* found guilty of benefit fraud in each local authority area in each of the last 10 years; [144142]

(2) how much was lost through benefit fraud in each local authority area in each of the last five years: and how much of that money has subsequently been recovered. [144143]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available broken down by local authority area.

For the available national information on prosecutions, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 23 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1187W, to the hon. Member for Ilford, North (Mr. Scott); for the available national information on levels of fraud, I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 18 April 2007, *Official Report*, columns 697-98W, to the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws).

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the latest available rates of combined fraud and error were for each of his Department's administered benefits for the latest year for which information is available. [144905]

Mr. Plaskitt: The most recent available information is contained in the DWP report "Fraud and Error in the Benefit System—April 2005 to March 2006" copies of which are available in the Library.

The report is also available online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_apr05_mar06.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Personal Records

John Thurso: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that requests submitted by Clydebank Processing Centre for the return of stored case papers or claimants' documents are dealt with promptly by staff at Heywood. [142286]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Clydebank Benefit Delivery Centre currently retains files on site for nine weeks before dispatch to the Capita Document Management Centre (DMC) or Heywood Stores as they were known. This retention facilitates routine post-action checks, inquiries or other action. Documents/files are requested from DMC using an on-line retrieval with each request being made available for despatch by the TNT Courier by 20:00 on the day of request where the request is received before 17.00 hours or the next working day for requests made after 17.00 hours. Where the request is urgent we can request a response within two hours by fax or e-mail.

Where files are not received there are two escalation routes, depending on the information held in the on-line retrieval system, either via the TNT Courier help desk or the DMC Customer Service Desk. DMC will endeavour to resolve the issue at contact. However, if this is not possible complaints will be investigated within 24 hours of receipt and the caller given the option of a written reply by fax or e-mail. If the inquiry cannot be resolved within 24 hours, DMC Customer Service Desk provides a progress report via e-mail or fax. If the response is unsatisfactory or is not received within 48 hours, the issue is escalated to the DWP Record Storage Contract Management Team. Scotland also has a nominated manager who represents our sites on matters relating to the JCP process and the DMC service.

Clydebank is currently receiving a satisfactory standard of service and escalates individual cases where there are difficulties to the Customer Service Desk. Clydebank aims to reduce the holding to six weeks, rather than nine, in line with our agreed best practice in Scotland.

Social Security Benefits: Young People

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many 18 to 24 year olds were not in employment, education or training in each quarter since 1992; and what proportion in each quarter were claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance and *(b)* other benefits. [122109]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 February 2007]:* Information on the proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds not in employment, education or training claiming benefits is not available.

Information on the number and proportion of 18 to 24-year-olds who were not in employment, education or training in the United Kingdom in each quarter since 1992 is in the table.

Date	*18-24 not in employment, education or training*[1]	*Proportion of 18-24 not in employment, education or training (percentage)*
Spring 1992	1,163,000	20.1
Summer 1992	1,306,000	23.5
Autumn 1992	1,173,000	21.3
Winter 1992	1,170,000	21.4
Spring 1993	1,174,000	21.0
Summer 1993	1,261,000	23.5
Autumn 1993	1,130,000	21.3
Winter 1993	1,065,000	20.3
Spring 1994	1,065,000	19.8
Summer 1994	1,244,000	24.2
Autumn 1994	1,028,000	20.2
Winter 1994	993,000	19.1
Spring 1995	958,000	18.6
Summer 1995	1,093,000	21.4
Autumn 1995	982,000	19.4
Winter 1995	897,000	17.9
Spring 1996	860,000	17.3
Summer 1996	956,000	19.5
Autumn 1996	863,000	17.7
Winter 1996	805,000	16.6
Spring 1997	759,000	15.7
Summer 1997	871,000	18.2
Autumn 1997	706,000	14.8
Winter 1997	709,000	14.9
Spring 1998	699,000	14.7
Summer 1998	795,000	16.8
Autumn 1998	710,000	15.0
Winter 1998	705,000	14.8
Spring 1999	667,000	14.0
Summer 1999	781,000	16.3
Autumn 1999	678,000	14.2
Winter 1999	692,000	14.5
Spring 2000	665,000	13.9

Date	18-24 not in employment, education or training[1]	Proportion of 18-24 not in employment, education or training (percentage)
Summer 2000	746,000	15.6
Autumn 2000	673,000	14.0
Winter 2000	681,000	14.1
Spring 2001	655,000	13.5
Summer 2001	740,000	15.2
Autumn 2001	708,000	14.5
Winter 2001	701,000	14.3
Spring 2002	685,000	13.9
Summer 2002	787,000	15.9
Autumn 2002	699,000	14.0
Winter 2002	710,000	14.2
Spring 2003	703,000	14.0
Summer 2003	803,000	15.9
Autumn 2003	702,000	13.8
Winter 2003	672,000	13.2
Spring 2004	682,000	13.3
Summer 2004	805,000	15.7
Autumn 2004	749,000	14.6
Winter 2004	736,000	14.3
Spring 2005	752,000	14.6
Summer 2005	831,000	16.0
Autumn 2005	801,000	15.4
Winter 2005	792,000	15.2
Spring 2006	780,000	14.9

[1] Rounded to the nearest thousand.

Note: NEET numbers are calculated using the DFES statistical definition. These data are seasonally unadjusted and so any comparisons should be made on a year to year basis.

Source:
Labour Force Survey

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reason the first payment of a state pension is made from the nearest Monday to a pensioner's qualifying birthday. [143691]

James Purnell: Entitlement to a state pension begins on the payday on or following the day on which a person reaches pension age. Historically pensioners had a Thursday payday, but it was changed to a Monday for new claimants in September 1984 to spread the flow of customers using Post Offices more evenly. In some circumstances pensioners can be given a different payday.

Tax Credit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what kind of prior consultation occurred between the Treasury and the Department for Social Security in respect of the 1997 Budget changes to dividend tax credits. [143547]

Ed Balls: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers and officials have always been in regular and frequent contact with their counterparts in other Departments on a wide range of issues.

Working Conditions: Temperature

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance or regulations the Health and Safety Executive has made for the maximum and minimum acceptable temperatures in which people can work. [143584]

Mrs. McGuire: The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 require employers to provide a reasonable temperature in all indoor workplaces. These Regulations are accompanied by an Approved Code of Practice and guidance. HSE recommends a lower temperature of 16 degrees Celsius unless the work involves severe physical effort in which case the temperature should be at least 13 degrees Celsius.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 also require employers to undertake a risk assessment, which includes assessing the risks of working in very hot or cold workplaces. Where risks are identified, proportionate action must be taken by the employer to meet the legal requirements.

Further guidance and advice is available on HSE's website covering a wide range of sectors. It also provides a step-by-step approach to help employers and employees manage excessive temperatures in the workplace including guidance on how to avoid heat stress, (http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature).

Workstep

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to extend the Workstep programme beyond April 2008. [142537]

Mrs. McGuire: The current WORKSTEP contracts have already been extended until the end of March 2008. We are currently looking at future contracts, but no decisions have yet been made.

Youth Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people aged *(a)* 16 to 17 and *(b)* 18 to 24 years were (i) economically inactive and not in full-time education and (ii) unemployed in each year since 1997, broken down by region. [130033]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The available information has been placed in the Library.